



The Honourable Roger Grimes

My vision for this province is one of healthy, well educated people ready to seize the opportunities that are now before them. Achieving that vision is realized when goals are established, agendas are set and commitments are met. These commitments centre on economic development, investment in education and assurance of accessible, quality healthcare and social services for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. The development of government's social and economic agendas must occur hand in hand. The establishment of the Strategic Social Plan in 1998 provided the basis for this to occur as a companion piece to the Strategic Economic Plan.

The Strategic Social Plan, the preeminent model of social development in Canada, is realizing its own goals of linking social and economic development, bringing a focus to prevention and early intervention, making decisions for policy and program development based on evidence and building partnerships and strengthening communities.

A major commitment of the Strategic Social Plan is to develop a Social Audit, designed to measure strengths and deficiencies in the social and economic development of this province so that appropriate interventions can be made where necessary. The relative successes of such interventions can be measured and used as a basis for further growth and development. A government must have the courage to challenge itself to measure the work it is doing. This is one way to remain accountable to the people we serve.

To make the important decisions that guide the path for continued prosperity we must always look to our experiences and examine the facts. Knowing where you have come from guides you as to where you must go. So, as the title of this document says, we will use the vital information found in this report and work "**From the Ground Up**" to advance my vision for a growing and prosperous Newfoundland and Labrador.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger G." with a stylized flourish at the end.