



THE COUNCIL OF  
ATLANTIC PREMIERS

COUNCIL OF ATLANTIC PREMIERS

REPORT FOR  
2001-2003

**CAP**

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*LETTER FROM THE PREMIERS*

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Bernard Lord, Premier  
New Brunswick

Danny Williams, Premier  
Newfoundland &  
Labrador

John Hamm, Premier  
Nova Scotia

Pat Binns, Premier  
Prince Edward Island

We are delighted to submit the report of the Council of Atlantic Premiers for the period April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2003, which includes highlights of work accomplished by the Council, its agencies, and the staff in provincial departments and organizations. As a group, we feel that the region continues to benefit from its history of collaboration and the increased strength derived from working together for Atlantic Canada.

The years 2001 to 2003 represented a period of increased commitment and activity for the Council of Atlantic Premiers with the adoption of the regional action plan *Working Together for Atlantic Canada: An Action Plan for Regional Cooperation 2001-2003* in November 2001.

This action plan has provided guidance to the efforts of Atlantic governments in pursuit of the shared goal of regional prosperity – most notably in the areas of education, health, transportation, and the environment.



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*LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY*

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December 1, 2003

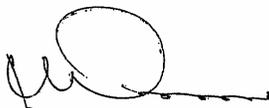
Premier Bernard Lord  
Premier Roger Grimes  
Premier John Hamm  
Premier Patrick Binns

On behalf of the Council of Atlantic Premiers and its agencies, I am pleased to submit the Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP) report for the years 2001-2003. The Secretariat continues to be active in addressing the regional agenda.

In August of 2003, I succeeded Leo J. Walsh as Secretary to the Council. I would like to acknowledge and thank Leo for his leadership during the time he was at the Secretariat.

Collaboration in sectors essential to the prosperity of the citizens of the Atlantic region continues. The activities pursued, as reported in the following pages, reflect a broad spectrum and have an impact on the quality of life of Atlantic Canadians. These initiatives benefit greatly from the expertise and professionalism found throughout provincial government departments and agencies.

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 Patrick Binns, Prince Edward Island. The Council of Atlantic Premiers is the first agency of its kind in Canada in which four provinces systematically seek to identify and exploit opportunities through joint action.



*From left to right: Premier John Hamm (Nova Scotia); Premier Roger Grimes (Newfoundland and Labrador); Premier Patrick Binns (Prince Edward Island); and Premier Bernard Lord (New Brunswick) at the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Atlantic Premiers in St. John's, Newfoundland, November 8, 2001*

The goals of the Council of Atlantic Premiers are to:

- ⇒ cooperate for the benefit of the residents of Atlantic Canada;
- ⇒ enhance existing mechanisms for cooperation and communication between the provinces;
- and
- ⇒ commit to establishing a framework for joint development of an Atlantic Canada approach to national issues.

The Council provides a vehicle for the four provinces to reach ends together that they may not be able to achieve alone. The benefits sought from cooperation include:

- ⇒ achieving higher quality and greater efficiency in the public and private sectors through cost-sharing, increased scale of operations, and harmonizing government policies and practices;
- ⇒ reaching a critical mass of resources to do something otherwise impossible or impractical; and
- ⇒ having greater influence over external forces and players that affect our provinces, including the federal and other provincial governments.

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 committees. An organizational chart is presented in Appendix I.

### **Overview of Meetings**

The Council of Atlantic Premiers met five times during the 2001-2003 period. Numerous topics and issues were addressed during those meetings. Some of those highlights include:

- ⇒ revitalization of the Council of Atlantic Premiers' agenda;
- ⇒ release of a joint position paper ensuring a sustainable and quality health care system in Atlantic Canada;
- ⇒ enhancing skills and post-secondary education to address growing shortages of skilled workers;
- ⇒ further develop infrastructure and transportation networks;
- ⇒ coordination of a meeting of Atlantic Ministers responsible for insurance in March 2002 in support of harmonized insurance regulation; and
- ⇒ identification of regional priorities of topics involving the federal government and discussions on Atlantic perspectives to bring to Annual Premiers' Conferences:
  - ◇ improving federal-provincial fiscal arrangements
  - ◇ work together and with the federal government to maximize the economic and social benefits of the energy sector
  - ◇ promoting the continued economic development of Atlantic Canada
  - ◇ Canada-United States softwood lumber agreements
  - ◇ sustaining the impact of airline restructuring on the region
  - ◇ development of an Atlantic position for a national shipbuilding policy

Since the signing of the Council of Atlantic Premiers' Memorandum of Understanding in May 2000, work is proceeding on the transition from the Council of Maritime Premiers to the Council of Atlantic Premiers. Each province will adopt legislation formally establishing the Council of Atlantic Premiers.

In an effort to identify new opportunities and regional concerns, the Atlantic premiers commissioned a study, *Focusing on the Future: The New Atlantic Revolution*, by Dr. Charles McMillan. This study, complemented by discussions among senior government officials provided the basis for issuance of CAP's first-ever action plan entitled *Working Together for Atlantic Canada: An Action Plan for Regional Cooperation 2001-2003*.

