



# POLICY UPDATE

News and views from the Metropolitan Halifax Chamber of Commerce December 11, 1997

## *New Deal Better for Nova Scotia*

The Chamber is pleased with the recent announcement by Premier MacLellan that the province has achieved a better agreement with the Sable Gas project partners. This agreement is designed to ensure maximum benefit from the project for Nova Scotia.

With this announcement the Chamber sees movement on all five of the principles that we put forward to govern offshore development:

- 1) Timeliness
- 2) Open and Fair Access
- 3) Financially Self Supporting
- 4) Fair Rate Structure
- 5) Future Opportunities

### **Timeliness:**

The Chamber believes that each individual project should be moved forward in a timely manner. We are pleased that this agreement, like the decision of the Joint Public Review Panel, is intended to meet that objective.

### **Open and Fair Access:**

The agreement guarantees access to the gas for Nova Scotian industries and consumers.

It states that laterals to Halifax and Port Tupper will be built. As well, a commitment has been made that other Nova Scotian communities will be linked to the distribution network as demand warrants.

### **Financially Self Supporting:**

The agreement also makes specific reference to eliminating "aids to construct" (subsidies). This is an important point and one that should be maintained and expanded as subsidized construction is not an acceptable solution for development.

### **Fair Rate Structure:**

The announcement better recognizes Nova Scotia's proximity to the gas by indicating there will be an additional 10 per cent reduction in the delivery cost of natural gas within the province. This is good news for Nova Scotians.

### **Future Opportunities:**

Finally, the Premier has achieved a better approach to the possibilities offered by natural gas liquids. The Chamber has consistently stated that these liquids should be available for use in Nova Scotia, and used towards developing a petro

chemical industry. The agreement moves toward this goal by limiting export commitment to two years and allowing for access to ethane if required.

The Chamber applauds the Premier for responding to the concerns of the business community.

The provincial agreement is a step in the right direction, however, the Chamber believes that there is still work to do to ensure Nova Scotia will achieve the maximum benefit from Sable development.

We will continue our efforts and work with the Premier on behalf of our members and all Nova Scotians.

### *Editor's Note:*

*The Chamber would like to thank the many hard working volunteers who have spent a considerable amount of time and energy on this project. It is evident that the effort put forth by the Chamber made a difference.*

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**METROPOLITAN HALIFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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