

Toward Prosperity

Aerospace Industry Association of Nova Scotia Consultation

June 15, 2000

Notes:

Business Climate:

- Aerospace does not get heard. Bureaucrats do not understand the technology.
- The aerospace industry provides a huge opportunity. It is a vital part of the economy and it does not get recognized. The industry provides good jobs and is truly international in scope. We have the capability to support the industry in Nova Scotia.
- Quebec is excellent in aerospace. They selected this industry as a winner and supported it. Nova Scotia should try to do the same.
- There is going to be \$4 billion spent in the industry in the next four years. NS should be targeting 10% to 15%.
- Caution - we should not confuse call centers as high tech business. We tend to get caught up with buzz words.
- Aerospace has stable potential for growth and it is not going to disappear. We need to promote balance.

Role of Government:

- There is no support for the aerospace industry in government.
- Government structure is still back in the 1800's. In the 1800's, commodities (fish, wood) were 100% of the GDP. We have a commodity driven government but only 6% of GDP is from commodities.
- Government first has to decide where it wants to go.
- We must get aerospace high on the political agenda. The Premier and the Minister for Economic Development must take this industry seriously.
- Government should not choose winners, but should support a creative environment for business. For the aerospace industry that means bid support and maintaining infrastructure.
- Government must look at the big picture. Long term commitments are important.
- The government and people of Nova Scotia must embrace change.

Vision:

- The vision is not attainable. We must be realistic in Nova Scotia. We will never have the critical mass.
- The vision should say "sustainable and vibrant economy."