

Media Release

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St. Thomas University and NB Power to Collaborate on Community Engagement and Student Experiential Learning Opportunities

St. Thomas University and NB Power will be collaborating on a series of experiential learning opportunities for students and community engagement events.

St. Thomas University President and Vice-Chancellor Dawn Russell and NB Power President and CEO Gaetan Thomas said the collaboration would be mutually beneficial.

“This will be a unique and beneficial relationship because we each bring something to the table from our areas of expertise,” said Russell. “Generating discussions in the public arena through a social, civic and public policy lens is a capability that we have, both through our programs and the McKenna Centre for Communications and Public Policy.”

“We look forward to engaging with students and faculty at St. Thomas University and providing graduates with practical workplace opportunities,” said Thomas. “This type of community-based partnership will help students, and help us better understand and meet the needs of our customers now and into the future.”

The collaboration agreement, valued at \$375,000 over five years, will provide workplace opportunities for students and explore the connection between public policy and public engagement through joint events and workshops.

The first public event is scheduled for February 3 at St. Thomas University and will feature Blair Feltmate, head of the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation at the University of Waterloo. His expertise is on the financial and social challenges presented by climate change. His talk, “Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events in Canada: Not Adapting is NOT an Option” will take place on Wednesday, February 3 at 7 pm in the Kinsella Auditorium, McCain Hall.

The collaboration will also see a new internship program, scholarships for students, and assist St. Thomas in launching an Office of Experiential and Community Service Learning. This office will develop partnerships with other external organizations and place students in experiential learning settings that will enhance their education.

“Providing meaningful and memorable experiential learning opportunities is key to a modern liberal arts education. This collaboration will provide our students more opportunities to learn about the public sector. More broadly, it will expose them to real-life industry and workplace problem solving and decision making,” added Russell.

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