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Subject: University community invited to consultation on new core sciences facility site options

The university is commencing planning for a new core sciences facility for the St. John's campus and the input of the university community is requested on the potential campus sites for this new space.

The core sciences facility is intended to address the need for high-end laboratories and other spaces for the Faculty of Science and additional space for growth for the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science. One key rationale for the overall initiative is to create purpose-built modern facilities that will enable the university to recruit and retain faculty, students (undergraduate and graduate) and staff, and to increase Memorial's success in national and international grant competitions. The facility will also provide contemporary and flexible space for teaching and research.

At this early stage of planning, it is estimated that the core science facility will consist of the following three components:

- approximately 300,000 square feet of completed new facility construction;
- approximately 125,000 square feet of shelled-in space available to house funded research projects;
- and potentially a renovated Chemistry/Physics Building.

The goal is to create a comprehensive complex that will promote inter- and multi-disciplinary approaches to science. In order to achieve this goal, the new building should be situated in close proximity to other spaces used by the Faculty of Science (Earth Sciences, Chemistry/Physics, Biotechnology).

The Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science has proposed a strategy for growth in undergraduate, graduate and research activities as a response to provincial priorities. To accommodate this expansion, there is a requirement to include appropriate components of engineering space in the new core sciences facility and/or other spaces that are freed up as a result of this project.

The consulting firm of Brook McIlroy was selected to assess potential site options and make recommendations pertaining to sites being considered for the new construction. Brook McIlroy was chosen to carry out this work as it completed the new master plan for the university in 2007. Its preliminary work on site options for the core sciences facility is now complete and the results will be presented in an open consultation session for the university community to be held in the Junior Common Room on Friday Oct. 5, 2012, at 3 p.m. All are welcome.