

Toward Prosperity Nova Knowledge Consultation

June 28th, 2000

The Vision Statement:

- The vision statement as presented lacks clarity, has no time-line, and is not likely to excite. It needs to be much more ambitious and present more of a sense of mission and excitement.

For example:

“By the Year 2003 we will **triple** the level of innovative knowledge based capital investment, exports and high value jobs in Nova Scotia”.

- If the vision statement can not have specific time-lines and stretch, then something like this might be more appropriate:

"Capable people living in prosperous communities creating products and services that are in demand throughout the world".

Economic Development:

- To be effective as a development agency the Department of Economic Development (NSED):
 - should be positioned closer to private industry
 - should have a CEO and be governed by a private sector board operating under private sector principles
 - should have buy-in from industry, academia and government
 - should consistently pursue long term objectives, undeterred by short term political pressures
- The performance of the economy should be monitored at arm's length and published by an independent body like NovaKnowledge.

"Toward Prosperity" in Context:

- Documents like this define destinations or end points. To be the least bit effective, they must be followed immediately by an Implementation Plan which clearly defines the path, or roadmap, outlining how we get from where we are to the various destinations.
- Step one is likely to be a more visible union between private industry, government and academia.
- The path towards implementation must be definable, and measurable, with visible milestones along the way.
- The Implementation Plan is the action part of the process and is, by definition, more difficult to produce.
- It must be owned and there must be accountability for progress.
- It must have buy-in from all stakeholders.

Role of Government:

- We support the "new" role of Government as presented in the document.
- Government's role is to support, not lead, private industry which is the best wealth generating engine in an economy.
- Government support should encourage, through the creation of a conducive business environment, the growth of private industry. **Reference: The Foundations part of the Innovation Cycle outlined in the recently issued NovaKnowledge Knowledge Economy Report Card 2000.**
- Such support should include, but not be limited to, tax issues, research and development (R&D) expenditures, and efficiently managed infrastructure like telecommunication links, roads, healthcare and education - especially a commitment to life long learning.
- Government should be a model user and early adopter of new technologies, especially those developed within the province.