



THE COUNCIL OF
ATLANTIC PREMIERS

COUNCIL OF ATLANTIC PREMIERS

ANNUAL
REPORT FOR
2004-05

CAP
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LETTER FROM THE PREMIERS



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bernard Lord".

Bernard Lord, Premier
New Brunswick

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Danny Williams".

Danny Williams, Premier
Newfoundland &
Labrador

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Hamm".

John Hamm, Premier
Nova Scotia

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Pat Binns".

Pat Binns, Premier
Prince Edward Island

On behalf of the four Atlantic provincial governments, we are delighted to release the 2004-2005 Council of Atlantic Premiers' Annual Report. This annual report presents an overview of the major Atlantic intergovernmental initiatives undertaken under the auspices of the Council and its agencies.

The magnitude of the activities undertaken during this period speaks highly of the importance and necessity to cooperate on an Atlantic level for the benefit of all Atlantic Canadians. Regional cooperation was undertaken in a wide range of public policy areas such as education, health, and regional economic development. We also extended the spirit and vitality of Atlantic cooperation outside the region by conducting a promotional trip to Toronto in November 2005 to promote Atlantic Canada as a place to conduct business and live. These regional initiatives add value to existing and planned provincial programs and policies.

We are very proud of our accomplishments and we look forward to continuing and strengthening this important relationship between our governments and our people.

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY

March 31, 2006

Premier Bernard Lord
Premier Danny Williams
Premier John Hamm
Premier Pat Binns

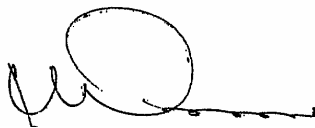
On behalf of the Council of Atlantic Premiers and its agencies, I am pleased to submit the Council of Atlantic Premiers' Annual Report for 2004-05. The report highlights a number of activities that support regional cooperation and the goals of the Atlantic premiers in their efforts to make Atlantic Canada a vibrant region within Canada.

The role of the Secretariat continues to be lead coordinating body which provides project management, administration and policy support for regional cooperation. The Secretariat provides added value by addressing issues that require immediate regional attention and employing efficient and effective processes to achieve desired outcomes.

The work and activities reported in this document reflect the high commitment of Atlantic governments and their respective bureaucracies. I would like to extend my utmost appreciation to the premiers and line departments for their commitment and dedication to ensure that Atlantic initiatives are implemented effectively.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Council and its agencies' staff for their work and professionalism in fulfilling the mandate of the Council of Atlantic Premiers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Cramm', with a large loop at the top and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ed Cramm
Secretary to Council

Background

The Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP) was established in May 2000, with the signing of a *Memorandum of Understanding on Regional Cooperation* by Premiers Bernard Lord, New Brunswick; Brian Tobin, Newfoundland and Labrador; John Hamm, Nova Scotia; and Pat Binns, Prince Edward Island.

The **VISION** of the Council is to systematically identify and exploit opportunities through joint action, and to reach ends together that may not be achievable alone.

The **MISSION** of the Council is to provide an enabling and organizational capacity to facilitate collaboration, joint actions, and regional agendas of the premiers to realize the benefits of regional cooperation.

The **MANDATE** of the Council is to:

- develop common Atlantic Canada positions for Council of the Federation meetings and First Ministers' Conferences;
- develop common Atlantic Canada positions on national issues;
- promote the interests of Atlantic Canadians;
- coordinate joint activity in areas of mutual agreement, including, but not limited to, trade promotion, federal-provincial fiscal arrangements, and economic and social cooperation; and
- coordinate joint analysis and review of economic and fiscal, social, cultural and environmental programs and policies which affect or concern the Atlantic provinces.

The work of the Council is effected through the coordination of the premiers meeting as a group, the Secretariat, central committees, and regional agencies and working groups. An organizational chart is presented in Appendix I.

In 2004-2005, the Council of Atlantic Premiers met in June 2004 in Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

Key Accomplishments

In 2004-05, CAP implemented a number of initiatives.

- Premiers conducted a successful marketing mission to Toronto in November 2004
- Premiers adopted the Atlantic Standardized Terms and Conditions for Bidders
- Atlantic Energy Ministers (AEM) secured federal (ACOA) support to examine and prepare a regional perspective of the Atlantic electricity sector; and signed a bilateral MOU to reduce regulatory burden for offshore developments
- Secretariat maintained its ISO 9001:2000 designation



- Provinces negotiated a multi-year \$1.2 million funding agreement with HRSDC and NB Training and Employment Development to undertake a health education programs study
- Provinces continued regional collaboration on health human resource issues through the Atlantic Advisory Committee on Health Human Resources and deputy ministers of health and post-secondary education

COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat was established in 1971 to organize and expedite the work of the Council of Maritime Premiers. The role has remained similar in the transition to the Council of Atlantic Premiers. The Secretariat performs head office functions for regional agencies and employees and serves the premiers in meeting the goals of the Council of Atlantic Premiers. The Secretariat's responsibilities include:

- assisting Council to fulfill its responsibilities;
- coordinating activities of the Council and following up on decisions and initiatives of the premiers;
- encouraging regional approaches in provincial decision-making; and
- providing the institutional memory of the Council.

