



ASSOCIATION OF  
ATLANTIC  
UNIVERSITIES

ASSOCIATION DES  
UNIVERSITÉS DE  
L'ATLANTIQUE

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# 2009 Pre-budget Consultations

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*Solutions for  
Atlantic Canada's Future™*

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A submission to the

**House of Commons Standing  
Committee on Finance**

by the

**Association of Atlantic Universities**

August 14, 2009

# Solutions for Atlantic Canada's Future™

## Executive Summary

In November 2006, the Government of Canada released *Advantage Canada*, “an economic plan to make Canada a world leader for current and future generations.”

Advantage Canada also states that, “**Canada can and must do more to turn our ideas into innovations that provide solutions to environmental, health, and other important social challenges, and to improve our economic competitiveness.**”

Since 1997, successive federal governments’ have made substantial investment in Atlantic Canada, helping build a strong foundation in basic science and technology, including the Canada Foundation for Innovation, health research, the Canada Research Chairs, the national research granting councils – NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR. In its 2007 Budget, the Government of Canada announced its commitment to a national science and technology (S&T) strategy – *Mobilizing Science and Technology to Canada's Advantage*. The national S&T strategy “...sets out a comprehensive, multi-year science and technology agenda.”

The Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF), launched in 2001, has made a significant contribution to the national innovation and economic competitiveness agenda.

The AIF has proven to be highly complementary to the core principles of *Advantage Canada*, particularly **investing for sustainable growth** and the three pillars of the national S&T strategy: **Entrepreneurial Advantage; Knowledge Advantage and People Advantage.**

In short, much has been achieved in Atlantic Canada since the creation of the AIF. It has provided a strong foundation which can be built upon to further improve Atlantic Canada's productivity and prosperity.

**The AAU recommends the Federal Government invest \$350 million\* over five years to support a university-led initiative** (Solutions for Atlantic Canada's Future™) to successfully advance the core principles of *Advantage Canada* in Atlantic Canada, to further improve regional partnerships, productivity and prosperity.

\* Note that, the AAU's recommendation is comprised of six integrated program components designed to successfully achieve the goals and priorities outlined in *Solutions for Atlantic Canada's Future™*, ultimately advancing *Advantage Canada*.

## Solutions for Atlantic Canada's Future™

Once, people may have thought of the university as an ivory tower--a place for higher education and pure research. That's no longer true. The universities of Atlantic Canada have a larger responsibility to improve their communities and region and the lives of the people who live here. This is why we've embarked upon a bold, new strategy designed to create a brighter future for Atlantic Canada.

Our approach has four-cornerstones. Each of them is based on a single proposition: in today's global economy, the human mind is the key to progress and wealth. More than anything, the strength of our ideas—and our ability to transform these ideas into economic and social value—will determine this region's prosperity.

Our initiative--Solutions for Atlantic Canada's Future™--aligns with the goals and priorities of the region's governments, business sectors and communities. Universities, where knowledge is built, breakthroughs are made and new companies and jobs are created, will be vital partners in creating an innovative, successful economy and an improved quality of life.

### Creating a Knowledge Advantage:

- Atlantic Canada's universities foster social cohesion and cultural diversity in an area of the country that has historically attracted few immigrants.
- Universities are key players in developing health policy and systems in a region that faces considerable health care challenges.
- Atlantic Canada's Universities are at the forefront of education and literacy initiatives throughout the region—a key determinant of future wealth and prosperity.
- University-led innovation improves lives by helping create sustainable communities and social cohesion.

### Creating an Entrepreneurial Advantage:

- Higher education inspires, nurtures and develops the talents and ambitions of Atlantic Canada's future leaders.
- Atlantic Canada's universities are the region's key players in the advancement of scientific knowledge and the pursuit of world class excellence.
- They accelerate innovation by fostering the latest generations of applied research, scientific breakthroughs and the new products, services and ideas that enhance people's lives and strengthen our economy.
- Through commercialization, universities ensure that the research discoveries of Atlantic Canada's best and brightest scientists and innovators are transformed into practical commercial applications.

