

# **Toward Prosperity**

## **Cape Breton Network Group Consultation**

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2000

### **Notes:**

#### **Discussion paper:**

- The focus of the paper seems to be the Halifax Regional Municipality.
- The paper is very light on labour market and energy issues.
- How does this plan encourage government organizations to work together to eliminate silos?
- Is this paper preparing for action in the next year?
- This paper is at a low level and is a “fluffy” marketing piece.
- Everything is focused on Halifax and its surroundings. This paper is not helping the province as a whole.
- Politics have gotten in the way.
- The paper lacks content. It does not suggest any kind of answer.
- Good questions in the margins to make one think and to prompt discussion.
- “The Strait area is doing well” - compared to what? “Rural Cape Breton has found its stride” again, compared to what? The statement indicates that no more initiatives can be taken.
- This is a repeat of the 30-60-90 initiative of a few years ago. The process repeats but there is no product at the end. Where is the report card of 30-60-90 and how it did?
- There is no report card on past economic strategies and how they worked - what was successful and what was not. We need something to compare the new ones against and to have a point from where to go forward.
- The reference is often made to Cape Breton County versus Cape Breton. The impression is strong in the document that “Cape Breton” is Cape Breton Regional Municipality and not the rest of the island.
- This paper focuses on the economic end of things and seems to operate within the time-frame of an election period - what about after this time?
- Should the government be driving the document? Maybe an arm’s length association.
- Have been down this road before. Does the feedback on the document actually get somewhere or are these decisions already made?

#### **Principles:**

- The principles are not principles.
- We are losing people because our economy cannot sustain them.
- We are rural but rural needs urban and vice versa.

**Infrastructure:**

- The gas, the ports in the province to which the gas comes and all of the petroleum directorate people who hand this - are all in Halifax. This example mirrors what the discussion paper says.
- Refers to the port of Halifax - what happened to the province's ports of the Strait and Sydney?
- Infrastructure should be a key element of the document, e.g., the Strait area needs a good convention facility, it is losing doctors - it is one thing to emphasize business development but social development is equally important.
- There is a lack of emphasis on the regional structure. One example of this is the fact that the paper explains the three great ports we have in Nova Scotia but sums up that work must be done in Halifax.