



ASSOCIATION OF  
ATLANTIC  
UNIVERSITIES

ASSOCIATION DES  
UNIVERSITÉS DE  
L'ATLANTIQUE

## **Atlantic Research Commercial Network (The Network) BACKGROUND**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Network is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of technology transfer at all Universities in Atlantic Canada and to promote and accelerate the commercialization of technologies by Atlantic Canadian companies. The Network will ensure small universities have access to the necessary support services and that larger ones can access specialized staff resources resident in other Atlantic universities.

### **Activities**

The Network will:

- a) deliver educational programs relative to intellectual property and run networking events to bring researchers and business people together
- b) liaise with industry and facilitate industry sponsored research
- c) assess discoveries and protect intellectual property
- d) develop and manage proof of concept projects
- e) market and license technologies to industry and entrepreneurs
- f) support the creation of new companies based on platform technologies

### **Organization and Management**

The Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) will direct the overall operation of the Network and actively advocate for funding support to ensure its continued existence and growth. The AAU will appoint an ARC�N Advisory Board with representation from across Atlantic Canada.

The ARC�N Advisory Board, comprised of representatives from universities and the private sector, will provide strategic direction to the Network as well as monitor its progress toward achieving the objective of increased commercialization activities.

For more information, contact: Peter Halpin, Executive Director, AAU  
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## **Atlantic Research Commercial Network (The Network) IMPACTS**

### **Students**

Research and teaching are linked inextricably as attributes of the university environment. Research contributes directly to the education experience of undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students by stimulating the spirit of enquiry that is a feature of student learning at a university.

The Network will increase research opportunities and jobs for students and graduates. A robust research environment further enhances the national competitiveness of universities in Atlantic Canada and will help to retain and attract the best and brightest undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students to our campuses.

### **Research and the Community**

Researchers at Atlantic Canada's universities communicate their research and scholarship activities not only to peers through publications but to the next generation of researchers through their teaching.

In transferring their research to the wider community - for example, by offering policy advice to governments - faculty members also contribute to the university sector's mission of community service. As the Conference Board of Canada noted in its 2001 innovation report, "*university research produces a nation's strategic knowledge assets and ensures its scientific and technological competitiveness over the long term.*"

The Network will contribute to a more robust research environment across the campuses of Atlantic Canada's universities. This will in-turn generate more innovation-based developments for communities across the region.

The Network is designed to facilitate greater access to university researchers, technologies and services for local and regional companies, contributing to the development of Atlantic Canada's knowledge economy and greater wealth creation across the region.

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