

ISLAND

Fishing and farming no longer the answer

Jaclyn Killins  
*Killins is a student of the Journalism program at Holland College*

Fishing and farming are no longer sustaining P.E.I. and the BioAlliance is trying to find ways to create jobs by supporting entrepreneurs, says a spokesman for the group.

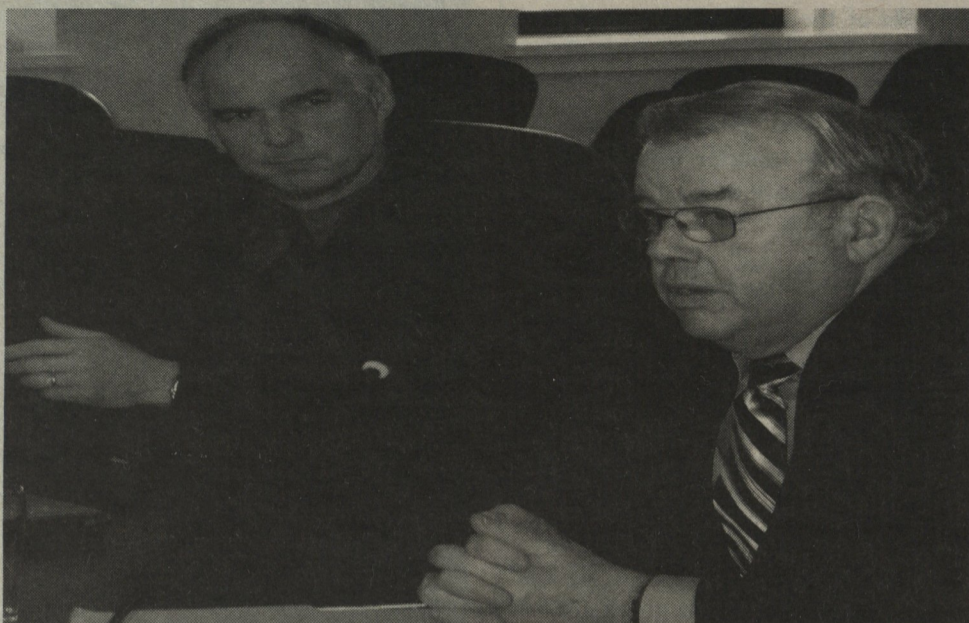
Rory Francis and Dr. Regis Duffy of BioAlliance, a collective of organizations and people dedicated to growing the bio-science sector on P.E.I., made a presentation to the PEI Legislature's Committee on Social Development during a meeting Jan. 23 about encouraging young entrepreneurs.

By taking advantage of the burgeoning bioscience sector there will be jobs for Islanders who would otherwise seek employment elsewhere, Francis said.

"[P.E.I. is] the fastest growing bioscience cluster in the region."

In its presentation, BioAlliance, focused on education as a foundation for creating young entrepreneurs.

It is difficult for schools to teach children the details of bioscience, but a



*The executive director of BioAlliance Rory Francis, left, looks on as Dr. Regis Duffy answers questions from the committee on social development after giving a presentation about the role of entrepreneurship in building bioscience in P.E.I.*

strong education system will open up the possibilities of careers in science, Fraser said.

"If they did a really good job of teaching math and science, I would be happy."

Parents and teachers need to show children that entrepreneurship can be fun, Duffy said.

Islanders are interested in new technology but they tend to be buyers instead

of sellers, especially when it comes to new agricultural technologies, Francis said. BioAlliance wants to cultivate young entrepreneurs so they can become sellers of new technology, growing the bio-science industry on P.E.I.

When presenter Kristi Kelly of the young Entrepreneurs Forum was asked what the government can do to help young entrepreneurs, she said they should concentrate on making small steps because small contributions go a long way in looking after small organizations.

"I think it's easy to get caught up re-inventing the wheel."

