

**For Immediate Release**

**Thursday, September 18, 2008, 12 Noon (ADT)**

HALIFAX, NS -- Dr. J. Colin Dodds, President, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS, was today named new Chair of the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU).

"I look forward to continuing the vital work the AAU does in representing the university community," said Dr. Dodds. "The success of Atlantic Canada's universities is integral to the social and economic development of Atlantic Canada. I'm proud to play a role in helping build and continue that success." (*See Below – The Economic Impact of Universities in the Atlantic Provinces*)

The Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) is a voluntary association of Atlantic Canada's 17 universities, who offer programs leading to a degree or has degree-granting status.

"While Atlantic Canada faces some significant structural and competitive challenges including retaining our young people and attracting new immigrants, there are tremendous opportunities for our region that can be realized from the strengths of our educational system. Our university leaders are committed to collaboration and cooperation with the region's community colleges, governments and the private sector. Through these partnerships and strategic alliances, including those in R&D and innovative academic programming, we can take full advantage of our region's potential as a leading knowledge economy and in playing a key role in the emerging international education marketplace."

Dr. Dodds' appointment as Chair of the AAU comes as he completes his term as a Director and past Chair of the Board of the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE). He is also a Director and the immediate past Chair of the Canadian Scholarship Trust Foundation, Vice Chair of the Greater Halifax Partnership (GHP) and a Director of the Atlantic Institute of Market Studies (AIMS)

In addition to being President of Saint Mary's University, Dr. Dodds is a Professor of Finance in the AACSB accredited Sobey School of Business.

He joined the faculty of the Sobey School of Business in September 1982, and after serving in a number of administrative positions in the University assumed the Presidency in 2000.

*The Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) represents the interests of universities across the region, ensuring public visibility for the important role they play in preparing future leaders of our communities, in path-breaking research and innovation, and in contributing to the economic prosperity of life in Atlantic Canada.*

-30-

For further information, contact:  
Peter Halpin, Executive Director, AAU  
(902) 425-4238 or 497-4419  
phalpin@atlanticuniversities.ca  
www.atlanticuniversities.ca

## **FAST FACTS ON ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES**

- **17 universities**
- **77,000 full-time students**
- **(20% from outside the region)**
- **14,500 part-time students**
- **16,655 faculty and staff**
- **2.5-5.0% of employment in provincial capitals**
- **15-30% of employment in small university towns**
- **27,320 total jobs**
- **250,000 local alumni**
- **\$4.4 billion economic output**
- **\$2 billion in Gross Domestic Product**
- **\$466.8 million in federal and provincial taxes**
- **\$510 million in R&D**
- **63% of R&D in the region**
- **International students contribute \$100 million in export earnings per year**