

STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT
2006 - 2007

2007

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**Legislative
Committees Office**

House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

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Hon. Alfie MacLeod
Speaker
House of Assembly
Province House
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Economic Development, I am pleased to submit the 2006 - 2007 Annual Report of the Committee for the First Session of the Fifty-Ninth General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Keith Colwell, MLA
(Preston)
Chair
Standing Committee on Economic Development

Halifax, Nova Scotia
2008



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Standing Committee on Economic Development Annual Report 2006 - 2007

Foreword

The report of the Standing Committee on Economic Development was written in accordance with the mandate of the Committee.

The report is written under individual topics outlining the concerns and issues brought forth from each group / organization.

Mandate

For greater certainty, the Economic Development Committee is established for the purpose of considering matters normally assigned to or within the purview of the Department of Economic Development and the Minister responsible for the Department and the Department and Minister of Transportation and Public Works and matters relating to the Technology and Science Secretariat.

BAY FERRIES, LTD.

September 12, 2006

WITNESSES

Office of Economic Development

Mr. Paul Taylor, Deputy Minister

D.B. Kenney Fisheries Ltd.

Mr. Glenn Wadman, Operations Manager

Comeau Lumber Ltd.

Mr. Gregory Shay, President

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The focus of the meeting was to bring together concerned parties to discuss the proposal of Bay Ferries Limited to stop the Digby/Saint John run.

MOTIONS

The Standing Committee on Economic Development unanimously agreed to the following motion:

“to call on the Premier of Nova Scotia to take immediate action, involving all levels of government to find a solution which will ensure the continuation of the ferry service between Digby and Saint John”.

DOCUMENTATION

There was no additional documentation requested by the committee at this time.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

September 19, 2006

WITNESSES

There were no witnesses at this time, the Standing Committee on Economic Development had prepared their potential witness list from the three parties and had selected several witnesses who will be outlined further within this report.

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
“ECONOMIC STRATEGY”**

October 10, 2006

WITNESSES

Halifax Regional Municipality

Mr. Jim Donovan, Manager of Economic Development

Greater Halifax Partnership

Mr. Fred Morley, Vice President and Chief Economist

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The focus of the meeting was a discussion of the Halifax Regional Municipality’s “Economic Strategy” and its impact both on HRM and on the province.

MOTIONS

There were no motions made by the Standing Committee during this meeting.

DOCUMENTATION

There was no request for additional documentation made by the committee at this time.

**COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM
(CAP)**

November 14, 2006

WITNESSES

Nova Scotia CAP

Mr. Eric Stackhouse, Chair

Nova Scotia Library Association

Ms. Charlotte Janes, President

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The focus of the meeting was on the federal funding cuts to the Community Access Program (CAP) and its impacts on rural communities and the province as a whole.

MOTIONS

The Standing Committee on Economic Development unanimously agreed to pass the following motion:

“The committee would like to urge the federal government to engage in further negotiations with all the partners involved in maintaining and strengthening the CAP program, and to write to the Minister of Industry Canada, imploring him to maintain funding for the CAP program in Nova Scotia”

DOCUMENTATION

There was no additional documentation requested by the Committee at this time.

NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

December 12, 2006

WITNESSES

Nova Scotia Regional Development Authority

Ms. Jo Ann Fewer, Chair, NSRDA and Executive Director, CoRDA

Ms. Holly Boston, Executive Director, NSRDA

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The focus of the meeting was an overview of the current activities of Regional Development Authorities throughout the province with emphasis on rural economic development and its impact on these regions.

MOTIONS

There were no motions made by the Standing Committee during this meeting.

DOCUMENTATION

There were no requests for additional documentation made by the Committee at this time.

ELECTRICITY MARKETPLACE GOVERNANCE

January 25, 2007

WITNESSES

Nova Scotia Co-operative Council

Mr. Bob Williams, Executive Director

Ecology Action Centre

Mr. Brendan Haley, Energy Coordinator

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The focus of the meeting was on the Electricity Marketplace Governance Committee report with emphasis on opportunities for renewable energy producers to market their product directly to consumers.