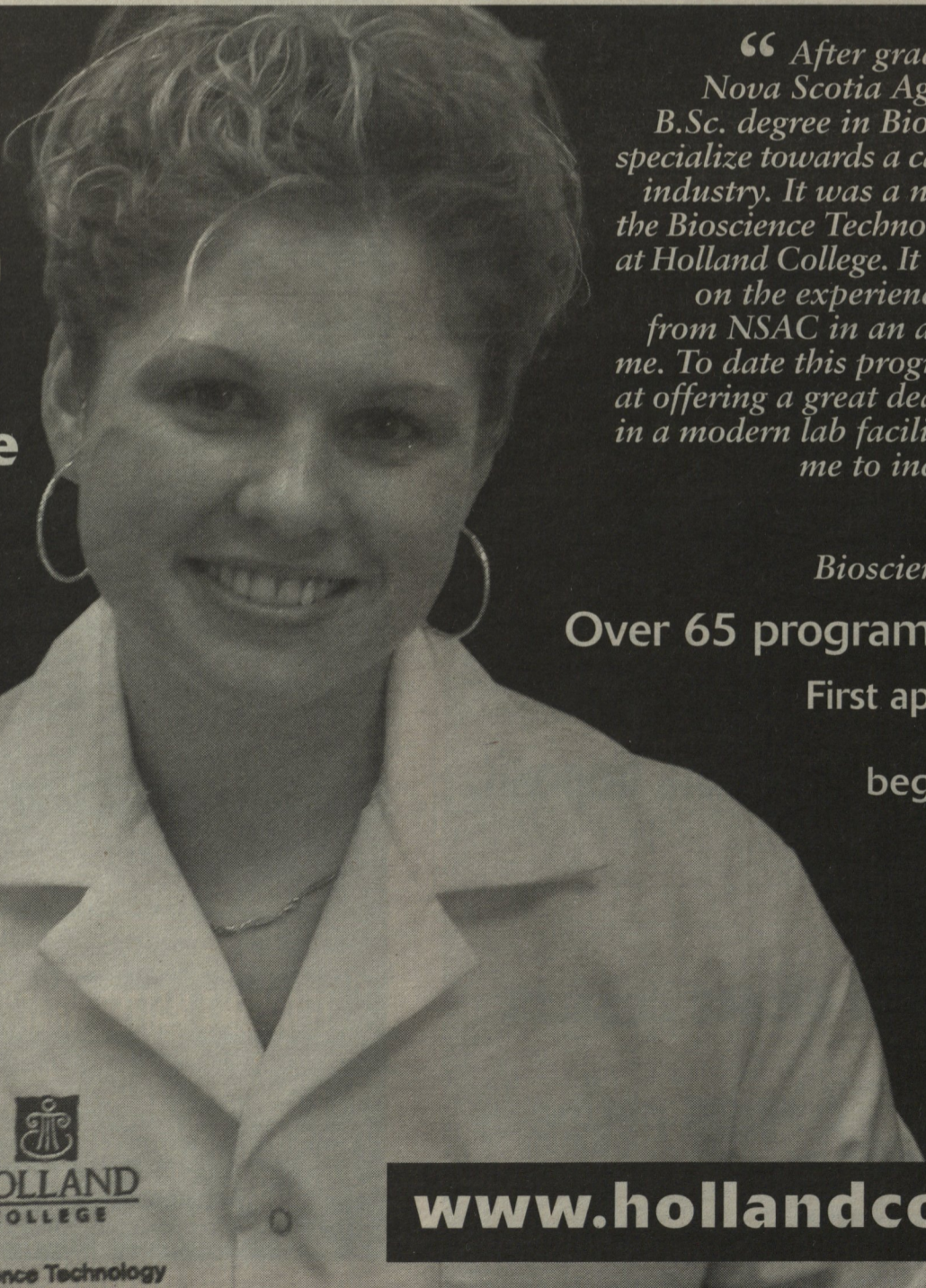
It doesn't take a lot of money for a young entrepreneur to be successful, Kelly said.

It's not so much the cost as the capability when young business people are creating new products, Francis said.

The committee hearing was one of a series to discuss how the government can support entrepreneurship among Island youth.

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 Trueman**  
 have in common  
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 100 other  
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 a university  
 degree.



*“ After graduating in 2006 from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College with a B.Sc. degree in Biology, I decided to further specialize towards a career in the Biotechnology industry. It was a natural choice to enroll in the Bioscience Technology program offered here at Holland College. It has allowed me to expand on the experience and knowledge gained from NSAC in an area of specific interest to me. To date this program has been exceptional at offering a great deal of hands on experience in a modern lab facility, while still challenging me to increase my knowledge. ”*

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