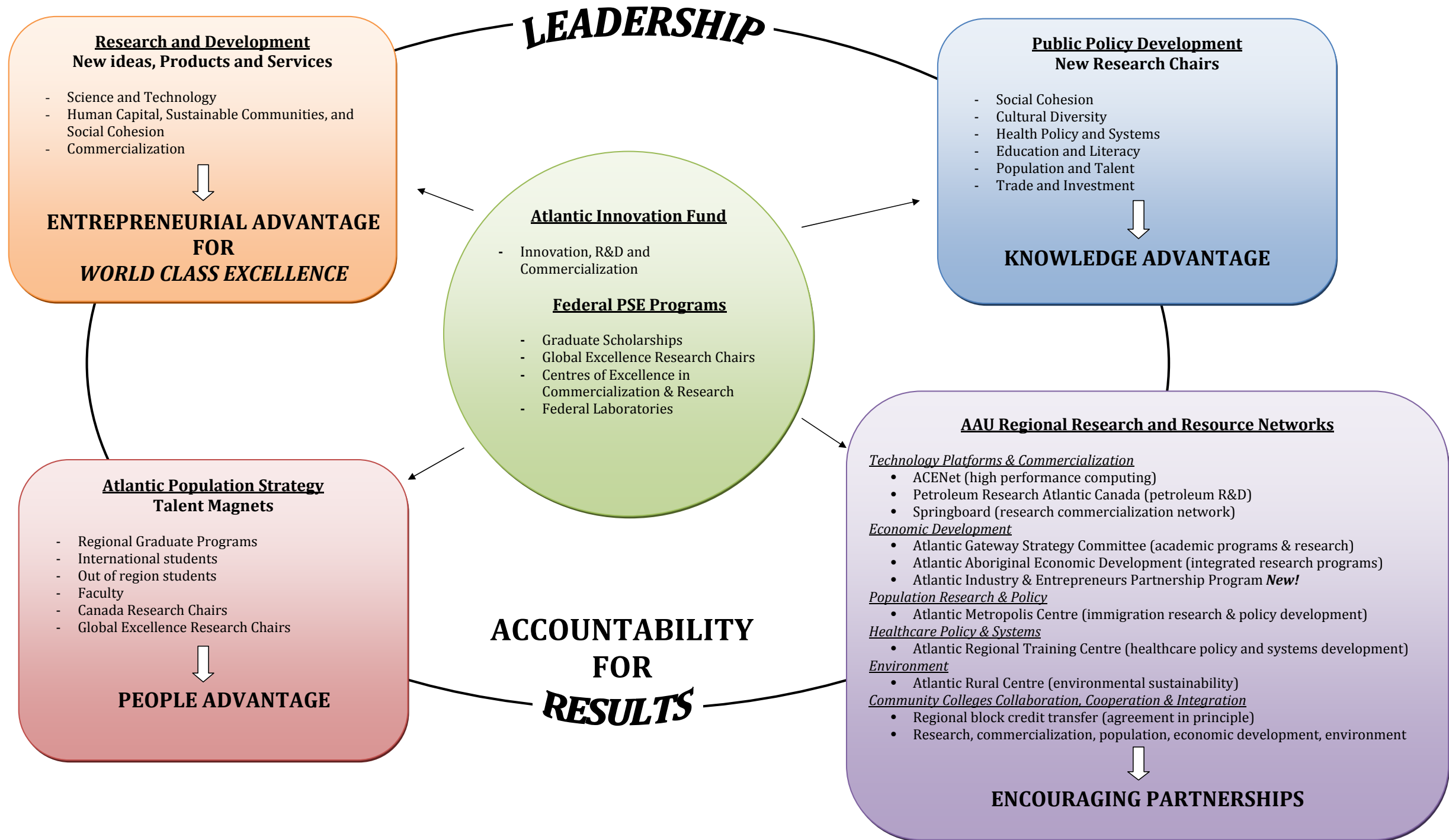
### Creating a People Advantage:

- By attracting thousands of new students, academics and researchers to the region, universities play a vital role in Atlantic Canada's population strategy.
- As a magnet for attracting and retaining top talent, Atlantic universities develop the region's pool of highly qualified personnel.
- The influx of new ideas and thinking via the best and brightest international and out-of-region scholars, students and researchers has an impact on virtually every facet of life in this region.

