



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HALIFAX, NS – Universities have a vital role to play in municipal government programs created to attract and retain immigrants to communities across Atlantic Canada.

ASSOCIATION OF
ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITIES

Peter Halpin, Executive Director, Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU), will present that point of view during a panel discussion at the Atlantic Immigration Conference, presented by the Atlantic Mayors' Congress, Tuesday, May 17, 10:15 am, Pier 21, Halifax, NS.

ASSOCIATION DES
UNIVERSITÉS DE
L'ATLANTIQUE

Halpin, on behalf of the region's 17 universities, will provide an overview of the challenges, opportunities and potential solutions to improving immigration and retention in communities across the region.

The AAU's presentation to the Atlantic Mayor's Congress - 'Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions' - can be found on the AAU web site, www.atlanticuniversities.ca (see *Publications and Reports*).

"The university community strongly believes it is central to improving immigration and retention results in Atlantic Canada", said Halpin. "And, we will work with governments at all levels and their respective agencies to make that happen."

Universities in Atlantic Canada annually attract more than 10,500 Canadian students from outside the region, close to 26 percent of whom stay in Atlantic Canada following their graduation. In addition, the region's universities attract a growing number of international students to Atlantic Canada. In 2004-05, more than 6,100 international students from 160 countries attended universities across the region.

Students from other parts of Canada and international students from around the world present an enormous opportunity for Atlantic Canada to address its rapidly declining population, says Halpin.

He said that, "Aggressive marketing of our universities and region nationally and internationally offers tremendous benefits to Atlantic Canada. First, it will build and diversify our communities. Second, we will gain new entrepreneurs, new professionals and new community leaders. By doing so, we will help create and promote more diversified, vibrant communities across the region which will in-turn attract and retain more people to Atlantic Canada."

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