



**Environment
Office of the Minister**

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our file number:

Prof. Ray Côté
Resource & Environment
6100 University Avenue
Halifax, NS B3H 1W7

Dear Prof. Côté,

I was pleased to receive the feedback from the Round Table on Environment and Sustainable Prosperity relating to the first annual progress report on the implementation of the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*. I believe this feedback, as well as your continuing role as advisors to the Minister of Environment, will be valuable as we implement the Act.

I appreciate the clarity of direction contained in your letter and the obvious thought that went into its preparation. In the short term, staff have worked to incorporate some of your feedback into the 2008 Annual Progress Report. Specifically your suggestions about engaging Nova Scotians and looking at the decisions we are making now as long term investments for our future rather than costs, were particularly useful. In the longer term, I look forward to discussing the broader recommendations the Round Table has made, which I believe are relevant to government as a whole.

There is no doubt that we are facing significant challenges to our economy and environment. Climate change and the rising cost of energy are just two examples of the global realities we all are facing. We need to consider the global context of our local actions as Nova Scotia works to have one of the cleanest and most sustainable environments in the world by 2020. However, government alone cannot overcome these challenges and achieve our goals. It will take the concerted effort and involvement of all stakeholders to succeed.

I believe this is an exciting time to be a Nova Scotian. In a short period of time we have taken a significant and progressive step toward sustainable prosperity in the province by creating a framework for environmental protection and economic development over the next 12 years. I am pleased to have a group of stakeholders with such a wealth of experience and varied backgrounds by my side as we work to ensure our economy and environment prosper, both now and in the future.

I am pleased to provide you with the first Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act, Annual Progress Report, 2008. Thank you for your input.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Parent