

Toward Prosperity

HRM Roundtable (Musquodoboit Harbour)

June 20th, 2000

Discussion

Vision:

- One size does not fit all. Can you have a vision for all of Nova Scotia?

Principles:

- Do not line up with the vision of the critical success factors.
- Do we value what communities value?
- We need to recognize the skills that are already out there.

Quality of rural education:

- Personnel and quality of curriculum. Does high school prepare people adequately for life?
Emphasize the links between economic and social development.

Value added:

- Development is a “local process”: shipping wood chips out of Sheet Harbour could be the “crime of the century”. Chips go to Japan with no value added and local people cannot even get fuel wood. Gypsum leaves in a raw state and the jobs are elsewhere.
- Government should be a source of information on possibilities for value added processing.
- Forestry needs a much clearer and tighter policy framework to underpin what we are doing. The cutting of our forests could lead to water problems which in turn could hurt tourism. Chips shipped from Sheet Harbour could actually be an obstacle to real sustainable economic development.
- Look for contemporary application of traditional skills.

Grants:

- If the door is closed, it should be closed to everybody. If you give to one company you should be prepared to give to all.

Opportunities:

- Servicing of pleasure craft along the Eastern Shore - overnight stays in harbours beyond Jeddore and Sheet Harbour - need for marinas.

Tourism

- Does not really provide quality jobs.

Government service:

- Get all government departments together. Get people out to the Eastern Shore. Access NS was

a good idea that got lost in the shuffle.

Roads :

- Do people on the Eastern Shore want Highway 107 extended to Sheet Harbour?
- Need to get communities working better together. Need to build a sense of community on the Eastern Shore.

Port:

- Control the port at Sheet Harbour. Get it back from CERES. Community control will lead to community involvement and in turn to community benefits.

Innovation:

- For resource development we need a better policy framework to encourage innovation.
- Growth must be monitored and measured carefully so we will know what we are achieving or not.

Financing:

- Could Nova Scotia build a an RRSP fund around servicing the debt? Do provincial bonds have a role here?
- To make things happen on the Eastern Shore there needs to be effective partnerships involving Transportation & Public Works, Fisheries & Aquaculture, Community Services etc. Partnerships should be inclusive. The RDA could provide leadership.

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