The action plan concentrates on two priority areas: efficient and quality services to the citizens of Atlantic Canada; and, increasing economic competitiveness by reducing barriers to business and building our economic capacity. Specific items identified under the auspices of the action plan will build upon past and existing initiatives, while leaving the door open to new opportunities. The Council committed to report annually on the activities undertaken through the action plan. The first annual report is available to view on-line at the Council website at <http://www.cap-cpma.ca>.

Highlights of the regional action plan are further described in this report under *Strategic Regional Initiatives*.

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## ***COUNCIL SECRETARIAT***

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### **Background**

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 Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation, and the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers. Special funding arrangements are in place for the Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation and the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers.

Secretariat staff are employees of the Council while the other Council agencies, except the Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation, employ staff directly.

The Regional Treasury Board (RTB), comprised of provincial ministers, supports Council on the management of funds and regional employees. Financial accountability is preserved in several ways. Agency budgets are reviewed by RTB and then approved by Council. 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.

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## ***REGIONAL STRATEGIC INITIATIVES***

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In November 2002, the premiers released their Report on Year One, an update of the activities under their action plan, *Working Together for Atlantic Canada: An Action Plan for Regional Cooperation 2001-2003*.

Major steps were taken to improve reading literacy skills with the release of a number of resources: four French-language booklets; four English-language brochures; and two reading assessment resources.

Provinces have completed an initial assessment of what measures can be taken to make Atlantic Canada's post-secondary education institutions truly responsive to our needs:

- ⇒ departments responsible for higher education developed a regional policy to assess the quality of training programs that are eligible for student loans; and
- ⇒ departments have completed a report on the infrastructure needs of our post-secondary institutions in order to pursue potential funding options between institutions and the federal and provincial governments.

In the area of higher education, the Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium formalized the establishment of the Consortium (APCCC). Through the APCCC, the four provinces and community colleges will collaborate in a number of strategic areas:

- ⇒ program development and delivery of community college courses and programs;
- ⇒ expansion of the transferability of credits throughout the region; and
- ⇒ professional development for community college faculty involved in developing and delivering on-line courses.

Within the health sector, the Atlantic departments of health have established a unified drug review process within the region. The success of this collaborative model is being replicated with the establishment of the common drug review process under the auspices of the Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment (CCOHTA).

Atlantic departments of health and post-secondary education are working together to coordinate efforts in the area of Health Human Resource Planning. The Atlantic Advisory Committee on Health Human Resources (AACHHR) was established to improve the appropriateness and responsiveness of the health labour force by recommending how to effectively and efficiently meet the human resource requirements of Atlantic Canada's health care systems. Within their mandate, the AACHHR will review proposals for new and revised health education programs, analyze and recommend responses to occupation-specific issues, and develop a regional information support base to enable informed decision-making regarding training of health practitioners in Atlantic Canada.

The departments of health have established Health Infostructure Atlantic (HIA) to jointly pursue health information technology strategies and to share best practices. HIA was awarded \$12 million in funding from the Canadian Health Infostructure Partnerships Program, and an additional \$12 million in matching funding from the provinces. This funding was used to develop on-line medical support services in the areas of teleradiology, client registries, and case

management tools. Further information on these initiatives can be obtained on-line at [www.gov.ns.ca/health/hia/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/health/hia/).

In support of the environment, the Council coordinated the development of education and training materials for pesticide applicators throughout the region. This will provide pesticide applicators with a consistent approach to licensing and certification. Also, the provincial departments of environment signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in May 2002 adopting the Risk Based Corrective Action to remedy petroleum contaminated sites in Atlantic Canada.

As a cornerstone of economic infrastructure, the Council placed a heavy emphasis on reducing the regulatory burden and improving services to the trucking industry. The Atlantic provinces participated in a study entitled *Harmonized Trucking Strategy for Atlantic Canada: Assessment of Potential*. The study identifies several areas where harmonization within the Atlantic provinces might improve the efficient and safe movement of goods to and from the Atlantic region.

The Atlantic provinces harmonized weights and dimensions regulations for common truck configurations and work is proceeding on harmonization of procedures for the movement of oversize and overweight loads, and on common enforcement practices within the region.

The Atlantic Provinces Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Strategic Plan is complete. The plan is a result of collaboration among the Atlantic provinces, the federal government, and a broad range of stakeholders within the region. The strategic plan will provide a coordinated approach to future ITS projects that are regional in scope, resulting in economies of scale and harmonization of technologies. Copies of the report are available on-line at <http://www.gnb.ca/0113/ITS/ITSstudy-e.asp>.

The major accomplishment in on-line service delivery was an agreement to renew the 1996 Atlantic Canada On-Line (ACOL) agreement, including a commitment to develop an on-line lien check capacity to enhance the electronic Personal Property Registry (PPR) portion of the ACOL website. The PPR provides a common electronic registration mechanism for personal property throughout Atlantic Canada.

