

**COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENTS (CONSUP)**

CLOSING REMARKS TO

**STANDING COMMITTEE on PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS**

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Presented by:

**Dr. Sean Riley, Chair, Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents
(CONSUP)**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

On behalf of my colleagues, we thank the Public Accounts Committee for providing us with this opportunity to answer your questions about the Auditor General's Report. And, to answer questions about other matters relating to Nova Scotia's university sector.

We trust that our answers to your questions have been substantive and helpful.

In closing, I will take this opportunity to share with the Committee Our Vision.

Nova Scotia's universities play a vital role in the enhancement of our province's economic, social and cultural development by maximizing access to our universities for qualified and motivated learners and by contributing substantially to the province's need for research, development and innovation.

We envision Nova Scotia having the best, most competitive universities in Canada, recognized for their excellence in teaching, and, research and development.

Over the next 36 months, Nova Scotia's universities want to achieve the following essential goals:

- **Provide ready access to post-secondary educational programs and learning environments of the highest quality in Canada for all those qualified and motivated Nova Scotians.**
- **Keep access affordable to all groups in society through a balanced sharing of costs between student tuition and government funding.**
- **Ensure the national competitiveness of our post-secondary institutions in attracting and retaining high quality teachers and researchers in order to strengthen Nova Scotia's position as a high-potential, knowledge-intensive province.**

- **In partnership with the Government of Nova Scotia, develop a strategy to renew and build nationally competitive educational infrastructure in order to ensure the continued excellence of our teaching and research capacity and to protect the public's historic investment in our campuses.**
- **Make a positive, measurable contribution to Nova Scotia's socio-economic development by leading and advocating the province's innovation and technology agenda with the support of agencies such as the Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Trust Fund.**
- **In partnership with governments and other stakeholder groups, contribute actively to the development and successful implementation of a comprehensive immigration policy for Nova Scotia.**

To achieve our Goals, our short-term priorities over the next 12 months include:

- **Achieving the Nova Scotia Government's commitment to a predictive budget-planning model.**
- **Together, with the Government of Nova Scotia, establish active working groups accountable to the Minister of Education and CONSUP to identify those issues or opportunities that require a longer-term, strategic approach for their successful realization.**
- **and, in concert with the Nova Scotia Department of Education and other relevant ministries, immediately form an active working group to address the need for campus renewal.**

Nova Scotia's university sector has an excellent reputation locally, regionally and nationally.

It is critically important to CONSUP and its leaders that Nova Scotians view their universities as important to the socio-economic and cultural advancement of our Province, vital to making Nova Scotia the best place to live and work in Canada, and, accountable for our performance.

To Nova Scotia learners and their families, it is important we are considered committed to providing access for all those qualified and motivated to post secondary educational programs and learning environments of the highest quality in Canada, as well as making it easy for those who wish to transfer credits among universities and community colleges to ensure an efficient life-long learning environment.

And finally, we want Government to view the university sector as an essential partner in making Nova Scotia a wealthy and healthy ‘have’ province via our positive contribution to the socio-economic and cultural lives of its communities and citizens.

Thank you.