### Creating a Partnership Advantage:

- Atlantic Canada's universities lead the charge in collaboration and cooperation by forging research partnerships with governments, business and industry, community colleges, national granting councils and federal labs in commercializing research.
- University professors and researchers ensure that cutting-edge knowledge and research with the potential to change lives spreads to the private sector and into broader communities.

Solutions for Atlantic Canada's Future™ aligns with the federal government's overall strategy of providing Canada with a global innovation advantage. Atlantic Canada, in particular, needs more people with the talent to compete in this new economy. Building its pool of human capital will allow the region to stay at the forefront of research and development and to participate in today's knowledge-based world. It will also create a business climate that allows small and medium-sized enterprises to leverage their science and technology knowledge into real economic benefits for their region and all of Canada.



**SOLUTIONS FOR ATLANTIC CANADA'S FUTURE™**

# Solutions for Atlantic Canada's Future™

## Summary of Funding Requirements

Name	Objective	Value	Total Funds Needed (by Year 4)	Anticipated Results
1. Atlantic Canada Centres of Excellence (AC-CE)	To build Atlantic Canada as a research hub in science and technology.	Centres of Excellence in Research and Commercialization = \$5 Million (5 centres <u>one time</u> for a period of 4 years)*  Centres of Excellence in Public Policy = \$5 Million (2 centres <u>one time</u> for a period of four years)*	\$25 Million  \$10 Million	Help to create an 'Entrepreneurial, Knowledge and People Advantage' in Atlantic Canada.
2. Atlantic Canada Research Chairs (AC-RC)	To attract outstanding researchers to Atlantic Canada's universities.	Atlantic Canada Research Chairs = \$200k (25 researchers for 4 years)  \$250k ( <u>one time</u> start-up)*	\$5 Million/year  \$6.35 Million/1 <sup>st</sup> year only	Help to encourage a 'Knowledge Advantage' in Atlantic Canada.
3. Atlantic Canada Entrepreneurial Partnership Scholarships (AC-EPS)	To educate HQP who will work in synergy and partnerships with the region's small and medium enterprises. Government will fund approximately 2/3 of the scholarship and industry will fund 1/3.	Master's = \$10k & \$5k (industry) (200 students for 1 year)  PhD = \$17.5k & \$7.5k (industry) (100 students for 3 years)	\$2 Million/year  \$1.75 Million/year	Help to create an 'Entrepreneurial Advantage' by encouraging partnerships and a strong private-sector commitment to S&T; expanding total graduate students by 1/3 (to 10,000 by 2012)
4. Atlantic Canada Entrepreneurial Internships (AC-EI)	To integrate students early-on into enterprises increasing the linkages between them and the business sector.	Undergraduate = \$3k & \$1.5k (industry) (1000 students for 1 year)	\$3 Million/year	Help to foster a <b>competitive and dynamic business environment</b> by creating real business/industry opportunities for undergraduates in the region.
5. Atlantic Canada Graduate Scholarships (AC-GS)	To increase highly qualified personnel (HQP) in the region.	Master's = \$15k (1000 students for 1 year)  PhD = \$25k (500 students for 3 years)	\$15 Million/year  \$12.5 Million/year	Help to <b>attract and retain 'the brightest minds'</b> from within the region and from across Canada; expanding total graduate students by 1/3 (to 10,000 by 2012).
6. Atlantic Canada International Graduate Scholarships (AC-IGS)	To bring international HQP into the region.	Master's = \$15k & \$5.2k (differential fee) (1000 students for 1 year)  PhD = \$25k & \$5.2k (differential fee) (500 students for 3 years)	\$20.2 Million/year  \$15.1 Million/year	Help to <b>attract and retain 'the brightest minds'</b> from around the world to Atlantic Canada; expanding total graduate students by 1/3 (to 10,000 by 2012)

FUNDS REQUIRED PER YEAR: \$74,550,000 (anticipated maximum annual funding requirement for a full cohort at Year 4)

FUNDS REQUIRED (one time)\*: \$41,350,000

TOTAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENT: \$350,000,000 (approx.)