

**Speaking Notes for
Senator Jim Cowan**

**Announcement of Government of Canada Support
for the GPI “Rethinking Development” Conference**

June 3, 2005 11:00 a.m.

**World Trade & Convention Centre
Mariner Suite 2**

Halifax, Nova Scotia

- Thank you Ron (Colman).
- Good morning ladies and gentlemen. It is my pleasure to speak to you this morning on behalf of the Government of Canada.
- I'm speaking this morning on behalf of the Honourable Joseph McGuire, Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, the Honourable Aileen Carroll, Minister of the Canadian International Development Agency, and the International Development Research Centre.
- As you all know by now, the Rethinking Development conference will take place from June 20-24 in Antigonish.
- I am pleased to announce today that the Government of Canada is supporting the conference with investments totalling nearly \$230,000.
- The choice of location for this conference is no accident – it is the home of the Coady Institute and Father Moses Coady, a true pioneer in economic development.
- Coady's Antigonish Movement focused on education, innovation, group action, and sustainable economic activities as integral components of development still inspires others. Almost eighty years after the movement began, this approach still gets results.
- ACOA, CIDA, and IDRC are all members of the federal family that support economic development in their own ways.
- ACOA is focused on growing the Atlantic Canadian economy, while CIDA and IDRC have international mandates that focus specifically on helping developing nations build their own capacity for growth.
- It is clear that these organizations have an interest – and a stake – in the kinds of discussions that will be taking place at this conference. These are issues that know no borders.
- In fact all three of these government organizations will be actively involved in the conference, with participants coming from ACOA, and speakers scheduled from both CIDA and IDRC.
- The conference is also attracting participants from around the world, and features some very interesting and highly respected speakers including His Excellency

John Ralston Saul, Marilyn Waring, Mathis Wackernagel, and Elizabeth Beale – as well as other distinguished guests from diverse backgrounds.

- These speakers will address issues as diverse as unpaid work, health preservation, cultural protection, the environment, and human rights – to name a few - and discuss how issues like these affect economic development in our modern world.
- In his article in the Halifax Chronicle-Herald last Sunday, Silver Donald Cameron wrote a nice summary of what the Genuine Progress Index - and this conference - is all about. I highly recommend it as a quick introduction.
- He talked about the value we currently place on generating and measuring economic activity, and the value we place on health and well-being – and asks why, after all, should the two be mutually exclusive?
- That’s what this conference is all about – finding the balance that will make growing economies respect human values that go deeper than profits and the bottom line.
- The Government of Canada has already taken broad steps in this direction. The Speech from the Throne last year outlined a renewed focus on equal opportunity, the environment and healthy communities – all issues raised by GPI.
- Government departments and agencies are now weaving these themes into policies and programs that take a broader view of economic development than ever before.
- The Throne Speech also provided a framework for continued work in economic development, both here and abroad, that will enhance Canada’s reputation as a leader.
- In closing, let me say again that it is a pleasure to be with you today as we begin the countdown to this significant event, and I wish the organizers and participants all the best for a successful and productive conference in Antigonish.
- Thank you.