



Atlantic Canada  
Opportunities  
Agency

Agence de  
promotion économique  
du Canada atlantique

Canada

# News Release Communiqué

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## CANADA'S NEW GOVERNMENT INVESTS \$900,000 IN ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH IN ATLANTIC CANADA

**HALIFAX (NS) – September 28, 2007** – Canada's New Government today announced an innovative, four-year research program aimed at fostering further Aboriginal economic development in the Atlantic Region.

"Canada's New Government is getting things done for Aboriginal communities in Atlantic Canada," said Gerald Keddy, Member of Parliament for South Shore-St. Margaret's, on behalf of the Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA). "Through this partnership, our government is supporting a project which will contribute to the long-term economic success of Aboriginal peoples and communities throughout the Atlantic region."

"Through collaboration such as this, Canada's New Government can help make real strides in economic development for Aboriginal peoples," said the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians.

"My department's Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy aims to provide Aboriginal groups with an opportunity to participate in the management of fisheries to contribute to their economic self-sufficiency," said the Honourable Loyola Hearn, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. "This investment will assist Aboriginal groups in enhancing fisheries management skills, while improving conservation, management and enhancement of the resource."

The research program is being led by the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Inc. (APC) in partnership with a consortium of 11 Atlantic Canadian universities. The objectives of the project are to conduct research linked to the needs of Aboriginal communities in Atlantic Canada, conduct workshops to improve the information base for strategic decision making, and develop a repository for information pertaining to Aboriginal economic development.

"Economic development is the key to the future of our Aboriginal communities and I'm pleased to see that this research will focus on the specific needs of those communities," said Michael Baker, Nova Scotia's Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. "This collaborative approach with First Nations will ensure that the work has the right focus."

"This project is an essential component of our Chiefs' Atlantic Aboriginal Economy Building Strategy and is a significant strategic and collaborative partnership among Aboriginal communities, universities, and government," noted Chief Lawrence Paul, Co-Chair, APC. "The work to be undertaken will directly contribute to improving the lives of Aboriginal people in the Atlantic region through research,

workshops and other activities in the field of Aboriginal Economic Development,” added Chief Noah Augustine, Co-Chair, APC.

ACOA and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans are investing a total of \$600,000 in this research program. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is investing \$300,000, and the Province of Nova Scotia is investing \$100,000 in the project.

The APC is a non-profit organization mandated to research, analyze and develop alternatives to federal policies. Members include 37 Mi’kmaq, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy and Innu Chiefs from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Maine, USA.

**FOR BROADCAST USE:**

Canada’s New Government today announced an investment of \$900,000 to support research to further Aboriginal economic development in Atlantic Canada.

The research, to be undertaken by the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs and a consortium of 11 Atlantic Canadian universities, will help further the economic development of Aboriginal peoples and communities across Atlantic Canada.

ACOA and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans are investing a total of \$600,000 over four years, while the department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is investing \$300,000 to this project. In addition, the province of Nova Scotia is investing \$100,000 in the project.

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(This news release is available on the Internet at [www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca](http://www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca) under **Media Room** and photos are available under **Photo Album**.)