

**2013 State of the Province Address to focus on “Rebuilding New Brunswick through Innovation”**

[For Immediate Release]

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(FREDERICTON, NB) – Preparations for the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce’s annual State of the Province Address are in their final stages as the January 31<sup>st</sup> event draws near. Beginning with a reception at 5:15 pm, followed by dinner at 7:00 pm for the 900-plus guests, this year’s event, titled “Rebuilding New Brunswick through Innovation” will offer a glimpse into the Alward government’s plans and priorities for the coming year.

Rogers TV coverage will begin at 8:30 pm with Premier Alward’s address. Following his speech, the premier will answer video-recorded questions from chamber members and citizens of the province.

“For many New Brunswickers, the State of the Province Address is their best opportunity to hear a clear message from the province’s leadership regarding plans for the next year or more,” said Krista Ross, CEO of the Fredericton Chamber. “The ‘questions for the premier’ element really adds a personalized touch to the evening and our membership looks forward to hearing responses to issues that affect them on a daily basis.”

“In the modern world of social media, increased accessibility and up-to-the-minute news, the premier’s willingness to take direct and pointed questions does not go unnoticed,” added Janice Corey, president of the chamber’s board of directors. “Obviously these are difficult financial times and people have very serious concerns about the province’s future prospects. The State of the Province Address is an opportunity for the premier to set the tone for the province for the coming year and to tell the people of New Brunswick what his government is doing to turn things around, as the title of this year’s address suggests.”

This year’s State of the Province Address platinum-level sponsor is Siemens Canada Limited and is being held at the Fredericton Convention Centre.

*With more than 900 members, the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce is one of Atlantic Canada’s largest chambers of commerce. A dynamic and relevant business organization, the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce is actively engaged in policy development that affects the competitiveness of our members and of the Canadian business environment.*

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