

Nova Scotia is Open for Business

POLICY UPDATE

June 2, 2000

Three recent provincial initiatives should help sustain the current growth in Nova Scotia's private sector.

Red Tape Reduction

Small business creates more jobs in our province than any other sector. But some regulations place undue hardship on business, limiting their competitiveness and preventing them from creating jobs.

The government recognizes that some regulations are no longer needed, some are repetitive, others need to be amended. In some situations, it is simply the administrative procedures that need to be improved to reduce the paper burden and time lags.

The Chamber would like to encourage all of its members to visit the Red Tape Reduction Task Force's website at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/cutredtape>. Complete the online survey located there and help yourself, and your community, by identifying where problems exist. More importantly, if you know how to fix it, then put that idea forward too.

A Focus on Development

Another opportunity for Chamber members to have an impact is the request for input and ideas following the release of a government discussion paper last month. The paper, titled *Toward Prosperity*, was developed to help focus discussion on ways to support economic growth and create opportunities for people and communities.

Discussion groups will be held across the province and the discussion paper is available on the Internet at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/ecor/strategy/>.

Feedback is requested before June 30. A series of questions are posed to guide the online discussion, and respondents are also given an opportunity to comment on issues not raised.

The government is looking to pursue a new course in investing in our economy, let's give them solid advice from those who actually create the jobs - you, the business community.

Editor's Note: If, when sending your comments on red tape or economic development, you see a particular problem that you feel the Chamber should bring a greater level of focus to, please let us know. Fax or e-mail the Chamber office with your thoughts or ideas - fax: 468-7333, e-mail: info@halifaxchamber.com.

Offshore Clarity

The Laurentian sub-basin offers great potential for oil and gas development. Nova Scotia and Newfoundland disagree on who should manage that development. This problem will soon be resolved.

With a federal arbitration panel now in place and ready to get to work, we could see a solution to this impasse as early as seven months from now.

With the Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board starting preliminary background work for the issuance of exploration licenses, actual offshore work could follow close on the heels of a final decision.

By getting the rules straight and making every effort to facilitate private investment, Nova Scotia is sending a message to the rest of Canada and the world - we are open for business.



**METROPOLITAN HALIFAX
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
Strong Business. Strong Community. Since 1750.

P.O. Box 8990, Halifax,
Nova Scotia B3K 5M6
Telephone (902) 468-7111
Fax (902) 468-7333
www.halifaxchamber.com