Staff of the Secretariat provide services to the Council of Atlantic Premiers, the Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training (CAMET), and the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP). Special funding arrangements are in place for the CAMET and the NEG/ECP.

Secretariat staff are employees of the Council while the other Council agencies, except the CAMET, employ staff directly.

The overall governance of the Council of Atlantic Premiers is led by the CAP Management Committee, comprised of the Atlantic deputy ministers of intergovernmental affairs. It plays a prominent role by providing and/or recommending to premiers the overall regional policy direction of strategic importance to the four provinces. The Management Committee is also responsible for setting the Council meeting agendas, monitoring the implementation of CAP decisions, as well as the Secretariat's annual business plan.

The Regional Treasury Board (RTB) Secretaries' Committee, comprised of provincial deputy ministers, supports Council on the management of funds and regional employees. Financial accountability is preserved in several ways. Agency budgets are reviewed by the Secretaries' Committee and then approved by Council. Once a year, the Atlantic deputy ministers of intergovernmental affairs and deputy ministers of finance meet to review and recommend budget estimates for Council and its agencies. Public funds for Council agencies are recommended to the legislatures as part of provincial estimates. An external auditor reports to the Council on the



disposition of funds. Financial operating summaries for the reporting period are presented in Appendix II. Audited financial statements are available on request.

As part of its continued commitment to improve its management performance, the CAP Secretariat attained ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management Designation in February 2005. ISO 9001:2000 is an international set of five related standards for qualification of global quality assurance and quality control standards. Adherence is accomplished through an application process for ISO 9001:2000 certification in company standards for inspecting production processes, updating records, maintaining equipment, training employees, and handling customer relations.

REGIONAL STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

In 2004-05, the Council of Atlantic Premiers met in June 2004 in Wolfville, Nova Scotia and re-affirmed its commitment to a publicly funded health care system and to seeking federal government cooperation in the area of economic development. In health, Atlantic premiers maintained that the viability of the nation's health care system depended on the provincial and territorial governments' ability to effect substantial improvement in health care delivery supported by sufficient federal funding.

Atlantic premiers endorsed the concept of a renewed regional economic development partnership with the federal government. Premiers noted that federal/provincial economic development agreements in Atlantic Canada have expired while new partnerships have been reached with others parts of the country. A renewed federal/provincial economic partnership would include skills development, innovation, infrastructure, tax competitiveness, energy, and immigration.

In 2004-05, Atlantic premiers also took a strong position on fiscal imbalances in Canada and voiced their support for strengthening the equalization formula. They called on the federal government to exercise their full partnership role by adding \$3 billion to the 2004-05 base and assume 25% of provincial health and social costs by the end of the decade.

Atlantic premiers met with the Atlantic Farmers' Council to discuss the promotion of Atlantic agri-food. These discussions provided the impetus for future collaborative efforts by directing their ministers of agriculture to conduct further research to determine knowledge and attitudes regarding Atlantic food products.

Atlantic governments signed an agreement to facilitate trade in the region. Provinces adopted a set of standard terms and conditions governing the submission and evaluation of vendor submissions in response to Atlantic tender opportunities. The agreement will reduce and simplify the administrative burden placed on vendors competing for contracts in Atlantic Canada.



In November 2004, Atlantic premiers conducted a promotional trip to Toronto to promote the Atlantic region as a region of diverse provinces that have a secure, bright and progressive future. The premiers emphasized that Atlantic Canada is a great place to invest, to work, and to live. A post-evaluation revealed that the Toronto mission made a positive impression on the intended audiences.



(Premiers during session hosted by the Economic Club of Toronto, moderated by Ravi Baichwal - L→R Premier Bernard Lord, NB; Premier John Hamm, NS; Premier Pat Binns, PEI; Premier Danny Williams, NL; Ravi Baichwal)

During the 2004-05 fiscal period, Atlantic governments continued their research study aimed at quantifying future demand for health services and develop a planning tool to ensure adequate education and training programs exist in Atlantic Canada. The Atlantic Health Education Training Planning Study, with financial support from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), will provide the region with an information support base to enable government to analyze the impact of various policy alternatives on the training of health practitioners in Atlantic Canada. Using the project management services of the Atlantic Health Human Resources Association, the Atlantic provinces engaged internationally recognized researchers to construct a simulation model for use in health human resources planning. The Atlantic departments of health and post-secondary education continue to develop regional responses to address the challenge of health human resource planning.

In 2004-05, significant progress was realized in the energy sector and the Atlantic ministers of energy played a vital role in shaping the regional agenda. At their June 2004 meeting, ministers laid the groundwork with the establishment of the Atlantic Electricity Working Group. Areas of collaboration included resource adequacy in the region, climate change, and assessing the economic development impacts of the electricity industry.