Atlantic departments responsible for government purchasing developed a draft set of Standard Terms and Conditions for government tenders. This harmonization effort was motivated by a desire to establish common procurement practices in the Atlantic region, providing vendors with one set of rules for selling to government.

The first Atlantic Energy Ministers' Forum was held in May 2002. The energy ministers are committed to develop an integrated approach, especially for federal/provincial discussions, and for discussions with the United States. Ministers endorsed a new Atlantic energy initiative and agreed to work together in a number of key areas, including:

- ⇒ clarification and harmonization of regulations;
- ⇒ collaboration with and among electric utilities; and
- ⇒ development of Atlantic strategies on energy efficiency.

New opportunities were explored in the areas of immigration, air access, and securities.

The Council will undertake a regional review of immigration with the aim of cooperating to increase recruitment and retention of immigrants in the region.

The Council also committed to advance options to the federal government that would create an environment intended to increase the level of air service available to Atlantic businesses and consumers.

Regarding securities, Atlantic premiers agreed to renew their commitment to work collaboratively to promote small capital pool development. The securities regulators of the four provinces will work to harmonize exemptions from prospectus requirements and provide greater flexibility for business in approaching investors throughout the region, while maintaining meaningful investor protection.

## ***REGIONAL COOPERATION - ATLANTIC***

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### ***ATLANTIC PROVINCES COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONSORTIUM***

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#### **Background**

The strategic goals of the Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium are to enhance the quality and cost-effectiveness of the community college systems of the four Atlantic provinces through the pursuit of cooperative and collaborative initiatives. The key areas of performance expectations include: quality, accessibility, mobility and portability, relevance and responsiveness, research and scholarship, and accountability.

The APCCC Board representatives include the community college presidents, the ADM/senior directors of the four government departments responsible for advanced education, and a representative of the CAP Secretariat. The chair of the APCCC Board and the location of meetings rotate among the region's community colleges. There is an Executive Director, to organize joint initiatives and act as secretary to the Board. The APCCC is administered through the Council of Atlantic Premiers.

Following the 1998-2001 pilot phase of the Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium, the Atlantic region's community colleges, advanced education departments, and the Council of Atlantic Premiers adopted the 2001-2004 business plan, titled *A Framework for Collaboration*. This business plan was designed to provide a vehicle for moving forward with continued cooperation among the public providers of community college education and training in the region.

#### **Highlights**

The senior college and government officials met three times per year and accomplishments included:

- ⇒ formalize the APCCC through a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium, signed by the college presidents at the November 2002 APCCC Board meeting in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia;
- ⇒ endorsement of a Memorandum of Understanding Creating the Atlantic Colleges Tourism Education Consortium (ACTEC), signed by the college presidents at the November 2002 APCCC Board meeting;
- ⇒ convene the first meeting of the presidents of and the deputy ministers responsible for the Atlantic community colleges to discuss regional education and training issues and areas of interest;
- ⇒ implement the recommendations of the pilot phase evaluation as noted in the external review, *A Report to the Evaluation Working Group on the 1998-2000 Pilot Phase of the Atlantic Community College Consortium* and begin implementation of the work plan for the 2001-2004 Business Plan, *A Framework for Collaboration*. Task forces are pursuing cooperative and collaborative activities and projects in the following four thematic areas: program development & delivery; mobility and transferability; professional development; and labour market information;
- ⇒ review of the report, *Inventory of Community College Education and Training Programs for Health Care Occupations*, serves to support discussions on the role of the community colleges in the provision of health care training in the region;
- ⇒ represent the Atlantic community colleges on various initiatives including the CAP working group on Post-secondary Infrastructure & Renewal, HRDC Best Practices Workshop on Building Community Capacity to Recognize Learning, the Canadian Association of Education and Training Organizations (CAETO) focus groups and case study on the *Next Steps for Articulation Agreements in Canada*, and the Steering Committee for the MPHEC Conference on the State of Higher Education in the Maritimes;
- ⇒ partner in the delivery of the Canarie-funded eduSource Canada Project, a pan-Canadian initiative, to create a testbed of linked and interoperable learning object repositories across Canada and provide leadership in the development of the associated tools, protocols and practices; and
- ⇒ development of strategic and collaborative linkages with organizations both regionally and nationally including the National Research Council; Petroleum Research Atlantic Canada; Atlantic Canada Construction associations; Atlantic Provinces Economic Council; Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency; Atlantic Colleges Development Institute; Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade; ACCC Atlantic Region Caucus; and le Collège de l'Acadie.



