

Speaking notes

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on behalf of Hon. Ernest Fage

Minister of Economic Development

Rethinking Development: Local Pathways to Global Wellbeing

World Trade and Convention Centre

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11 a.m.

Thank you.

I'm proud to be here today representing the Province of Nova Scotia as a partner in this exciting event, which is about to bring hundreds of global experts in sustainable development to Nova Scotia. I want to thank GPI Atlantic for spearheading the work of bringing this second annual conference on Gross National Happiness to Nova Scotia.

I also want to say I think it's fitting the conference is being held at St. F. X, given the university's history of promoting socially responsible community development through its support for the cooperative movement.

An international gathering on our soil helps to further Nova Scotia's image as an accessible, creative and resourceful location . . . and this paves the way for future such meetings.

That can only mean good things for Nova Scotia communities.

It is equally positive that top experts in sustainable community development will be coming to the province to discuss important issues among themselves and directly with Nova Scotians . . . and to share common solutions with us.

This is a fabulous opportunity to share what we know and to learn more from others.

So I want to take this opportunity to encourage as many Nova Scotians as possible to participate.

It's an opportunity you don't get every day . . . to exchange and debate ideas with leading authorities on practical solutions to healthy community development. So please, take advantage of this unique process . . . and make a difference in your community.

Participants will be comparing notes on successful initiatives world-wide that show how people are creating healthier, happier communities that are both economically and environmentally sound through the practice of sustainable development.

I believe Nova Scotia is a good example of how it is possible to harmonize quality of life with economic well-being. I also believe that when you start measuring what we've got here in Nova Scotia, the secret will be out that this truly is a great place to live.

We have learned how to build quality of life and a general sense of well-being into how we earn our living.

We have built a balanced and well-rounded society on a solid economic footing.

And that's what this conference is all about.

I look forward to sharing what we know and to learning all we can from other jurisdictions, because we still want to learn all we can to make Nova Scotia the best place it can possibly be, to live, work, do business and raise a family.

I look forward to seeing as many Nova Scotians at the conference as possible.

Thank you very much.