The ministers of energy initiated a meeting with five federal cabinet ministers to outline the economic development potential of the regional energy sector. Ministers also continued to exercise pressure on the federal government to cooperate more fully with the provinces in finalizing targets and rules for large final emitters and to address the burden sharing issues related to those targets and rules for Atlantic Canada's electricity supply and industry.

In 2004-05, other regional initiatives undertaken by the Council included immigration with the intent of attracting and retaining immigrants to the region, as well as regional policy development in research and innovation.

REGIONAL COOPERATION - ATLANTIC

ATLANTIC PROVINCES COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONSORTIUM

As a partnership among the four Atlantic community college systems and the four Atlantic departments responsible for education and training, the Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium (APCCC) assists colleges and governments in the provision of high quality and cost-effective college level programs and services through the pursuit of cooperative and collaborative initiatives.

The APCCC is comprised of the Department of Training and Employment Development of the Province of New Brunswick, Department of Education of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Education of the Province of Nova Scotia, and Department of Education of the Province of Prince Edward Island, and the New Brunswick Community College/Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick, College of the North Atlantic of Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia Community College, and Prince Edward Island's Holland College. Under the direction of a Board of Directors consisting of representatives from these partners, an Executive Director is responsible for meeting the goals and objectives as set out in the annual business plan as approved by the board and submitted to the Council of Atlantic Premiers' Secretariat.

In accordance with the MOU signed in November 2002 establishing the Consortium, the APCCC board met three times for the year ended March 31, 2005 to provide guidance and direction to the work of the Consortium. This resulted in the following Consortium activities.

- Providing professional development opportunities designed to improve programs and services to Atlantic Canadians.
 - Atlantic Colleges Development Institute entitled "Designing A Learning-Centered College" was organized and delivered to 47 strategically selected faculty. The institute was an activity-based forum on how, from a faculty perspective, to design a learning-centered college at the classroom level.
 - Workshop on student portfolio development was offered to 47 faculty from the public community colleges in Atlantic Canada. This workshop was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the philosophy and implementation of learning portfolios, opportunities to share best practices on portfolio learning and Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), to obtain new resources and background papers on the subject and to begin an action plan to bring their new learning back to their home institutions.



- Tourism conference, aimed at post-secondary hospitality and tourism educators. This activity exposed 75 participants to a variety of topics by prominent tourism and hospitality experts.
- Workshop entitled “Enhancing the Community College’s Role in Sustaining Rural Communities” provided a forum for college staff to engage with rural community leaders in a discussion on issues of rural sustainability, the sharing of best practices and innovative initiatives, and an analysis and synthesis of the learning that occurred throughout the workshop.
- Developing a directory of all core programs offered at public community colleges in Atlantic Canada. This document was used to inform discussions related to construction sector training and to inform a health human resources study for the Atlantic region.
- Forming a committee of Deans of Trades and Technology to specifically respond to the recommendations from an Atlantic Construction Symposium. This resulted in a report to the Atlantic Steering Committee which outlined the many activities that colleges are currently undertaking to support the needs of the construction industry and the identification of new initiatives that will be explored to advance the recommendations.
- Establishing an APCCC Applied Research Network to advance applied research and innovation at the community college level through collaboration, cooperation, and sharing of best practices.
- Establishing an APCCC Corporate Services Network with a mandate to support the training and development needs of business, industry and the public sector in Atlantic Canada.
- Developing a “Guide to Block Transfer Agreements” to be used as a guidance tool in conjunction with other post-secondary education and training resources that are available at each of the specific colleges in the consortium.
- Establishing a Climate Change Action Plan Advisory Committee to provide direction and advice on ways colleges can enhance their contribution to a cleaner environment through programs, applied research and innovation, and physical plant improvements.
- Creating an APCCC newsletter entitled the “APCCC Communicator” designed to inform internal and external stakeholders on the work of the Consortium.
- Cultivating relationships to raise the profile of colleges in Atlantic Canada. This involved meetings with or being members of organizations such as the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, National Science and Engineering Research Council, Atlantic Provinces Chambers of Commerce, and the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council among others.

COUNCIL OF ATLANTIC MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In 2004-2005, the Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training (CAMET) met twice. At each meeting, the ministers raised issues of strategic importance to the Atlantic region relating to public and post-secondary education. All the initiatives discussed in this report are intended to complement planned and existing provincial programs and policies.

CAMET is supported by the Council of Atlantic Deputy Ministers of Education and Training (CADMET), serving as the board of directors, and the Public Education Standing Committee (PESC), and the Post-Secondary Education Standing Committee (PSESC).





