

“The Changing Role of Universities in the Economy”
Closing Remarks by Dr. J. Colin Dodds, Chair, Council of Nova Scotia University
Presidents

Thank you, Mr. Simpson. On behalf of the Association of Atlantic Universities, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you and to Ken, Don and Mike for your participation here today. At the outset of the day, we stated that our primary goal was to initiate meaningful dialogue and gain different perspectives on the changing role of universities in today’s knowledge economy. Judging from the quality of discussion that has taken place, I’m sure you will agree that we have fully met this objective.

We have come to the close of a very stimulating day of discussion, but it is just the beginning of what I’m sure will be a new chapter of even stronger communication and partnerships between our universities and the many other stakeholders who share our commitment to enhancing the quality of life in our region. I therefore invite you to view this event as a window to the future.

Our universities are developers and employers of talent, incubators of business and industry, storehouses of cultural resources, research centres, purchasers, economic engines and partners in international development projects. They are integral to our social, cultural and economic life. Through increased collaboration and partnerships with government, business and industry, and a myriad of other stakeholders, we will collectively be an even more powerful force in helping our region reach its maximum potential.

In closing, I would once again like to thank the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and TD Bank Financial for their support of today’s forum. And I applaud each and every one of you here this afternoon for your recognition of the pivotal role that we all play in building a stronger Atlantic Canada and -- most importantly -- your commitment to doing so. Your participation has helped make this event a great success. I thank you and look forward to the next steps of working together to achieve tangible results that drive economic growth and positively impact the quality of life of all Atlantic Canadians.