



Believe it

When it comes to investment and opportunity, Atlantic Canada is the place to be.

Everyone who knows me knows that I am one of the world's most determined optimists. My glass is never less than half full. There's always a bright side. And tomorrow will indeed be a better day. I guess that's why, even in the darkest days of the global recession, I've felt that Atlantic Canada had all the raw material it needed to achieve prosperity. The reality, however, surpasses my brightest imaginings.

But don't just take my word for it. The facts speak for themselves.

Fact: Vale, the world leader in nickel production and processing has a substantial operation right here in Newfoundland and Labrador. They have a world-class mine and concentrator operating in Voisey's Bay, Labrador, and a commercial nickel processing complex under construction in Long Harbour, Newfoundland. With that has come incredible opportunity for aboriginal people (80 per cent of supply and service contracts awarded to aboriginal-owned companies); women (10 per cent of the construction workforce and 23 per cent of engineering and technical roles are filled by women); and local businesses (the spinoffs from the \$1.9 billion Long Harbour construction project alone are astronomical).

Fact: Nova Scotia's \$15-million Play Fairway analysis provides critical evidence which could help that province attract new players to develop its offshore potential. The study indicated there could be upwards of 120 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and eight billion barrels of oil in the

region — as much as triple previous estimates.

Fact: all four Atlantic provinces are committed to reducing their reliance on fossil fuels and increasing development of greener energies such as wind, tidal and hydro power. The proposed Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project in Labrador is a particularly poignant case in point. Not only is it a tremendous source of renewable energy, but it's already forging collaborative business partnerships throughout the region.

Do you need still more facts to be convinced? Look at Warren MacLeod and his interest in restarting mining operations in Buchans, N.L. (page 12). Think of Golden Dory and their determination to develop gold mining projects in Newfoundland (page 13).

Stop for a minute to reflect on Nova Scotia's Deep Panuke natural gas development that's about to come on stream. Consider, if you will, the wealth created by our region's current offshore projects (Sable, White Rose, Terra Nova, Hibernia) and the strength of our own home-grown industrial partners (Irving, alone, is a powerhouse by anyone's standards).

Now envision how that will expand as future investments prove even more resources and opportunities for development. Truthfully, there's never been a better time than now to do business in Atlantic Canada.

When you think of all that, you can't help but smile.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hubert F. Hutton". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Hubert Hutton | Publisher