(Council of Ministers of Education and Training – CAMET - at their meeting held in Corner Brook, NL on January 14, 2005. L→R Tom Hedderson, NL; Madeleine Dubé, NB; Mildred Dover, PEI; Margaret-Ann Blaney, NB; Jamie Muir, NS)

Post-Secondary Education

CAMET initiated a dialogue with the federal government by meeting with the three Atlantic federal caucuses. This was the first step in pursuing a long-term plan for education and training that will support and enhance Atlantic Canada's prosperity. These meetings were successful and ministers were pleased with the reception from their federal colleagues. This initial dialogue was an excellent opportunity to develop a cooperative approach and align provincial and federal priorities.

The ministers laid out a proposed framework that would see the two orders of government partnering to improve university and community college infrastructure and build a stronger research capacity within the Atlantic region. Ministers stated that Atlantic post-secondary education institutions play a critical role in the region's economy and a well-developed research capacity will lead to major research and development projects.

Ministers raised the issue of adult literacy and would like to see a federal-Atlantic long-term literacy strategy to better support quality, innovative and results-based training to address the lower levels of adult literacy in the region.

The ministers also addressed the issue of skills development. Skills development presents a key challenge to adults who possess talent and a strong work ethic, but lack formal education and skills credentials. Ministers of education and training suggested the need for a joint investment

initiative to improve access to lifelong learning, address learning needs of the workforce, expand prior learning assessment and recognition, and provide training in essential workplace skills.

Public Education

Ministers of education and training continue to be highly committed to working jointly on improving student performance and supporting program implementation.

Improving Student Performance

English

- Review and analysis of the Programme for International School Assessment (PISA) and School Achievement Indicators Programme (SAIP) contextual reports, delivered in the fall of 2004. The Public Education Standing Committee reviewed the report and recommended that CAMET develop background papers and preliminary work plans.
- Primary Math Assessment Resource is nearing completion. This resource, which will be a classroom-based assessment, will enable teachers to direct their teaching to address students' individual needs.
- Resource document identifying actions and strategies to help adolescent boys improve their reading habits and skills is being reviewed and edited by a number of educational stakeholders.

French

- Development of resource, *Les garçons et les filles à l'école*, to improve performance of students in Atlantic Canada.

French Second Language

- Grade 4-6 literacy assessment kit for immersion students – a collection of tools and strategies to respond to the literacy needs of French immersion students in grades 4-6.

Program Implementation Support

English

- Writing and production of grade 7 social studies resources for introduction to schools in the Atlantic region in September 2005.
- Contract signed with Oxford University Press for the writing and production of grade 6 program resources.
- Contract signed with Nelson Canada for the writing and production of grade 8/9 program resources.
- Contract entered into with Educational Concepts Incorporated for the development of social studies curriculum guides for grades P-2, 6, 7, 8/9.
- Document of reading strategies for grades 7-9, Cross Curricular Reading Tools.
- Contract to write elaborations of sample geometry instructional and assessment strategies for grades 7-9 curriculum outcomes.
- Development of online math tutorials; a professional development resource prototype; and a series of parent information brochures.
- Teacher's handbook pertaining to curriculum integration is being completed and will be available to jurisdictions in late spring of 2005.



French

- Document on identity and culture, intended for curriculum developers, to promote French identity and a sense of belonging.
- Professional development workshop for curriculum consultants of the four Atlantic provinces held in May 2004.
- Summer institute for school principals, an annual event generally held in August, planned by the Province of New Brunswick.
- Creation of four online courses linked to entrepreneurship, funded through an agreement between CAMET and ACOA.
- Continuation with the operation of the French video library as a centre for acquisition and duplication of audiovisual learning resources for French language programs in Atlantic Canada.
- Development of French language arts grades 9-12 curriculum.
- Development of learning objects in mathematics, science and French (literacy), E-4 (entry to grade 4). Learning objectives are being developed to respond to a need identified in the mentioned subject area.

French Second Language

- Document, *Fascicule pour l'emploi du français en français de base*, completed in October 2004, provides teachers with tools and strategies to increase and maximize the use of French in a second language classroom.

Further information on CAMET, its activities and publications can be accessed through its website at www.camet-camef.ca.

REGIONAL COOPERATION – MARITIME

MARITIME PROVINCES HARNESS RACING COMMISSION

Background

The Council of Maritime Premiers established the Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission (MPHRC) in 1994. The Commission was established as the region's harness racing authority with the jurisdiction to govern and regulate harness racing throughout the Maritime provinces. It is comprised of six members appointed by the provincial governments.

Highlights

The Commission issued licenses to eight Maritime racetracks, seven of which hold both live and simulcast racing events.

In addition to its normal administrative and regulatory activities, the Commission:

- implemented a continuing education and evaluation program that included new officials' seminars and judges' seminar;
- recruited officials through the apprenticeship program;



- held appeal and complaint hearings to resolve grievances;
- conducted industry meetings on setting race and stake dates, rule changes and planning sessions;
- reviewed applications and issued off-track betting theatre licences and made recommendations to the Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency on racetrack home market areas;
- assisted in contract discussions between track management and horsemen's associations;
- completed, published, and distributed a new comprehensive rulebook;
- developed and implemented a Human Drug Testing Program;
- recruited and hired a new Director of Racing as the former Director assumed a similar position with the Ontario Racing Commission.

