



**STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**ON**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

2008

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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 2007 - 2008 Annual Report of the Committee for the Second Session of the Sixtieth General Assembly.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

**Halifax, Nova Scotia  
2008**



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## **FOREWORD & MANDATE**

### **Foreword**

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

The report is arranged under individual topics and outlines the concerns and issues brought forward each group or organization.

### **Mandate**

“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.”

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**September 18, 2007**

**WITNESSES**

There were no witnesses present during this meeting.

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Standing Committee on Economic Development met to organize their agenda of potential witnesses and topics for the coming year.

**MOTIONS**

Prior to the Second Session of the House of Assembly the Standing Committee on Economic Development had elected to unanimously pass the following motion:

“That the Standing Committee on Economic Development will not meet during the House of Assembly Sessions”

The Standing Committee did not hold any meetings during the Fall Session (November 22, 2007 – December 13, 2007 and the Spring Session (April 24, 2008 – May 27, 2008) of the House of Assembly.

**DOCUMENTATION**

There was no documentation tabled or requested.

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Reference: [http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed\\_2007sep18.htm](http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed_2007sep18.htm)



**OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES**

**October 23, 2007**

**WITNESSES:**

**Canada Research Chair in Oil and Natural Gas Policy**  
**Dalhousie University**

Dr. Jerome Davis

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The focus of the meeting was on offshore activities relating to oil and natural gas and their impact on the Nova Scotia economy. This was a two-part meeting in which the Offshore/Onshore Technology Association of Nova Scotia (OTANS) was invited the following month to present on the same topic.

**MOTIONS**

There were no motions made during the meeting.

**DOCUMENTATION**

There was no documentation requested.

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Reference: [http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed\\_2007oct23.htm](http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed_2007oct23.htm)

**OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES (2)**

**November 13, 2007**

**WITNESSES**

**OTANS**

Mr. Barry Clouter – Chairman  
Mr. Paul McEachern – Managing Director  
Mr. Michael O'Mahoney – Communications Analyst

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The focus of the meeting was on offshore activities relating to oil and natural gas and their impact on the Nova Scotia economy. Some emphasis was also placed on royalties, exploration, employment levels and offshore activities with respect to Encana and the Deep Panuke Agreement.

**MOTIONS**

There were no motions made during the meeting. However the Committee did receive correspondence from the Chair of the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board after both the October 23 and November 13, 2007 meetings regarding offshore activities.

The Committee discussed the matter that was put before them and directed the following motion to the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board, “that the correspondence from the Board sheds further light on the presentations that were made before the Committee and that no further action is warranted . . .”

**DOCUMENTATION**

There was no documentation requested.

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Reference: [http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed\\_2007nov13.htm](http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed_2007nov13.htm)

**NOVA SCOTIA BUSINESS INC.**

**January 29, 2008**

## **WITNESSES**

### **Nova Scotia Business Inc.**

Mr. Stephen Lund – President and CEO

Mr. Pat Ryan – Chief Operation Officer

Mr. Fred Terrio – Manager, Business Advisory Team

## **MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The focus of the meeting was an overview of Nova Scotia Business Inc.'s current activities with emphasis on the organization's new five-year outlook plan, business plan and other initiatives.

## **MOTIONS**

There were no motions made during the meeting.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

There was no documentation requested.

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Reference: [http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed\\_2008jan29.htm](http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed_2008jan29.htm)

**SMALL BUSINESS ISSUES**

**February 26, 2008**

**WITNESSES**

**Canadian Federation of Independent Business**

Ms. Leanne Hachey – Vice-President, Atlantic

Ms. Juanita Cirtwill – Member Services Counsellor

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The focus of the meeting was to present an overview of small business in Nova Scotia; to discuss taxation, regulations and other issues as they relate to small independent businesses.

**MOTIONS**

There were no motions made during the meeting.

**DOCUMENTATION**

There was no documentation requested.

