

# **Toward Prosperity**

## ***IT Sector Council Consultation***

One Research Drive, Dartmouth

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### **Notes:**

#### *Strategy:*

- What is required is a strategic planning process that is far more *strategic* than this one is.
- Shows a lack of determination to come up with a comprehensive vision for what NS will look like in 5-10 years.
- Need a commitment that NS will be a leader in (a) certain area(s).
- Need a vision that is broad enough for all to agree but focused enough to be workable.
- The wrong people are leading this process. ITSC are in a far better position to lead. Can't ask a bureaucracy to change itself - antithetical.
- The bureaucracy should not be involved in the idea generation phase; the second phase - technical/filtering phase is the area in which the bureaucracy should be involved.
- The first thing that needs to be done is to bring on an expert on strategic planning so that the outcome is a strategic plan and not a wish list.
- pg. 36, "The ports of Halifax, Strait of Canso, and Sydney...but one key example of the team process necessary for the renewal of our economic infrastructure."
  - no teamwork there
  - failure to break free of the "tentacles" of the establishment
- Have to say that will indorse technology to *serve* Nova Scotians.
- Must use the model of project planning.
- Need a broader involvement in the process.
- Lack of consistency is a major problem in Nova Scotia.
  - Look at the examples of Ireland and the Netherlands: centrist parties involving trade unionists.
- Need a process with depth and buy-in.

#### *Infrastructure:*

- Need more emphasis on the social infrastructure.

#### *Role of Government:*

- Government must serve as a model user of new technology i.e. video conferencing etc.
- The Strategy is not playing to government's strengths but to all of its weaknesses.
- It is wrong to say that we have limited resources - government *overspent*.
- Government is looking for failure in this strategy.
- Government should stay out of the ports - let them compete, don't decide where to focus.
- Training is a private sector function; education is a public sector function.
  - education is barely mentioned in the document

- Government needs an arm's length body to advise it on how technology relates to other issues.
  - Ex: The National Academy of Sciences is an organisation spread over all the major research institutions that advises Congress on all issues pertaining to research and technology.
  - The IT Sector Council could play such a role - want to work in partnership with NSED.
- There are two roles for NSED:
  - policy formulation
  - monitoring the progress of the economy
  - both should be done through arm's length agencies
  - *NovaKnowledge* is a model in the monitoring function

#### *Innovation:*

- Innovation is only found in small companies - the strategy must focus on SMEs.
- InNOVAcorp should not be pointed to as a success story - it is a group of people who aren't entrepreneurs, can't ask them to be entrepreneurial.
- Can't be entrepreneurial when nothing is at stake - their jobs don't depend upon their work.
- Entrepreneurship is not part of a civil servant's job - highlights the importance of working together in partnership.

- Can you have a government run incubator that works?

- Yes, don't have to be an entrepreneur to know what that is. It is a matter of having the time to lead new businesses by the hand and introduce them to the "arena."
- IEI is a good initiative but is just the beginning.
- All of the expertise at the Technology Training Council and now the ITSC is voluntary but has not been utilised by the government.

#### *Partnership:*

- Must recognise that "partnership" does not mean that all parties have an equal footing on every issue.
- Sometimes the job of a partner is to step back and leave the others to work alone.
- This is an opportunity to begin a dialogue between all of the research that is being done.
- ITSC is working with the CAP projects to identify the types of opportunities that communities identify as being important to them.

#### *Business Climate:*

- The first thing you do when starting your business is put forward some money, Nova Scotia is the worst place to be for that. Ex: Ernst & Young is sole-sourced.

#### *Education:*

- Cannot rationally separate the promotion of new industries without education.
- Ex: Ireland - government stuck to the basics of what it does well - education.