The Maritime industry is now formally associated with Standardbred Canada which is the official registry of standardbred horses and the record-keeping body for the Commission.

MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Mandate

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) was established in 1974. In January 2005, the new Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission Act was proclaimed. The Act specifies that the Commission is established by the Council of Maritime Premiers. In addition, the Act outlines the Commission's role and functions and redefines the Commission's accountability as follows: "the Commission is funded by the Provinces and is accountable to them, reporting to the Ministers responsible for post-secondary education."

The Commission's mandate is to:

- ⇒ undertake measures intended to ensure the quality of academic programmes and teaching at the post-secondary institutions within its scope;
- ⇒ collect, maintain and disseminate information about post-secondary education in the Maritimes;
- ⇒ stimulate cooperative action among institutions and governments to enhance efficiency and effectiveness; and
- ⇒ administer regional programmes within the Maritimes as well as interprovincial agreements to provide additional educational opportunities for Maritime students.

In carrying out its functions, the Commission will focus primarily on university education and will give first consideration to improving and maintaining the best possible service to students as life-long learners.

Highlights

Review of the Policy on Quality Assurance - The Commission, in late 2003-2004, launched a review of its policy on Quality Assurance in order to assess the implementation of the Commission's Programme Assessment Process through consultation with its stakeholders. Following this process, which involved Commission members, AAU-MPHEC Academic Advisory Committee members, staff, as well as institutions participating in the process, a preliminary draft of the updated policy was prepared and reviewed by the Commission at its



September 2004 meeting. Main changes included (1) the development of guidelines for the preparation of proposals to terminate programme, (2) an extension to the timeframe for the distribution process, (3) a new assessment framework for graduate programmes, (4) a new assessment criterion focussing on student outcomes at the programme level, and (5) a requirement that all programmes approved by the Commission undergo an external review once implemented. Updates were also made to the Commission's monitoring process following completion of the pilot phase in 2003. The policy itself was approved in February 2005.

Review of Academic Programmes - Institutions are required to submit proposals for new or modified programmes to the Commission for approval prior to implementation. Upon receipt, the vast majority of all programme proposals undergo a cursory review, that is, they are reviewed by staff and granted automatic approval if they meet agreed-upon criteria. If a proposal does not meet the information requirements, additional clarification and information is sought from the submitting institution or the proposal is forwarded to the Academic Advisory Committee, a joint committee of the Association of Atlantic Universities and the MPHEC, for an in-depth assessment. In 2004-2005, the Commission considered a total of 59 programme proposals; of these, 35 programmes were approved through the cursory review process, 11 were pending, 5 programmes were approved through in-depth assessment, 4 were recorded for information only, 2 were not approved, 1 was withdrawn, and 1 was deferred.

Monitoring of Institutional Quality Assurance Policies and Practices - The purpose of this initiative is to ascertain that the procedures used by institutions to assess the quality of existing programmes and other functions, as appropriate, are performing adequately as quality control and quality improvement mechanisms. The Quality Assurance Monitoring Committee, a joint committee of the Association of Atlantic Universities and the MPHEC, carries out the monitoring function on behalf of the Commission. Following completion of the pilot phase of the monitoring process with St. Thomas University and Dalhousie University in September 2003, the Commission has begun the process with three institutions. They are: Université de Moncton, Mount Allison University, and University of New Brunswick. The remaining universities on the Commission's schedule are expected to undergo the process over the next three years.

Conference on Student-Centred Assessment: Strategies for Improving Learning and Student Outcomes - The Commission hosted its fourth major conference in November 2004 in Halifax. The Conference's objectives were to raise the profile of student learning outcomes and their relationship to academic planning and to learn more about what is being done elsewhere in Canada and the United States. The Conference focussed on exploring, from diverse points of view (university faculty and administrators, students, graduates, government), the benefits and pitfalls of defining and measuring outcomes; the definition and measurement of outcomes; and the experiences of others in the definition, measurement and use of outcomes. In total, 102 individuals from the Maritime Provinces and Ontario institutions, as well as students and government officials, participated in the conference.

Data and Information - The Commission houses a wealth of data and information spanning the full spectrum of university education, including enrolment, graduates, graduate outcomes,



faculty tuition, university finances, academic programmes and space inventories. It is responsible for acquiring, auditing, validating and storing proprietary data, such as the Enhanced Student Information System (ESIS) and the MPHEC graduate survey, in addition to regularly updating non-proprietary data from external sources, which include university finances and faculty demographics. In any given year, MPHEC staff answer as many as 300 ad hoc requests for quantitative data.

