



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Business Improvement Organizations in Atlantic Canada establish Downtowns Atlantic Canada (DAC)

Thursday, December 3rd 2009

Moncton – Downtown Business Improvement Area Associations of Atlantic Canada held a meeting in Moncton today.

The Downtown Business Improvement Areas of Atlantic Canada with representatives from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island joined together and signed a Memorandum of Understanding which will outline the benefits that downtowns contribute to our individual communities and to the provinces Atlantic Canada. The new organization is to be known as the Downtowns Atlantic Canada (DAC).

The new alliance will work to improve the positioning Downtown Business Improvement Areas as unique, diverse, vibrant and economically healthy urban cores.

DAC's mission is to be recognized as the collective voice of the Downtown Business Improvement Areas of Atlantic Canada. The new Association wants to increase partnerships with Provincial and Municipal governments as well as with the Federal Government to achieve their goals of growth and investment in our urban cores. In addition, they desire to bring the challenges of urban economic development to the attention to decision makers able to facilitate actions which will result in prosperous and vibrant business improvement areas.

DAC is committed to work toward prosperity for our downtowns, which is the purest form of economic development, as our concept is a self-help approach to revitalizing our defined Business Improvement Areas.

There are a number of benefits to the development of DAC that include but are not limited to the following opportunities such to increase funding partnerships and policy development with all levels of government and a stronger voice for downtown revitalization. Also, the benefits obtained through this cooperative effort will be provided through promotion of an urban strategy which identifies such challenges as brought about by an aging population, environmental impacts relating to growth, business retention, urban sprawl, residential and urban planning, economic development, tourism and heritage and culture.

Additionally, the benefits will include partnerships to address challenges around social issues such as housing, homelessness, urban poverty, addiction and crime.

Downtowns are the ‘heart and soul’ of our communities and are significant generators of wealth and employment.

For more information:

Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding

Paul MacKinnon – Downtown Halifax Business Commission
paul@downtownhalifax.ca

Bruce McCormack – Downtown Fredericton Inc.
bruce@downtownfredericton.ca

Tim Olive – Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission
tim@downtowndartmouth.ca

Daniel Allain – Downtown Moncton Centre-ville Inc.
dallain@downtownmoncton.com

Deborah J. H. Elliott, Downtown Truro Partnership
debbie@downtowntruro.ca

Bernard Smith, Spring Garden Area Business Association
smithbg@ns.sympatico.ca

William Mills, Main Street Dartmouth and Area BID
mainstreet@eastlink.ca

Dawn Alan, Downtown Charlottetown Inc.
dawn@downtowncharlottetown.com

Trina MacDonald, Business Fredericton North Inc.
bfm@businessfrednorth.com

Peter Asimakos, Uptown Saint John Inc.
peter@uptownsj.com

Ron Casey, Downtown Summerside Inc.
ron@downtownsummerside.com

Karla Nicholson, Quinpool Road Mainstreet
District Association Limited
Karla@QuinpoolRoad.ca

Scott Cluney, Executive Director
St. Johns Downtown Development Commission
155 Water Street
scott@downtownstjohns.com