MOTIONS

The Standing Committee on Economic Development unanimously agreed to pass the following motion:

“The Standing Committee on Economic Development requests that the government insist that the Department of Energy formally involve the Departments of Economic Development and Agriculture in the development of programs, policies, legislation and regulations that will guide the development of the renewable energy industry”

DOCUMENTATION

There were no requests for additional documentation by the Committee at this time.

RETAIL GASOLINE DEALERS ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

February 6, 2007

WITNESSES

Retail Gasoline Dealers Association

Mr. Graham Conrad, Executive Director

Mr. Roy Pettigrew, Secretary Treasurer

Owner/Operator Amherst Petro-Canada

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The focus of the meeting was on the retail gasoline regulations, the current state of the industry and economic impacts of these in the province.

MOTIONS

There were no motions made by the Standing Committee during this meeting.

DOCUMENTATION

There were no requests for additional documentation requested at this time.

NOVA SCOTIA TOURISM INDUSTRY

March 6, 2007

WITNESSES

Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia

Ms. Darlene Grant Fiander, President

Ms. Susan Tilly-Russell, Chair

Office of Economic Development

Mr. Marvyn Robar, Director, Development Initiatives

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The focus of the meeting was on the effects of Tourism in the province of the various transportation links and the overall economic impact on the province.

MOTIONS

There were no motions made by the Standing Committee during this meeting.

DOCUMENTATION

The Standing Committee on Economic Development requested and received the following information:

- a copy of TIANS presentation from the meeting of March 6, 2007; and
- information on tourism funding in regard to infrastructure & initiatives and the distribution of tourism revenues generated from 2006.

COMMUNITY COUNTS

April 10, 2007

WITNESSES

Department of Finance

Ms Nancy McInnis-Leek,
Executive Director, Fiscal and Economic Policy

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The focus of the meeting was an overview of the Nova Scotia Statistical Agency's Community Counts program.

MOTIONS

There were no motions made by the Standing Committee during the meeting.

DOCUMENTATION

There were no requests for additional documentation by the Committee at this time.

NOVA SCOTIA LABOUR MARKET

June 12, 2007

WITNESSES

Service Canada

Mr. Randy Jewers, Labour Market Analyst

Mr. Michael Rushe, Labour Market Analyst

Nova Scotia Business Inc.

Mr. Darin Steeves, Corporate Strategist

Department of Education

Mr. Stuart Gourley, Senior Executive Director

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The focus of the meeting was an overview of the Nova Scotia Labour Market with emphasis on employment levels and out migration of skilled/unskilled labour.

MOTIONS

There were no motions made by the Standing Committee during the meeting.


DOCUMENTATION

There were no requests for additional documentation by the Standing Committee at this time.

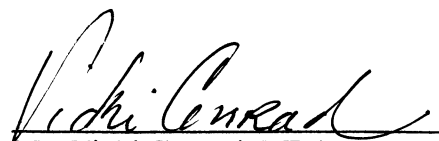
Reference: http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed_2007jun12.htm


STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION


All of which is respectfully submitted to the House of Assembly
this 26 day of February, 2008



Mr. Keith Colwell, MLA (Chair)
(Preston)



Hon. Judy Streach
(Chester-St. Margaret's)

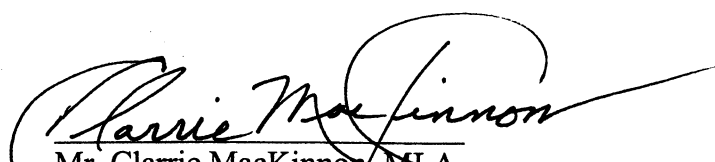

Ms. Vicki Conrad, MLA
(Queens)

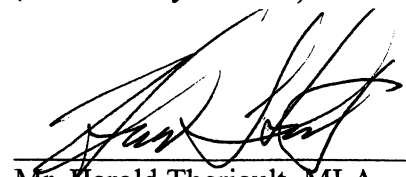

Mr. Keith Bain, MLA
(Victoria -The Lakes)


Mr. Leonard Preyra, MLA
(Halifax Citadel)


