

# CHAMPIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

## John Peacock

CHANCELLOR, ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

*What led to your commitment to higher education and university governance?*

I graduated from St FX in the 1960's and maintained some involvement with the university through the years since graduation. I have been proud of the way the university has evolved and the opportunity to serve as Chancellor allows me to participate in our continuing quest for improvement. It also gives me exposure to students whom I am counting on to make the world a better place.

*What impresses you the most about today's students?*

Their awareness and determination. Students today seem to me to be more aware of and more concerned about the big issues we face as a society. They are prepared to hold leadership accountable for our decisions and they insist on actions vs. promises. I am encouraged and impressed by this assertiveness.

*What is your vision for the role of universities in the region's future?*

Our Atlantic universities need to be active participants in creating opportunities for our graduating students to stay here and contribute to the economic growth of the region. We are making a significant investment in providing them with an education and the return on this investment should be the creation of an environment that gives them an incentive to stay in the Atlantic provinces. It is my impression that we have an awareness of this need by government, business and our universities which is critical to success.

