

## **The Monieson Centre, Queen's School of Business launches two Rural Economic Vitality projects on May 15<sup>th</sup>**

Revitalizing rural economies is the common goal of two projects that The Monieson Centre will officially launch at a reception in the Atrium, Goodes Hall, Queen's School of Business on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm.

Both projects have received funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

The Knowledge Impact in Society (KIS) project, "Rural Economic Development Knowledge Needs" will mobilize academic knowledge to increase rural Eastern Ontario's economic activity in order to grow healthier rural communities. Research findings from the three-year, \$300,000 initiative will increase the linkages between Eastern Ontario academics and constituents, improve the success of rural businesses, and assist policymakers.

The Monieson Centre is also leading the development of a \$1M project proposal aimed at providing opportunities for Canadian academics to study the knowledge-based economic vitality of Eastern Ontario and the quality of life of the residents in the region. The proposed Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) will expand the existing research relationships between The Monieson Centre, the Prince-Edward/Lennox & Addington Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) and the Eastern Ontario CFDC Network Inc. The project, "Revitalizing Rural Economics through Community-University Partnerships", will focus on filling in critical knowledge gaps through research, and will assist rural economic development professionals and business owners in making well-informed choices that will lead to business growth, economic growth, and social well-being for their communities.

"We are thrilled to receive the support of our academic collaborators, and government and community partners in these projects. Research findings from both initiatives have the potential to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those living in rural eastern Ontario, and across Canada," said Dr. Yolande Chan, Director of The Monieson Centre.

The two projects involve approximately 20 university researchers, including nine from Queen's School of Business. The main non-academic partners are the Prince-Edward/Lennox & Addington Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) and the Eastern Ontario CFDC Network Inc.