

TECHNOLOGY AND THE ECONOMY ROUNDTABLE

MAY 12, 1997

Notes By Tom Traves

Good afternoon. I'm Tom Traves, President of Dalhousie University, and it's a pleasure for me to welcome you to our Roundtable on Technology and the Economy, dedicated to the theme of Helping Nova Scotia Grow.

When Dalhousie and TUNS decided last year to amalgamate, we did so in part because we shared a vision of how to strengthen Nova Scotia's capacity to deliver high quality technical education and research. We also wanted to create a strong research engine in Nova Scotia by combining the province's two PhD granting institutions to work in cooperation with government and private sector partners to position our province for the knowledge based, global economy of the 21st century. With annual expenditures of a quarter of a billion dollars a year, with more than 80% of Nova Scotia's university research activity and as the site of one-third of all research and development work in Nova Scotia, the new Dalhousie is in a unique position to work with you to grow our region' economy.

Today's event is the first product of that vision of a partnership for growth. As we gather together to talk about Technology and the Economy, I am delighted to introduce you to the new Dalhousie's special focus on technology. In addition to our longstanding emphasis on ocean and health studies, this new brochure illustrates the many ways Dalhousie and DalTech bring together hundred of scholars with strong research interests in a broad range of technical areas. As the day unfolds, I hope you'll look through this material carefully. And, when you get back to your offices, think about giving us a call to talk about how we can work together to commercialize the research potential you see outlined or tell us how we can put our capacity to use addressing your research and development needs. Ted Rhodes and I would be delighted to hear from you. A new survey of business people by the Greater Halifax Partnership and the Halifax Regional Municipality indicated that 33% of firms identified R&D as being critical to their success and 39% felt it would be critical in the next two years. Their challenge is our opportunity. To put it another way, the new Dalhousie is open for business and we look forward to working with you.

Today is an exciting event for us because we have brought together in this room senior representatives of many of the most successful and innovative technology-based companies and development agencies. I want to thank all of you for coming and urge you as the afternoon unfolds to share your thoughts on how to put our collective talents together to help Nova Scotia grow.

In such company, it's impossible to introduce everyone, but I do want to mention a few special guests who have helped us put this event together. In particular, I want to acknowledge the presence of the Minister of Education and Culture, Robbie Harrison, who

will speak later in our program, the Minister of Technology and Science Secretariat, Gerry O'Malley, and the Deputy Minister of the Secretariat, Rollie McInnis, both of whom have given us tremendous support for today's event. I also want to make special note of the presence of Bob Russell, who is the Executive Director for the Atlantic Region of Industry Canada. With Bob's support, Industry Canada provided us with a major grant to help organize this event and publish our technology brochure. I want to thank you, Bob, and your Ministry for your invaluable assistance in making all this happen. Finally, I'd like to welcome our two university partners in NUTECH, which is a university technology transfer company that we operate jointly with the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, whose new Principal, Garth Coffin is here today, and with the University College of Cape Breton, whose Executive Vice-President, Ray Ivany, has also joined us.

Our program this afternoon is simple, but I assure you it is going to be packed with stimulating insights and suggestions on where and how to take the next step in Nova Scotia's development. After our keynote speaker, Dr. Peter Nicholson, introduces our theme, we are going to have a distinguished panel of businessmen who make the smart economy a living reality. Then Minister Harrison is going to provide a provincial government outlook on these issues. At that point, I must warn you that the free ride is over and you're going to have to do some work by sharing some of your thoughts with us, after which Sir Graham Day will wrap up our event with some closing reflections. As I said, it's a jam-packed afternoon.

Now, on with our program. To introduce our keynote speaker, I'd like to call upon the new Principal of the new DalTech, my new colleague and old friend, Dr. Ted Rhodes.