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## **Okanagan Design Leader Receives Prestigious Appointment**

Dr. Douglas MacLeod, of Lake Country, has been appointed the first Chair of the new RAIC (Royal Architectural Institute of Canada) Centre for Architecture at Athabasca University. MacLeod is currently the Associate Dean of Science, Technology and Health at Okanagan College and is widely recognized for his expertise in sustainable design and e-learning.

This new program is a flexible work-study program for students who want to pursue an alternate path to a career in architecture. It is the first online architectural program in Canada and is a partnership between Architecture Canada | RAIC, which is the leading voice of architecture in Canada, and Athabasca University, a leader in distance education not just in Canada but around the world. Students in the program will participate from all across the country.

"This is a great opportunity for me to combine my interest in green buildings with my work in online learning to create a new kind of educational experience," said MacLeod.

MacLeod is a registered architect (in California) and the former Executive Director of the Canadian Design Research Network. Prior to joining the College he was the Executive Director of the Okanagan Science and Technology Council (OSTEC). He has bachelor's degrees in Architecture and Science from the University of Toronto and a Master's and PhD in Environmental Design from the University of Calgary.

Because it is a distance education program, MacLeod will continue to reside in the Okanagan Valley where he plans to develop a comprehensive research and development program focused on next generation green buildings. To this end he is working with engineer Trevor Butler (who is internationally known for his work on sustainability); publisher, editor and designer Robert MacDonald (founder and director of the Okanagan Institute); and contractor Deren Sentesy (co-Chair of the Cascadia Green Building Council - Thompson Okanagan Branch) on a new initiative called the CoCo Laboratory. CocoLab is an innovation driven design, research and development incubator that will focus on enterprises and projects that span the built and natural ecosystems.