

Toward Prosperity

Black Business Initiative Consultation

June 2nd, 2000

Discussion

Role of Government:

- C Based on past experience, not convinced of the government's ability to follow through on promises.
- C At the moment, government is partnering, with a limited portion of the black community in Nova Scotia. People should not have to come to the BBI specifically but be able to go to any of the programs available.
- C How committed is the government to doing what is unpopular when necessary if it happens to be the right thing to do?
- C We know that government funds are limited and as a result, some hard choices will have to be made. This makes it all the more important to know what government will *not* do. The answer will affect what in fact does get done and the nature of any partnerships.
- C There needs to be a conscious decision to develop a local capital market without focusing on the affluent segment of society.
- C The essential problem is one of a lack of openness. No one knows why government invests where/when it does.
- C When government does lend to businesses, needs to be done in an environment of ongoing consultation and feedback to minimize risks.

Equity:

- C Equity is a major issue.
- C "Fairness" is not equivalent to "the same" - that needs to be recognized.
- C When speaking of government employees, need to realize that the same mind sets and attitudes exist as are prevalent in the wider world. Something must be done to address these.
- C The Nova Scotia Community College, until many years ago, was targeted at the black community - now they are left out. Need to ensure that the progress and changes in curriculum are equally accessible to everyone.