



New Venture Capital Fund Proposed for Atlantic Canada

Thursday, August 25, 2011

There have been a number of media reports in recent months about the proposed creation of a new venture capital fund focused on businesses in Atlantic Canada. Both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have each committed \$15.0M in capital to this new fund and it is expected other institutional investors will also invest in the fund in the near future.

Several investors in the Atlantic Venture Fund have asked what impact this new VC fund will have on our existing fund and is this development good or bad for our shareholders, our portfolio companies and the region in general.

We are extremely supportive of the creation of this new fund and are doing whatever we can to help both government and private investors get this new VC fund up and running. There is a serious lack of venture capital available in the Atlantic Region at the present time and very few active VC investors with whom to syndicate deals. This new fund will provide another source of much needed capital for entrepreneurs and we only see positive outcomes for all parties in the region when this new fund comes to fruition. And we applaud both Premier Dexter and Premier Alward for taking the initiative to create this much needed new source of capital for emerging companies in our region.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to call me at 902 492 2292.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Hayes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

THOMAS J. HAYES
PRESIDENT & CEO
GrowthWorks Atlantic Venture Fund Ltd.