



ASSOCIATION OF
ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITIES

ASSOCIATION DES
UNIVERSITÉS DE
L'ATLANTIQUE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 9, 2009

MONCTON, NB – Business, community, public sector and university leaders from across the region met today at the Atlantic Leaders' Summit (the Summit), Université de Moncton. The Summit was organized by the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU).

Dr. Colin Dodds, President, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS, and Chair, AAU, said that “the deepening financial and economic global crisis now affecting markets and people means that Atlantic Canadians cannot think of ‘business as usual’ in any sector of our regional economy and society.”

He noted that the AAU facilitated the Summit because of the critical importance that current and future partnerships among the region's universities with the corporate, not-for-profit and government sectors will have in Atlantic Canada's future prosperity and quality of life.

“The AAU is working on a major strategic initiative that will not only fit within the national innovation agenda, but more particularly set a course for the future prosperity of the region. Today's gathering is the first step in sharing our thinking with sector leaders from across Atlantic Canada as well as seeking their insight into the challenges and opportunities facing our region.”

Elizabeth Beale, President and CEO, Atlantic Provinces Economic Council (APEC) led off the Summit's morning session with an overview of demographics, people and talent. Dr. Axel Meisen, Chair of Foresight, Alberta Research Council and former President, Memorial University of Newfoundland led an afternoon discussion on innovation and prosperity and the initiatives that will measurably improve regional competitiveness, enhancing Atlantic Canada's influence within Canada.

Dr. Dodds commended Wade MacLauchlan, President, University of Prince Edward Island; Bernard Lord, President and CEO, Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association, Ottawa, ON; Henry Demone, President and CEO, High Liner Foods Inc., Lunenburg, NS and Jillian Keiley, founding Artistic Director, Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland Inc., St. John's, NL, for their effective co-leadership of the Atlantic Leaders' Summit.

“The AAU believes the Atlantic Leaders' Summit is a powerful opportunity to share ideas, insights and opinions on a new way forward for Atlantic Canada,” said Dr. Dodds.

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, please contact:
Peter Halpin, Executive Director, AAU
(902) 425-4238/(902) 497-4419
phalpin@atlanticuniversities.ca

Suite 403
5657 Spring Garden Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3R4
902-425-4230
Fax: 902-425-4233
www.atlanticuniversities.ca