Graduate Follow-Up Survey: Class of 1999 in 2004 - During fiscal year 2004-2005, the graduate survey programme began its fifth iteration, with the Class of 1999 in 2004 (this Class was also interviewed in 2001). As with all of the Commission's graduate surveys, the goal of this survey is to monitor and characterize the transitions, and the factors that influence the transitions, experienced by Maritime university graduates as they move between the learning force and the work force, and back again, taking into consideration their experiences prior to enrolling in their university programme. Between September 28 and November 29, 2004, the contractor conducted the survey resulting in a final sample of approximately 2,300 students. The Commission expects to publish preliminary results of this survey in the fall of 2005 with the final report scheduled for release in early fiscal year 2006-2007.

A Lasting Legacy: The Impact of Family Educational Background on Graduate Outcomes - As a follow-up to its March 2004 Trends article, "The Gender Gap in Employment Outcomes of University Graduates", in September 2004, the Commission released "A Lasting Legacy: the impact of family educational background on graduate outcomes". Initially expected to focus on the differences in repayment experiences of women and men, preliminary investigation revealed that a graduate's family educational background appears to be a more salient variable with respect to graduate outcomes. The report found that graduates from the lowest family educational backgrounds are less likely to be debt-free, are coping with higher debt-to-earnings ratios, and are less likely to return to post-secondary education than their peers from more highly educated family backgrounds. These findings suggest that accessibility to post-secondary education, a key issue for Commission stakeholders, must be examined not only from a front-end perspective (e.g., trends in university participation rates, entrance standards, etc.) but also from a back-end perspective (e.g., what happens after students are admitted, after they graduate, etc.), as Maritime university graduates are coping with different realities, which are significantly impacted by family educational background.

Report on Post-Secondary Research Funding Trends in Atlantic Canada - The Commission's Report on Post-Secondary Research Trends in Atlantic Canada, released in 2000, noted that Atlantic Canada's research capacity required three main ingredients to succeed: "investment, people, and environment." The Commission had already published two separate documents relating to the "people" factor (Securing our Future - A Renewal Strategy for Post-Secondary Research in Atlantic Canada and Accessibility to Post-Secondary Education in the Maritimes) and believed it was important to readdress the "investment" factor. Throughout the 2004-2005 fiscal year, the AAU-MPHEC Advisory Committee on Information and Analysis, in collaboration with MPHEC staff, moved forward with this report focussing on updating selected trends and statistics found in the first publication and examining the newest R&D programmes having a significant impact on the region's universities (Atlantic Innovation Fund, Canada Research Chairs Program, Canada Foundation for Innovation, Indirect Costs of Research). The



purpose of this report is to show how R&D funding has evolved since the previous report's release and where the Atlantic region fits within this evolution. The report is expected to be released in 2005-2006.

Interprovincial Agreements and Intra-Maritime Programme Funding Arrangements - The Commission continued to administer agreements with other Canadian provinces to place Maritime students in programmes of study not available in this region. The Commission also maintained the intra-Maritime agreement for sharing the costs of regional programmes, by which each Maritime province provides funding transfers for its students enrolled in programmes in either of the other two provinces that are not offered in the home province.

New Brunswick Degree Granting Act - The New Brunswick Degree Granting Act, enacted in 2001, regulates the delivery process and the quality of degrees offered by private institutions. Given the Commission's expertise in academic planning and quality assurance, the New Brunswick Minister of Education requested that the Commission review programme proposals under the New Brunswick Degree Granting Act. Following negotiations between the New Brunswick Department of Education and the Commission, an agreement related to the details of the process was reached in June 2003. The Commission will review the process two years following its initial implementation. The Commission conducted its first assessment of a programme proposal under the New Brunswick Degree Granting Act during fiscal year 2004-2005.

Visit the MPHEC website (<http://www.mphec.ca>) for further information regarding the Commission, its functions, policies and publications.

CONFERENCE OF NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS AND EASTERN CANADIAN PREMIERS

Background

The first Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) was held in 1973 and since then, meets on an annual basis, with the exception of 1991, 1992, 1996 and 2004. The NEG/ECP has successfully undertaken a number of initiatives in the areas of trade, energy, environment, oceans, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, transportation, information technology, and tourism.

The 29th Conference was initially scheduled for August 2004 but was postponed to August 2005 to be held in St. John's, NL. While the 2004 conference was postponed, the standing committees continued with their work plans.

Committee Activities

Environment

Since the inception of the NEG/ECP, environmental projects have been high on the agenda. In 1998 governors and premiers approved an Acid Rain Action Plan and a Mercury Action Plan, and in 2001 a Climate Change Action Plan was adopted. All three plans contain aggressive targets and have positioned the NEG/ECP as one of the regional leaders on environmental issues.



Acid Rain Steering Committee (ARSC)

The Acid Rain Steering Committee has several projects underway including:

- forest mapping project which will demonstrate which forest areas are most sensitive to acid atmospheric deposition;
- research into the negative environmental impacts due to diesel emissions;
- development of real-time web-based maps which will indicate the levels of particulate matter in the regional air shed; and
- continuing monitoring of the impact acid deposition has on the regional fresh water supply.