*From left to right: Michel Thériault, representing New Brunswick Community Colleges; Pam Walsh, President, College of the North Atlantic, Newfoundland and Labrador; Jeanette MacAulay of Holland College in Prince Edward Island; Ray Ivany, President of Nova Scotia Community Colleges, on the occasion of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium, November 2002 in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia*

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## **ATLANTIC PROVINCES EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

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The Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation (APEF) was established in September 1995 by agreement of the four ministers of education, replacing the Maritime Provinces Education Foundation (MPEF), which had operated since 1982. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide the framework for English- and French-language cooperative activities of the four departments responsible for entry to grade 12 public education.

APEF was the lead agency for the implementation of the regional education initiatives under the auspices of the Council of Atlantic Premiers' action plan. These education initiatives included literacy, student services, and on-line learning. During this period, most of the projects centred on the development of curriculum and related resources.

### **Highlights 2001-2003**

⇒ responding to direction from the Atlantic premiers, departments of education examined the feasibility of creating a regional textbook purchase and distribution center for Atlantic Canada, resulting in an understanding that no significant efficiencies can be gained from regionalizing this service;

- ⇒ a working group has recommended that the issue of student wellness be addressed in consultation with departments of health, for the purpose of reducing the incidence of disease related to obesity and increasing student activity levels;
- ⇒ departments of education produced a set of exam primers to acquaint students with testing processes and practices in advance of Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) tests;
- ⇒ work continued on the regional work plan for student services, with a student behaviour teacher's resource, a collaborative consultation resource, and a brochure on inclusion;
- ⇒ a study on regional opportunities for on-line learning was initiated;
- ⇒ work proceeded on the APEF education indicators;
- ⇒ work progressed on a new social studies E-8/9 curriculum;
- ⇒ a multi-year project to develop new senior high school mathematics curriculum and custom-developed textbooks was completed in 2002; the project involved curriculum and texts for seven separate programs that will be implemented in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador;
- ⇒ the literacy 4-6 committee began development of a reading assessment resource with the expectation of completing the project by summer 2004;
- ⇒ the literacy 7-9 committee began work on development of a teacher's handbook that would contain "how to" strategies to enable teachers to assist all students in all disciplines improve their reading skills;
- ⇒ a new handbook for integrated curriculum has been developed and is currently being piloted;
- ⇒ completion of an early literacy resource for French immersion classes (E-3) to provide teachers with tools to track the development of literacy skills in classrooms (a similar resource is currently being developed for grades 4 to 6);
- ⇒ adaptation of Groupe Beauchemin's thematic atlas, reflecting the Atlantic region;
- ⇒ departments continued the development of grades 2-8 French-language arts curriculum resources;
- ⇒ the *Foundation for the Atlantic Canada Arts Education Curriculum* was completed and released;
- ⇒ the *Foundation for the Atlantic Canada Technology Education Curriculum* was completed and released;
- ⇒ the third francophone consultants' professional development workshop was held in May 2001 in Moncton;
- ⇒ the 10<sup>th</sup> annual summer institute for French-language school principals was held in New Brunswick;
- ⇒ a survey was conducted with grade 11 students no longer enrolled in core French to help identify the challenges facing this program;
- ⇒ departments continued the regional acquisition and distribution of French-language audiovisual resources; and
- ⇒ departments collaborated on a process of bulk purchasing more than 200 buses to renew their school bus fleets, realizing a saving of at least \$5,000 per bus.

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**ATLANTIC INSURANCE LEGISLATION HARMONIZATION**

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## **Background**

In May, 1996, Atlantic premiers established an industry/government committee to pursue the harmonization of legislation, policies, and procedures governing the insurance industry in each Atlantic province. This was in response to claims by the industry that regulatory costs were too high. The project rationale is that harmonized legislative and regulatory regimes would reduce duplication and costs of operation in the Atlantic marketplace.

Following two rounds of consultation that produced a draft model harmonized insurance act in July, 2000, a final round of consultations led to an extended revision process based upon the analysis of 416 issues raised by stakeholders. Over 2001 and 2002, the Atlantic superintendents of insurance continued the process of revising the draft act, identifying outstanding policy issues and next steps to implementation.

In 2002, the premiers directed the project committee to seek cabinet approval in principle for the key points in the model act and to prepare a work plan to address the remaining steps of drafting the legislation and developing regulations. The model act also modernizes and improves upon existing legislation in each province, and is regarded as a landmark regional cooperation achievement, unique in Canada.

## **Highlights**

A revised model act was submitted to the industry-consumer-government committee for approval in July 2000. The superintendents of insurance undertook a detailed examination of policy issues, resolving many industry and jurisdictional impediments. The superintendents began the development process for drafting equivalent legislation in each province and will begin to draft accompanying regulations in the coming year.

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## *ATLANTIC PROCUREMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE*

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### **Background and Highlights**

The Atlantic Procurement Coordinating Committee (APCC) was established by the Atlantic Premiers to monitor compliance to the Atlantic Procurement Agreement (APA) of 1992 (renewed April 17, 1996 as a Memorandum of Agreement of Reduction of Inter-provincial Trade Barriers Relating to Public Procurement). The APCC also reviews and rules on disputes arising from government tenders awarded in the Atlantic region. As well, the committee identifies and pursues joint tendering opportunities.

