

REPORT CARD ON PROVINCIAL PERFORMANCE (as of December 14, 2000)

As of the financial report released on December 14, 2000, the provincial government has continued in its lukewarm fiscal performance. With a strong economy, our deficit could be eliminated sooner than anticipated. However, with spending continuing to rise, any hope of Nova Scotians seeing tax decreases to keep pace with the federal cuts is unlikely. Weighting is used to highlight the Chamber's priorities: spending and deficit elimination. The other measures are some of the means to achieve these goals.

Overall weighted performance on six measures - 56%. Overall grade - D

| CUT SMART | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|-------|---|
| | Baseline figures from Department of Finance 1999-2000 | Performance targets set by Chamber for 2000-2001* | Provincial Performance | Grade | Comments |
| <i>Reduce Number of Agencies, Boards & Commissions</i> | 316 Agencies Boards and Commissions in existence as of April 1, 2000. | Eliminate 112 by Dec. 14, 2000 | 3 eliminated (no change from earlier report card) | F | While new progress in this area has not been noted to date, the government has announced it plans to take a serious look at this area in 2001. Grade: 3% (Weighting: 5%) |
| <i>Get out of Commercial Enterprises</i> | 7 identified by the Chamber for immediate sale (NSRL, NSLC, Sysco, Pines, Keltic, Liscombe, Northumberland Links) | Eliminate 5 by Dec. 14, 2000. | 1 sold for \$1. Sysco close to being sold. NSRL for sale. NSLC - some movement noted. Resorts not planned to be sold | D | Less than optimum performance noted. Government has put NSRL up for sale, and has announced plans to close Sysco. Its foray towards commercialization with NSLC could have been bolder. Grade: 52% (Weighting: 13% - Sysco: 39/40; NSRL: 0/ 25; NSLC: 1/15; Resorts: 2/10; Northumberland Golf Course: 10/10) |
| <i>Reduce Departments</i> | 21 Departments in existence at April 1, 2000 | Eliminate 7 by March 31, 2001. | 21 dept's have been merged to 14. | A | 100% of target achieved. Mergers have been completed. (Weighting: 5%) |
| <i>Reduce Public Service</i> | Approximately 50,000 provincial public servants as of April 1, 2000. | Reduce by 1,133 by Dec. 14, 2000 | No change from last report: 180 layoffs 420 positions eliminated*** | D | While the Province made a good start in this area, no new progress is noted. Grade: 53% (Weighting: 7%) |
| PAY LESS | | | | | |
| <i>Reduce Program Spending</i> | \$4.262 billion spent on programs in 1999-2000 | Reduce by \$82 million by Dec. 14, 2000. | Province now projecting savings of \$48 million as of Dec. 14, 2000. | D | Continued spending has impacted this grade. The planned savings of \$116 million in this budget continues to be eroded by overspending in health, education and community services. Grade: 58% (Weighting: 35%) |
| <i>Eliminate Deficit</i> | \$387 million In 1999-2000 | Reduce by \$224 million for March 31, 2001** | Projected reduction only \$127 million | D | Windfall revenues have been directed to increased spending rather than decreasing the deficit. The Chamber had recommended the Province reduce the deficit in 2 years rather than 3 -- clearly this was attainable. Grade: 57% (Weighting: 35%) |
| THEN...REINVEST IN PRIORITIES | | | | | |
| <p>* Targets as of Dec. 14, 2000 are calculated as 8.5 twelfths (.71%) of the annual target set by the Chamber. ** Deficit reduction target of \$224 million combines original year end target of \$119 million plus \$105 million in provincial revenue growth beyond that projected in the budget. *** These figures have not changed from the last report card as complete public service numbers are not available.</p> | | | | | |

| GRADING SCALES (representing percentage achievement of targets) | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----|----------|----|----------|---|-----------|
| A+ | More than 100% | B+ | 86 - 90% | C+ | 71 - 75% | D | 50 - 60 % |
| A | 96 - 100% | B | 81 - 85% | C | 66 - 70% | F | below 50% |
| A- | 91 - 95% | B- | 76 - 80% | C- | 61 - 65% | | |