Mr. Chuck Porter, MLA
(Hants West)


Ms. Diana Whalen, MLA
(Halifax Clayton Park)


Mr. Clarrie MacKinnon, MLA
(Pictou East)


Mr. Harold Theriault, MLA
(Digby-Annapolis)

Standing Committee on Economic Development Annual Report 2006 - 2007

Committee Membership

During the First Session of the Sixtieth General Assembly of the House of Assembly, the Standing Committee on Economic Development was comprised of the following members:

Ms. Diana Whalen, MLA (Chair)
(Halifax Clayton Park)

Ms. Vicki Conrad, MLA
(Queens)

Hon. Judy Streach
(Chester – St. Margaret's)

Mr. Leonard Preyra, MLA
(Halifax Citadel)

Mr. Keith Bain, MLA
(Victoria-The Lakes)

Mr. H. David Wilson, MLA
(Glace Bay)

Chuck Porter, MLA
(Hants East)

Mr. Harold Theriault, MLA
(Digby-Annapolis)

Mr. Howard Epstein, MLA
(Halifax Chebucto)

During the First Session 60^h General Assembly the following membership changes took place. Ms. Diana Whalen, MLA (Halifax Clayton Park) was replaced by Mr. Keith Colwell, MLA (Preston) as Chair; Mr. Howard Epstein, MLA (Halifax Chebucto) was replaced by Mr. Clarrie MacKinnon, MLA (Pictou East) and Mr. David Wilson, MLA (Glace Bay) was replaced by Ms. Diana Whalen, MLA (Halifax Clayton Park).

Committee Meetings

The Standing Committee has met on Tuesdays since its establishment, and all meetings are open to the public. During the First Session of the Sixtieth General Assembly the Standing Committee on Economic Development met on the following dates:

September 12, 2006
September 19, 2006
October 10, 2006
November 14, 2006
December 12, 2006
January 25, 2007

February 6, 2007
March 6, 2007
April 10, 2007
June 12, 2007

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Notices

Notices of Committee meetings are sent to all members of the committee, support staff of the caucus, Legislative Library, the House of Assembly Press Gallery, the government wire services and is published on the internet.

Transcripts

Transcripts of the Committee meetings are available from the Legislative Committees Office, 3rd Floor, Dennis Building, 1740 Granville street, P.O. Box 2630 Station M, Halifax, NS B3J 3N5 or from the provincial government web-site:
www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/COMMITTEES/index.html

Reports

All reports of the Standing Committee on Economic Development are compiled by the Legislative Committees Office and forwarded to the Committee members for consideration. Once the report is finalized it is then distributed as follows:

To the Speaker/Clerk of the House of Assembly, Members of the Legislative Assembly; all those witnesses who made presentations before the Committee; all Legislative Libraries, including the Territories. The report is also available to all persons interested in obtaining a copy from the Legislative Committees Office or through the Legislature Web-Site.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/COMMITTEES/index.html>

Acknowledgements

The Standing Committee on Economic Development wishes to extend its gratitude to the following:

The Department of Economic Development, D. B. Kenney Fisheries Ltd, Comeau Lumber Ltd., Halifax Regional Municipality, Greater Halifax Partnership, CAP Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Library Association, Nova Scotia Regional Development Authority, Nova Scotia Co-operative Council, Ecology Action Centre, Retail Gasoline Dealers Association of Nova Scotia, Tourism Industry association of Nova Scotia, Department of Finance, Service Canada, Nova Scotia Business Inc., and the Department of Education.

Special thanks goes to the following for their time and consideration: the Legislative Committees Office; Mr. Robert Kinsman, Manager of Hansard; Hansard Staff; Mr. James MacInnes, Co-ordinator, Legislative Television; Legislative Television Staff; Mr. Michael Laffin, Co-ordinator, House of Assembly Operations; House of Assembly Staff; and to Margaret Murphy, Legislative Librarian and Library Staff.

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Appendices

Nova Scotia Tourism Industry

- Presentation from the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia
- Information on tourism funding in regard to infrastructure and initiatives

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