The APCC which is made up of both procurement and interprovincial trade officials from each province, meets annually and by teleconference on specific issues. Over this period, the APCC advanced or examined the following: successful joint procurement purchases including school buses and courier services; extensively reviewed a specific untendered contract let by one of the parties relative to the APA economic development exemption clause; advised not to proceed with an Atlantic Vendor Registry in favour of proceeding to develop an on-line capacity to post all tender notices and, to jointly develop an on-line set of standardized terms and conditions for

bidders; and discussed the renewal of the APA and the multilateral amendment process proposed for the Agreement on Internal Trade.

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### *ATLANTIC CANADA ON-LINE*

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#### **Background**

Atlantic Canada On-Line (ACOL), Atlantic Canada's first government on-line service, provides electronic access to government services in this region and beyond. The first multi-jurisdictional electronic Personal Property Registry (PPR) in the country is available through ACOL, serving the four Atlantic provinces, the Northwest Territories, and the Government of Nunavut. ACOL is owned and managed by Unisys Canada Inc., in partnership with the Governments of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, under a multi-year Strategic Alliance Agreement signed by the four premiers and Unisys in May 1996 and renewed in 2002.

#### **Services**

Legal and financial institutions, as well as other businesses throughout Canada, access this service. The first database application, the Personal Property Registry System for Nova Scotia, went on-line in November 1997. This was followed by the Prince Edward Island Personal Property Registry System in April 1998, New Brunswick in April 1999, and Newfoundland and Labrador in December 1999, resulting in the first region-wide database application. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia's driver insurance abstract services can now be accessed from the ACOL website and is used primarily by insurance companies to obtain drivers' profiles. ACOL also provides internet access to services, enabling the public to perform selected transactions.

#### **Highlights**

Building on its award recognition in 1998 (Technology in Government) and 1999 (Computerworld Smithsonian Award), ACOL continues to capture media attention including the feature story in Government Technology (December 2000) "PROVINCIAL PARTNERS: Rugged Success in Canada's Maritimes." ACOL continues to attract international attention, with visiting delegations in 2000-2001 from Croatia, Argentina, Chile, Malaysia, the Netherlands, and the Philippines to study how ACOL is helping government better serve citizens.

### *REGIONAL COOPERATION - MARITIME*

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#### *MARITIME PROVINCES HARNESS RACING COMMISSION*

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#### **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**

During the reporting period, an officials' apprenticeship program was established for the recruitment of officials. The Commission issued licences to eight Maritime racetracks, seven of which hold both live and simulcast racing events. Commission members attended the Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency's annual industry and CPMA workshops.

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

- ⇒ implemented a continuing education and evaluation program that included a new officials' seminar, and judges' seminar;
- ⇒ held appeal and complaint hearings to resolve grievances;
- ⇒ conducted industry meetings on setting race and stake dates, rule changes and planning sessions;
- ⇒ assisted in the negotiation and establishment of telephone account betting;
- ⇒ assisted and facilitated contract discussions between track management and horsemen's associations;
- ⇒ developing a draft field procedures manual for judges and officials for implementation in the 2004 racing season; and
- ⇒ developing a draft comprehensive rulebook to be reviewed by the Maritime industry for implementation in the 2004 racing season.

The transition from association with the United States Trotting Association was completed. The Maritime industry is now formally associated with Standardbred Canada which is the official registry of standardbred horses and record keeping body for the Commission.

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## *MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION*

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### **Mandate**

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) was established in 1974. The MPHEC is an agency of the Council of Maritime Premiers that acts as a "regional agency for post-secondary education". Its mandate is to:

- ⇒ undertake measures intended to ensure the quality of academic programs 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 programs within the Maritimes as well as interprovincial agreements to provide additional educational opportunities for Maritime students.

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

### **Highlights**

*Quality Assurance* - The MPHEC's "Policy on Quality Assurance" includes the review of academic programs prior to implementation and the monitoring of institutional quality assurance policies and practices.

*Review of Academic Programs* - Institutions are required to submit proposals for new or modified programs to the Commission for approval prior to implementation. In 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, the Commission considered a total of 101 program proposals. Of these, 49 programs were approved through the cursory review process, 31 were approved through in-depth assessment, 3 were not approved by the Commission, 2 were withdrawn from the approval process, 4 were reviewed and deferred, 6 were pending, and 6 were recorded for information only.

*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 programs and other functions, as appropriate, are performing adequately as quality control and quality improvement mechanisms. The monitoring function began in 2001 with Dalhousie University and St. Thomas University who both volunteered to be part of the pilot phase. The first two reports are expected to be released in the fall of 2003.

*Data and Information* - The Commission's data and information system is the primary resource supporting the Commission's information and research activities and is comprised of several internal and external databases. In any given year, MPHEC staff answer as many as 300 ad hoc requests for quantitative data.

