

Toward Prosperity

Youth Advisory Council Consultation

June 3rd, 2000

Notes:

Vision:

- C Needs to have more of a socio-economic focus.
- C Key words are “support enterprise,” which gives the statement an economic focus and “through a high-quality workforce...” all of these are economic factors, need to add to the list.
- C Ex: “to support enterprise *and the socio-cultural aspect/structure in Nova Scotia.*”

Context:

- C There is a greater tendency towards entrepreneurship among youth now because it gives them a sense of freedom and control.
- C When people leave Nova Scotia, it is because they have no confidence in the economy. That confidence is building so people are now starting to think that they can make it here.
- C Part of that confidence results from youths’ confidence with new technology and e-commerce.

Brain Drain

- C There is a lack of awareness of the opportunities and supports that are available.
- C Cape Breton is used to being propped up.
- C Is the Strategy focusing on keeping people here or enticing those who have left back?
- C Should the government focus on the supply or the demand of workers?
 - C Both sides are important. If focus only on the demand, will end up bringing in people from outside; if focus on the supply, will heighten the brain drain as well-trained people go elsewhere to find opportunity.
 - C Which focus would produce entrepreneurs? Are entrepreneurs those who respond to an obvious demand or those who create niches for themselves?

Exports:

- C Will gas make us as dependent upon a single industry as Cape Breton was upon coal?
- C Need programs to promote renewable sources of energy - wind, solar, tidal...
- C Could perhaps spin some of the Sable royalties off into renewable energy research.

Principles:

- C Funding should be separate from the political process.
 - C Politicians should have no influence.
- C Are there any initiatives specifically towards sustainable development?

Strategic Directions:

- C Need to highlight entrepreneurship and education in the *Strategic Directions*.
- C It is good that technology was mentioned in the list of infrastructures - particularly high capacity fibre-optic cables.

Business Climate:

- C The document does not address the problem of too much red tape.

Labour Market:

- C Should perhaps have a tax credit for hiring first-time workers - would encourage businesses to hire students.
 - C But does that imply that students are not good enough to gain employment on the merit of their skills?
 - C Need to focus on convincing businesses that students are qualified.
 - C Requires partnering between government, business, education...

Export Development and Marketing:

- C Examples of local companies engaging in e-commerce:
 - C Maritime Trading
- C Need to have more mentoring programs.

“Buy Nova Scotia”

- C First need to advertize what products are Nova Scotian.
- C Need to make it known that buying Nova Scotian products keeps the money within the province.
- C Should be careful that this is not interpreted as an encouragement for businesses to sell to Nova Scotia first - would cut exports.

Role of Government:

- C To promote self-sufficiency for the next 10 years and then back off.
- C Government has had a bad reputation, primarily because of the presumed subjectiveness of its decisions.
- C Might need to have key messages describing government’s priorities and objectives are with respect to each of the *Directions*.