

Queen's conference brings new ideas to help Ontario communities grow

Annual showcase highlights Eastern Ontario's business potential

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Whether it is wine in Prince Edward County, white-water rafting in Renfrew County, or the history of UNESCO World Heritage Site the Rideau Canal, every community in Eastern Ontario has something unique to attract tourists and business investment. Community leaders, business owners, and policy makers will learn how to tap into that potential at the 2010 Knowledge Impact in Society (KIS) Showcase at Queen's University on Friday April 23rd.

Led by The Monieson Centre at Queen's School of Business, the KIS Showcase draws together leading researchers with community leaders and business people from across the region. "The Showcase is an opportunity to look at business successes and cutting edge research to enhance Eastern Ontario's competitiveness in the global marketplace," states Dr. Yolande Chan, Director, The Monieson Centre.

A key part of the conference is a symposium on tourism and community competitiveness featuring Dr. Brent Ritchie, Professor in Tourism Management at the University of Calgary's Haskayne School of Business. Other speakers include Dr. David Saunders, Dean, Queen's School of Business, Leeds-Grenville Conservative MP Gord Brown, Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry Liberal MPP Jim Brownell, and Kingston Mayor Harvey Rosen.

The Showcase is part of a three-year endeavour between The Monieson Centre, the Prince Edward/Lennox & Addington Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC), the Eastern Ontario CFDC Network, Inc., and over thirty community and government partners to bolster Eastern Ontario's economy with academic knowledge. Importantly, the project's research priorities have been identified through a series of fifteen community workshops.

The day-long Showcase has attracted more than 100 academic researchers, business leaders, economic development officials, policymakers, and politicians from all levels of government. It takes place Friday, April 23rd at Robert Sutherland Hall, Queen's University. The full conference program and list of speakers is available at www.easternontarioknowledge.ca.

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For further information, please contact:

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A backgrounder and agenda are attached. Photos are available by request.

2010 KIS Showcase:

- Friday April 23, 2010, 9:30am-4:30pm

- Robert Sutherland Hall, Queen's University
- 138 Union Street
- Kingston, ON