*AAU-MPHEC Advisory Committee on Information and Analysis* - This committee was established in May 2001 to advise and assist the Commission in ensuring the availability of information and research products and services needed to meet the needs of Commission stakeholders and to support the development of effective post-secondary policies, programs and initiatives.

*Graduate Follow-up Survey* - The longitudinal survey program of Maritime university graduates, which collects information on outcomes and perceptions of post-secondary education, continues to be a priority. The year 2001 marked the initiation of the second cohort to be tracked by the Commission, with the survey of the 1999 class of Maritime university graduates two years after graduation. The report is expected to be released by May 2003.

*Conference on the State of Higher Education* - The Conference on the State of Higher Education was held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island on June 13-15, 2001. The Conference highlighted the most current and pressing challenges facing the learner, institutions, and governments in the Maritimes, and provided a forum for discussion and an opportunity for participants to explore means by which these challenges could be addressed.

*Trends in Maritime Higher Education* - In April 2001, the Commission approved a new format for the publication of research. The new format is an occasional series, entitled *Trends in Maritime Higher Education*, of focussed analysis prepared by MPHEC staff. In March 2002, the first article in the series was released. Entitled "Who Stays and Who Leaves: Mobility Patterns

of Maritime University Graduates, Class of 1996 in 1997 and 2000”, this article explored in-depth the patterns of, and factors involved in, graduate mobility.

*Faculty Recruitment and Retention in the Maritimes* - In August 2002, the Commission released a study on the issue of faculty recruitment and retention in the Maritimes. Given the predictions of shortages of qualified new candidates for jobs in academe, the Commission believed that research exploring the Maritime context of the issue was necessary to help stakeholders deal with the problem.

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

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## ***CONFERENCE OF NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS AND EASTERN CANADIAN PREMIERS***

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### **Background**

The Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) first met in 1973 and has met annually since then, with the exception of 1991, 1992 and 1996. 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 – all of which have contributed to the well-being of the citizens of the region.

During the reporting period, the Conference met twice – in Westbrook, Connecticut in 2001 and in Québec City, Québec in 2002.

The mission of the Conference is to advance the interests of the six states and five provinces through cooperation involving the public and private sectors in the region. The Conference encourages cooperation in five ways:

- ⇒ developing networks and relationships;
- ⇒ taking collective action;
- ⇒ sponsoring projects and endorsing projects by others;
- ⇒ undertaking research; and
- ⇒ increasing public awareness of shared issues.



*Participants at the 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers in Québec City, Québec in August 2002. From left to right: Ms. Brenda Sisco, Office of the Governor of Connecticut (representing Governor Rowland); Governor Howard Dean, Vermont; Governor Angus S. King, Jr., Maine; Premier Bernard Lord, New Brunswick; Governor Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire; Governor Lincoln Almond, Rhode Island; Premier Bernard Landry, Québec; Premier Roger Grimes, Newfoundland & Labrador; Premier John Hamm, Nova Scotia; Governor Jane Swift, Massachusetts; Premier Patrick Binns, Prince Edward Island*

## **Committee Activities**

### ***Trade and Globalization***

This standing committee was established by a conference resolution in August 2000. The committee was mandated to:

- ⇒ work with transportation providers to strengthen regional services and infrastructures;
- ⇒ establish a forum on innovation and the new economy; and
- ⇒ work with business and trade stakeholders in the region to pursue opportunities and reduce trade barriers.

The Committee pursued a two-year work plan with the following accomplishments:

- ⇒ held a Knowledge Industry Innovators' Forum in Fredericton, New Brunswick in June 2001;
- ⇒ lobbied and made representations to federal officials on ensuring new border security procedures do not negatively impact the cross-border commercial flow of goods and services;
- ⇒ co-sponsored an energy forum in Saint John, New Brunswick in April 2002 that raised regional energy supply and transmission issues and cooperation;
- ⇒ co-sponsored a freight and investment study that produced findings on improving efficiencies of the northeast trade corridor;

- ⇒ supported regional efforts to harmonize trucking regulations and improvements to regional air access; and
- ⇒ initiated ways to get trade officials to cooperate on promotional events and informal early resolution of impending trade disputes or misunderstandings.

The Committee has met numerous times during the reporting period. The Transportation Working Group of the Trade and Globalization committee has also been very active.

### ***Environment***

Environmental issues have been a dominant and critical component of the premiers' and governors' shared agenda, with on-going projects to reduce acid rain, mercury pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. States and provinces are implementing the Acid Rain and Mercury action plans, which were adopted by the Conference in 1998. In addition, in 2001 the Conference adopted a Climate Change Action Plan.

#### **Acid Rain Steering Committee**

The Acid Rain Steering Committee continued to implement its action plan throughout 2001-2003. Specific projects include development of maps of New England and Eastern Canada that illustrate forest areas that are most sensitive to acidic atmosphere deposition. Other projects include data harmonization, and public outreach and communications.