Mercury Task Force (MTF)

The Mercury Task Force has been working towards its reduction targets with projects in the area of dental amalgam separators, municipal waste, coal-fired utilities, and residential heating/commercial and industrial oil combustion. At the 2005 NEG/ECP Conference the MTF will report on whether they have met their 50% mercury reduction target.

Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC)

The Climate Change Steering Committee has been active implementing its action plan. Current projects include:

- benchmarking project which will quantify the potential for energy efficiency in government-owned buildings;
- active partnership with universities and colleges to promote energy efficiency, and sustainability on campuses;
- promotion of policy options to increase the use of cleaner vehicles in the region; and
- development of recommendations in the area of climate change adaptation.

Trade and Globalization Standing Committee (T&G)

The Committee met in Boston in June 2004 to update and review a range of trade topics and to prepare a report for the upcoming NEG/ECP Conference. Several initiatives were raised and advanced over this period, including:

- Refinement and development of the three-year, three-tier trade promotion plan;
- Cooperation and participation on inter-agency border security initiatives and plans, particularly improvement of border infrastructures;
- Review and support of regional transportation issues such as harmonizing trucking standards and new technologies to track and screen containerized cargo shipping, participating in the east-west transportation corridor study, and promoting improved cross-border air access;
- Exchange of information and perspectives on the regional economic impact of international outsourcing trends; and
- Change of focus of the Committee – less on globalization and more towards trade cooperation opportunities.

Northeast International Committee on Energy (NICE)

This longstanding NEG/ECP committee has hosted regional energy roundtables and conferences, produced energy research reports and as well, briefings and recommendations to senior state and provincial officials on regional electricity and oil and gas issues. Over this annual period, NICE

