

October 7, 2009

Hon. Sterling Belliveau
Minister of Environment
5151 Terminal Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Minister Belliveau:

Earlier this year, I wrote to your predecessor on behalf of the Round Table on Environment and Sustainable Prosperity with a contribution to the Provincial Government's discussion on economic stimulus during this financial downturn in the economy. In that letter, the Round Table recommended that the Province should develop a targeted sustainable prosperity jobs strategy which would accomplish several ends. First and foremost, it would advance the objectives and goals of the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act. Second, it could foster efficiencies in our current consumption of resources, especially energy. Third, it would create employment here at home and the potential for export opportunities of skills, knowledge and services.

We believe that the Province can and should develop a comprehensive "green jobs" strategy which builds upon the success that has been achieved in solid waste resources management. Arguably such a strategy should be the underpinning of the economic and human resource development policies of the Province as it works to achieve the overall objectives of the Act in 2020.

In the letter submitted on February 4, 2009, the Round Table identified some key elements of a sustainable prosperity jobs strategy including

- education
- tax policy
- investment in manufacturing
- research and development
- regulation

These were not identified as being either comprehensive or final. More consideration should be given to key elements and components without "re-inventing the wheel". This would be achieved by doing research on the strategies being advocated by other organizations including the United Nations and International Labour Organization which collaborated on a major report "Green Jobs: Towards Decent Work in a Sustainable, Low-Carbon World"; "Green Recovery: A Program to Create Good Jobs and Start Building a Low Carbon Economy" produced by the Center for American Progress and "Going for Green Growth: A Green Jobs Strategy for Scotland" prepared by the Scottish Executive.

If a sustainable prosperity jobs strategy is of interest to the Minister and his colleagues, would you appreciate the advice of the Round Table on the goals, nature, scope and key elements of such a strategy? With the assistance of the Secretariat and other resources, we could explore this in more depth and produce a report for your use and that of the Deputy Ministers Forum on Sustainable Prosperity. This would provide the basis for the relevant departments to develop a detailed plan for consideration of Cabinet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raymond Côté". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of "Raymond" being a large, stylized 'R'.

Raymond Côté
Chair
Round Table on Environment
and Sustainable Prosperity