

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Wednesday, February 18, 2004**

**Charlottetown, PEI** -- The Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) endorses recommendations regarding government funding for universities and research and development, made by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) in its report, *Strategies for Faculty Renewal in the Maritimes (Strategies)* released today [http://www.mphec.ca/english/pol\\_b.html](http://www.mphec.ca/english/pol_b.html)

Among its many recommendations, MPHEC's *Strategies* report proposes that '...government include the provision of multi-year funding to enable long-term planning by universities..'

Professor Wade MacLauchlan, AAU Chair, and President, University of Prince Edward Island said that, "While there have been some moderate increases in funding for universities in the region in recent years, these are not enough in real terms to reflect growing demand and universities do not have the necessary core funding resources to hire sufficient numbers of new faculty."

*Strategies* also recommended '...the establishment of research funding envelopes for projects in areas of special interest for provincial public policy, and enhancing matching funding for federal funding programs such as the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and the Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF).'

Professor MacLauchlan said that, "Our universities are in competition with universities from other countries, primarily the United States, for a limited pool of qualified individuals. A robust and growing research and development environment on our campuses, supported by federal government funding programs such as CFI and AIF and provincial grant programs such as a proposed new initiative in PEI help make our universities more attractive to highly qualified faculty and to increasing the number of master's and PhD graduates."

As noted in the *Strategies* report, 'Universities in the Maritimes have a significant impact on social and economic development, and are the primary performers of research and development in the region.'

The AAU ([www.atlanticuniversities.ca](http://www.atlanticuniversities.ca)) represents the 17 universities in Atlantic Canada and is an advocate for the important role Atlantic universities play in preparing future leaders of our communities, in path-breaking research and innovation and in contributing to the economic prosperity and quality of life of the Atlantic region.

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