## **EXPORT TRENDS & OPPORTUNITIES**

**March 4, 2008**

### **WITNESSES**

#### **Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters**

Mr. Stephen MacDonald – Chair of the Board  
Vice-President, Finance, Maritime Paper Products Limited

Mr. Robert Patzelt – Past Chair of the Board  
Vice-President and General Counsel, Scotia Investments Limited

Mr. Ken Hardie – Director  
Vice-President, Business Development, The Shaw Group

### **MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The focus of the meeting was on export trends and opportunities as well as challenges and barriers to the Canadian economy due to the flexibility of the Canadian dollar and on the role of government in various manufacturing business initiatives.

### **MOTIONS**

There were no motions made during this meeting.

### **DOCUMENTATION**

There was no documentation requested.

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Reference: [http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed\\_2008mar04.htm](http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed_2008mar04.htm)

**RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**April 15, 2008**

**WITNESSES**

**Department of Economic Development**

Mr. Neal Conrad – Director, Community and Rural Development  
Ms. Nancy Flam – Corporate Strategist

**Nova Scotia Business Inc.**

Mr. Pat Ryan – Chief Operating Officer  
Mr. Fred Terrio – manager, Business Advisory Team

**Nova Scotia Association of Regional Development Authorities**

Ms. Jo Ann Fewer – Chair  
Ms. Lisa MacDonald – Vice-Chair

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The focus of the meeting was on rural economic development with possible interest in small business initiatives, broadband, employment retention & skills development; as well as infrastructure.

**MOTIONS**

There were no motions made during this meeting.

**DOCUMENTATION**


There was no documentation requested.

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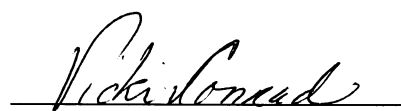
Reference: [http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed\\_2008apr15.htm](http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/ed/ed_2008apr15.htm)


**STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION**

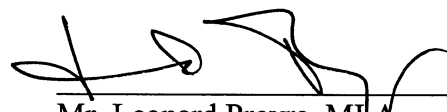
All of which is respectfully submitted to the House of Assembly  
this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2008

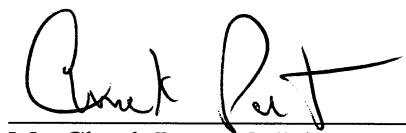
  
Mr. Keith Colwell, MLA (Chairman)  
(Preston)


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

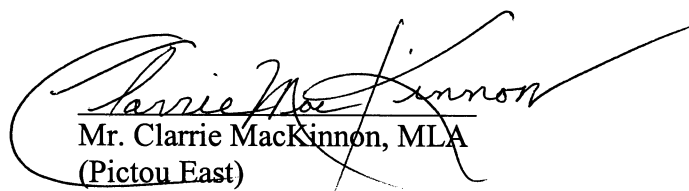
  
Ms. Vicki Conrad, MLA  
(Queens)

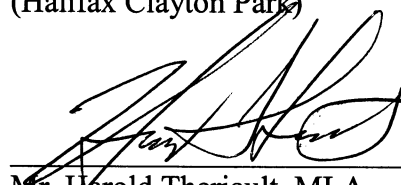
  
Mr. Keith Bain, MLA  
(Victoria-The Lakes)

  
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)

## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP & MEETINGS

### Committee Membership

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

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

Ms. Vicki Conrad, MLA  
(Queens)

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

Mr. Leonard Preyra, MLA  
(Halifax Citadel)

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

Ms. Diana Whalen, MLA  
(Halifax Clayton Park)

Mr. Chuck Porter, MLA  
(Hants West)

Mr. Harold Theriault, MLA  
(Digby-Annapolis)

Mr. Clarrie MacKinnon, MLA  
(Pictou East)

### Committee Meetings

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

September 18, 2007

October 23, 2007

November 13, 2007

January 29, 2008

February 26, 2008

March 4, 2008

April 15, 2008



## **NOTICES, TRANSCRIPTS & REPORTS**

### **Notices**

Notices of Committee meetings are sent to all members of the Committee, support staff of the caucus' and 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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 and Clerk of the House of Assembly, Members of the Legislative Assembly; all 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:

Canada Research Chair in Oil and Natural Gas Policy - Dalhousie University; Offshore/Onshore Technologies Association; Nova Scotia Business Inc.; Canadian Federation of Independent Business; Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters; Department of Economic Development; Nova Scotia Association of Regional Development Authorities.

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



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