#### **Mercury Task Force**

Mercury is a regional and global environmental priority because it is a widespread pollutant, is very toxic, and persists in the environment when released. Recognizing this, in 1998, the NEG/ECP unanimously adopted a regional Mercury Action Plan (MAP).

This innovative plan established a science-based integrated regional strategy to reduce mercury pollution, with a long-term goal of virtually eliminating anthropogenic releases of this toxin. The plan also includes measurable, interim goals to monitor progress, including a 50% regional mercury emissions reduction target for 2003 and a 75% reduction target for 2010.

Environmental departments and agencies throughout the NEG/ECP region are continuing to successfully implement the action plan. This is being accomplished through the use of advanced emission control technologies on major pollution sources and the implementation of a range of pollution prevention initiatives designed to get mercury out of the schools, to reduce the unnecessary use of mercury, and to increase the recycling of necessary mercury products.

#### **Climate Change Steering Committee**

Scientific evidence of the destabilizing human influence on global climatic systems is continuing to build, creating a growing momentum for a response. Scientists predict that if no action is taken, average rates of warming by 2100 will be greater than any seen in the last 10,000 years.

Since adoption of the Climate Change Action Plan in 2001, the Climate Change Steering Committee has undertaken initiatives in the areas of transportation, communications, energy use reduction, and government procurement in order to meet the goals of the Climate Change Action Plan.

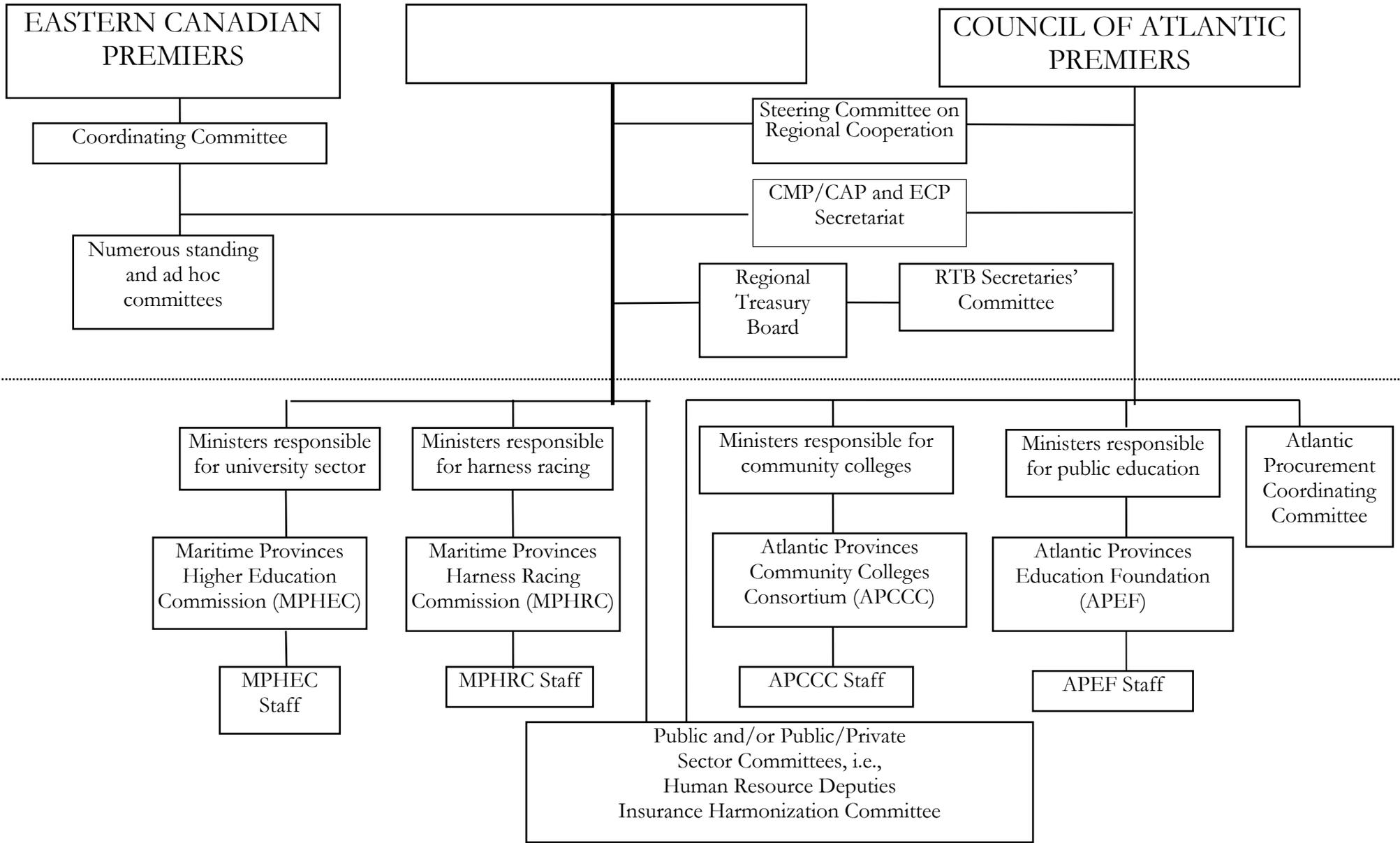
***Northeast International Committee on Energy***

Since its NEG/ECP inception in 1978, the NICE has hosted energy roundtables and conferences, and produced regional energy reports. More recently, NICE has been focusing on significant developments in the areas of electricity market restructuring, natural gas developments, and resource and infrastructure issues.

