

Area Partnership Launch in Full Swing

ANTIGONISH – The Antigonish Area Partnership has embarked on its Launch Plan. Following a successful Summit follow-up meeting in September, the Founders Team of the Partnership began the process of establishing the organization and building its investors, staff and board of directors.

The Founders Team has hosted the first in a series of investor group meetings. The purpose of the meetings is to both familiarize potential investors with the Partnership, as well as to receive input from potential investors and obtain commitments to become investors in the Partnership.

The information from the potential investors is an essential ingredient in building the Partnership's inaugural business plan. "This is very much a ground-up, consultative exercise," explains Interim-Chair Irene MacLeod, "the Partnership's role is to be both pro-active and responsive. We seek constructive suggestions, statements of needs and information from our private and public partners."

MacLeod is buoyed by the responses to date, "I have had a number of calls from individuals seeking more information about the Partnership. The interest is definitely there, and in the next few weeks we will be working very hard to bring as many investors into the fold as we can."

In their quest for the founding President/CEO of the Partnership, the Founders Team has advertised in local and regional media and through a network of human resource firms. The deadline for applications was December 3, 2003. Presently the Founders Team is reviewing applications, and preparing to interview candidates. "We have been very careful to do our due diligence," says MacLeod, "this is a rigorous process, conducted according to standard executive search practices."

"We are moving along according to the Launch Plan," says MacLeod, "I continue to be impressed and encouraged by the dedication of the Team and by the response we have received from the community. Antigonish is on the brink of a major community achievement."