

# Province of Nova Scotia Tri-Partite Forum

July 5, 2005

# Competition from China

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- China is the world's 7th largest economy – 40% larger than Canada's – and was valued at US \$1.4 trillion in 2003
- China's average per capita income will reach US \$2000 within the next ten years
- China produces over 60% of the world's microwaves, half of all DVD players and digital cameras, 50% of its textile production, 40% of its refrigerators and computers, and a fourth of its mobile phones, colour televisions, washing machines, dryers, and car stereos
- Chinese labour costs average 1/40th of those in Canada
- China graduates 325,000 engineers per year. The third largest university in China graduates more engineers than Canada and the United States combined.
- Other Competitors - Southeast Asia, South Korea, Mexico, South America, India

# All Canadians have to:

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- Understand that the power to build a more prosperous future lies in our own hands
- Recognize the importance of manufacturing to their future economic prosperity and that of their families
- Be aware of the dynamic and high-paying career opportunities that exist in modern manufacturing
- Acquire and maintain the world class skills of their chosen field of work; and
- Hold manufacturers, governments, labour and other stakeholders accountable for getting the job done

# Basic Workforce Requirements:

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- Employability skills – including self-discipline, reliability, timeliness, integrity, interpersonal skills, work ethic, and the ability to exercise responsibility with regard to personal health and safety and that of others
- Practical business and technical experience
- Flexibility in response to changing conditions and the ability to assume a number of roles in the workplace
- The ability to learn and to solve problems in an innovative and creative way
- The ability to communicate effectively in the language of the workplace

# Basic Workforce Requirements:

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- The capacity to work in other languages and cultures
- The ability to work in teams
- The ability to read and write increasingly sophisticated instructions and other communications
- Project management skills
- Numerical and computer skills
- Business management and supervisory capabilities

# To Secure their Future, Canada's Businesses must:

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- Implement new business strategies to compete and grow global markets
- Define the future capabilities they will require of their workforce
- Continually upgrade the capabilities of their workers and the technologies they employ
- Implement accountable governance systems and responsible health, safety, and environmental management practices
- Partner effectively with other stakeholders and communities to get the job done

# Workers and Labour Groups have an important role to play in:

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- Participating with business in understanding and responding to the challenges and opportunities of the global marketplace.
- Assisting in managing change and improving the way that work gets done.
- Implementing innovative solutions in the workplace.
- Continually upgrading their skills and competencies.