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N.B. business leaders host roundtable

■ **Two days set aside for entrepreneurship discussions in February**

BY YVON GAUVIN
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT STAFF

SAINT JOHN — Some of New Brunswick's top business leaders and entrepreneurs will congregate in St. Andrews Feb. 22 and 23 to help boost entrepreneurship and business development efforts in the province.

The participants including rising new entrepreneurs from across the province will be forming a roundtable on entrepreneurship in New Brunswick, one of the key recommendations of the FullSail Summit in Moncton earlier this year. The summit was convened to discuss how to strengthen New Brunswick's entrepreneurial culture.

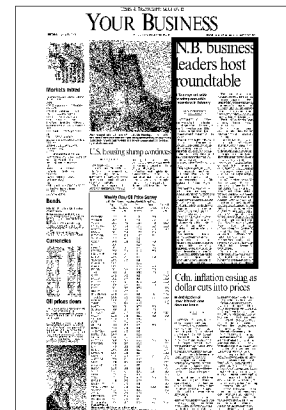
Hosting the roundtable are the New Brunswick Business Council and the year-old Wallace McCain Institute of Business Leadership. Aliant is sponsoring the event, taking place at the Fairmont Algonquin.

"Our members recognize they are instrumental in realizing the

vision of building on our province's entrepreneurial heritage," said business council chairman Ed Barrett. "We are committed to playing a leadership role in continuing the dialogue and fostering an environment where entrepreneurs are supported and can thrive."

Derek Oland, chairman of the Wallace McCain Institute for Business Leadership, said the topics of interest at the roundtable will be applied to the institute's first year of operations.

"As a newly launched institute, we know we need to develop a program that meets the needs and realities of our economy and those trying to build businesses in New Brunswick. We believe the roundtable is the ideal environment from which to gain insights that can be refined to become the nucleus of a curriculum the McCain Institute will employ in the first year of its program," said Oland.



The senior entrepreneurs and business leaders will have three main goals: support more New Brunswick-based enterprises, raise awareness of the importance of entrepreneurship for future prosperity and help open communication lines between players involved in the New Brunswick economy.

The intent is to develop issues and insights that can help new entrepreneurs.

Some of these areas include access to capital markets, developing leadership potential and effective marketing.

The organizers hope to attract newcomers in business who exhibit an ability to turn an idea into a commercial venture, are dedicated to the province and involved in bettering their community as well as show significant growth potential.

Two years ago, a group of the province's top business leaders got together to form the business council and help ensure a stronger, more prosperous economy with entrepreneurship identified as a key component.

Council members include Wesley Armour of Armour Transportation; Barrett of Barrett Corporation; Normand Caissie of Imperial Manufacturing Group; Dick Carpenter of Heritage Developments; Yvon Fontaine of l'Université de Moncton; David Ganong of Ganong Bros. Ltd.; David Hay of NB Power; Bernard Imbeault of Pizza Delight Corporation; James Irving Jr. of J.D. Irving Limited; Denis Losier of Assumption Life; Allison D. McCain of McCain Foods Ltd.; John McLaughlin of the University of New Brunswick; Oland of Moosehead Breweries; Robbie Tozer of Atcon Group Inc.; Stephen Wetmore of Aliant Regional Communications; Michael Wilson of Atlantic Industries Ltd.; Gerry Pond of Mariner Partners Inc.; Jean-Claude Savoie of Groupe Savoie Inc.; and Kelly Shotbolt of Flakeboard Company Limited.

Some of the same leaders also sit on the board of the Wallace McCain Institute of Business Leadership helping the next generation of business leaders meet the challenges facing the province.