The NICE implemented its 2001-2002 and its 2002-2003 approved work plans with the following accomplishments noted: working with the Environment Committee on the implementation of the NEG/ECP Climate Change Action Plan; developed a regional energy database in May 2002; co-sponsored with New Brunswick the *e21* Energy Forum in Saint John, New Brunswick; and, with New Brunswick as lead, pursuing a study on the synchronization of energy regulations in our region.

The Committee met several times as well as participated in joint conference calls with the Environment Committee on the Climate Change Action Plan.

**APPENDIX I - COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



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**APPENDIX II - FINANCIAL OPERATING SUMMARY**

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**COUNCIL OF MARITIME PREMIERS**

Financial Operating Summary

For the year ended March 31, 2002

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>2002 Actual</b>	<b>2001 Actual</b>
	\$	\$	\$
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Province of New Brunswick	1,237,414	<b>1,166,311</b>	1,105,178
Province of Nova Scotia	1,538,074	<b>1,450,482</b>	1,389,345
Province of Prince Edward Island	272,563	<b>259,508</b>	257,350
Other	818,995	<b>852,512</b>	615,253
	3,867,046	<b>3,728,813</b>	3,367,126
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Council Secretariat	1,183,963	<b>1,168,051</b>	1,128,503
Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board	277,680	<b>334,436</b>	210,752
Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission	456,147	<b>468,852</b>	398,909
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission	1,245,476	<b>1,366,684</b>	1,079,471
	3,163,266	<b>3,338,023</b>	2,817,635
Grants -			
Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation	212,230	<b>212,230</b>	212,230
Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium	55,390	<b>55,390</b>	-
Champlain Institute	56,250	<b>56,250</b>	84,375
Oceans Institute of Canada	50,000	<b>50,000</b>	50,000
	3,537,136	<b>3,711,893</b>	3,164,240
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR</b>	329,910	<b>16,920</b>	202,886



**COUNCIL OF MARITIME PREMIERS**  
 Financial Operating Summary  
 For the year ended March 31, 2003

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>2003 Actual</b>	<b>2002 Actual</b>
	\$	\$	\$
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Province of New Brunswick	1,225,807	<b>1,146,707</b>	1,166,311
Province of Newfoundland and Labrador	16,313	<b>16,313</b>	-
Province of Nova Scotia	1,545,704	<b>1,447,214</b>	1,450,482
Province of Prince Edward Island	276,541	<b>262,142</b>	259,508
Other	662,488	<b>502,850</b>	852,512
	<b>3,726,853</b>	<b>3,375,226</b>	3,728,813
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Council Secretariat	1,165,187	<b>1,136,028</b>	1,168,051
Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board	0	<b>0</b>	334,436
Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission	486,828	<b>542,420</b>	468,852
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission	1,196,061	<b>1,047,061</b>	1,366,684
	<b>2,848,076</b>	<b>2,725,509</b>	3,338,023
Grants -			
Action Plan Trust Fund	218,283	<b>218,283</b>	0
Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation	212,230	<b>212,230</b>	212,230
Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium	72,500	<b>72,500</b>	55,390
Champlain Institute	28,125	<b>28,125</b>	56,250
Oceans Institute of Canada	0	<b>0</b>	50,000
	<b>3,379,214</b>	<b>3,256,647</b>	3,711,893
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>347,639</b>	<b>118,579</b>	16,920



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## APPENDIX III - COUNCIL DIRECTORY

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### **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 APEF/Assistant Co-Secretary to NEG/ECP  
**Rod Casey**, Chief Financial Officer  
**Bill Breckenridge**, Regional Coordinator  
**Glenn Davis**, Regional Coordinator  
**Brad Hodgins**, Regional Coordinator  
**Guylaine Roy**, Regional Coordinator  
**Joe Rudderham**, Regional Coordinator

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

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### **Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium**

140 Weymouth Street  
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island C1A 4Z1

Tel: (902) 629-4242  
Fax: (902) 566-9549 or (902) 566-9533

**Calvin Caiger**, Executive Director

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### **Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation**

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

Tel: (902) 424-5352  
Fax: (902) 424-8976  
apef-fepa@cap-cpma.ca  
www.apef-fepa.org

**Rhéal Poirier**, Secretary

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### **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  
mphrc@pei.sympatico.ca  
www.wsn.net/harness

**John L. Blakney**, Executive Director  
**Debbie Walsh**, Administrative Assistant

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### **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  
**Joanne Neilson**, Administrative Assistant