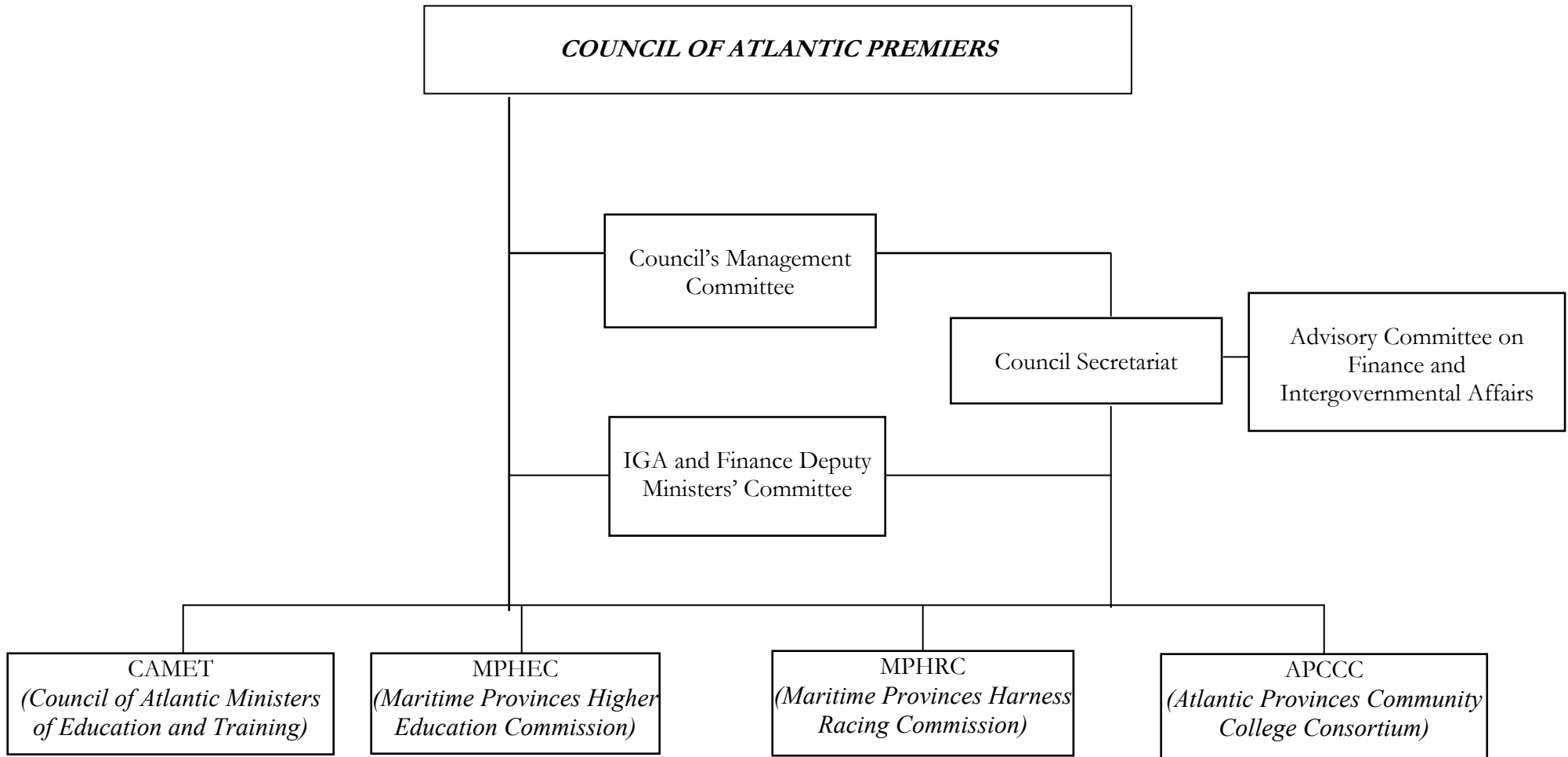


has been relatively inactive. However, in addition to conference calls, the NICE did meet in November 2004 in Boston to review energy issues and plans for regional cooperation in this sector. The Committee focused on several initiatives, including the following:

- An interim report to NEG/ECP on the regional implications from the August 2003 power blackout in Canada and the US;
- Discussion and summary of the regional policy positions raised from the New Brunswick commissioned report *Investment Barriers for Inter-jurisdictional Electricity Transmission Development in New England and Eastern Canada*;
- Draft inventory and update of energy resources in the region; and
- In August 2004, a NICE status report and recommendations on regional energy issues to NEG/ECP.



APPENDIX I – COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



APPENDIX II – FINANCIAL OPERATING SUMMARY

COUNCIL OF ATLANTIC PREMIERS
Statement of Consolidated Fund Revenue, Expenditures and Operating Surplus
For the year ended March 31, 2005

| | Budget | 2005 | 2004 |
|---|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| | \$ | Actual | Actual |
| | | \$ | \$ |
| REVENUE | | | |
| Province of New Brunswick | 1,085,221 | 1,030,837 | 981,621 |
| Province of Newfoundland and Labrador | 256,000 | 256,000 | 277,872 |
| Province of Nova Scotia | 1,356,397 | 1,288,681 | 1,254,510 |
| Province of Prince Edward Island | 290,145 | 280,245 | 247,215 |
| Other | 698,219 | 696,671 | 649,307 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 3,685,982 | 3,552,434 | 3,410,525 |
| EXPENDITURES | | | |
| Council Secretariat | 1,209,506 | 1,194,952 | 1,220,488 |
| Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission | 658,500 | 651,791 | 627,781 |
| Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission | 1,553,573 | 1,257,266 | 1,147,484 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 3,421,579 | 3,104,009 | 2,995,753 |
| Grants -- | | | |
| Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium | 80,000 | 80,000 | 72,500 |
| Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education & Training | 212,230 | 212,230 | 212,230 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 3,713,809 | 3,396,239 | 3,280,483 |
| EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES | | | |
| FOR THE YEAR | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | (27,827) | 156,195 | 130,042 |



APPENDIX III – COUNCIL DIRECTORY

Council Secretariat

Council of Atlantic Premiers
P.O. Box 2044
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2Z1

Tel: (902) 424-7590
Fax: (902) 424-8976
info@cap-cpma.ca / www.cap-cpma.ca

Ed Cramm, Secretary to Council/Co-Secretary to NEG/ECP
Rhéal Poirier, Assistant Secretary to Council/
Secretary to CAMET/Assistant Co-Secretary to NEG/ECP
Rod Casey, Chief Financial Officer
Bill Breckenridge, Regional Coordinator
Sylvie Martin, Regional Coordinator
Brad Hodgins, Regional Coordinator
Diane Haché, Regional Coordinator

Angela Buckles, Administrative Assistant
Doreen Hamilton, Administrative Assistant
Janice Henderson, Administrative Assistant
Karen Hosking, Administrative Assistant
Sharon Pinaud, Receptionist
Jackie Ruggles, Accounting and Pension Officer
Hannah Stewart, Finance and IT Officer

Atlantic Provinces Community College

Consortium

c/o College of the North Atlantic
P.O. Box 413
Grand Falls-Windsor, Newfoundland and Labrador A2A 2J8

Tel: (709) 292-5625
Fax: (709) 292-5625

Cyril Farrell, Executive Director

Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training

P.O. Box 2044
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2Z1

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Fax: (902) 424-8976
camef-camef@cap-cpma.ca / www.camet-camef.ca

Rhéal Poirier, Secretary

Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission

3-A Gerald McCarville Drive
P.O. Box 128
Kensington, Prince Edward Island C0B 1M0

Tel: (902) 836-5500
Fax: (902) 836-5320

Dr. Paul Hogan, Executive Director

Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission

82 Westmorland Street, Suite 401
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 5H1

Tel: (506) 453-2844
Fax: (506) 453-2106
mphec@mphec.ca
www.mphec.ca

Mireille Duguay, Chief Executive Officer

