

Toward Prosperity HRM Roundtable (Tantallon)

June 13th, 2000

Government Role:

- Province should address “organizational sustainability” just like any other organization.
- The province, through its regulations, discourages investment. The province should appoint “facilitators” to help navigate companies through the red tape / other view point is that we need to eradicate those barriers, not add to them.
- Why do people have to go through several departments to get an answer?
- The fact that the government is no longer a player in community based funding is a huge issue!
- The underlying mission of government is where you currently spend most of your money.
- Government should look at why people leave if we want to encourage them to stay.
- Current budget should allow for a reallocation of resources to allow for project development/ building community capacity.

Quality of Life:

- We already are a “have” province in terms of quality of life.
- Addressing community capacity / improving quality of life for all Nova Scotians is missing.
- Go beyond economic – move to people as beneficiaries.

Vision:

- The current vision statement is not a universal statement. All government departments must be working toward the same vision. All regulatory bodies have to be in the same department.
- The guiding principals should link to the critical success factors should link to the vision.

Assets:

- Key assets in area – natural beauty, good quality of life, potential of tourism – expanding shoulder seasons, cultural industry, film, natural gas and energy, educational facilities, golf courses, innovative waste recovery system, easier access for tourists, pristine wilderness, biomedical facilities.

Business:

- Need to encourage local businesses to sell to local companies.
- Need increased emphasis on maintaining and assisting existing businesses.
- Problem with small companies is the Chief Executive Officer. They have mainly worked as employees and have no experience / training in how to be a CEO.

Infrastructure:

- Do not have easy access to St. Margaret’s Bay.

Natural Resources:

- Clear cutting is not regulated enough – most forests are privately owned.

Exports:

- Exports – Indian Harbour area exports tremendous amount of fish to the Caribbean. Employees 100 people year – round. But company faces cash flow problems.
- Investment / promotion should be put aside in favor of export and trade (due to limited financial resources) – focus on the business community for their export potential. Should maintain that it is a privilege to invest in this province.

Strategy:

- Question posed – is this a platform for Department of Economic Development or is it a Growth Strategy for Nova Scotia?
- Education, Community Services and Human Resources Development Canada should be represented in this discussion paper – currently they are not.
- Why have we spent the last five years encouraging Community Economic Development only to revert to a traditional approach to economic development? This approach is wrong – must reflect community. Community must be the driving force of economic growth.
- The income gap should be addressed in the growth strategy.
- Poverty and illiteracy are economic issues.
- Department of Economic Development should focus on gathering the appropriate statistics before moving ahead with the strategy.
- You have got to strengthen the whole community focus in this document. It is currently all economic and does not represent communities input – this will lead to no credibility.

Youth:

- The youth leaving the province should have the option to stay home.
- Instill hope in youth at an early age.