

## Objectives of the Council of Maritime Premiers

- promote unity of purpose among the three governments
- ensure maximum coordination of activities of the governments of the three provinces and their agencies
- establish the framework for joint actions and undertakings

## Council of Maritime Premiers - An Overview

The Council of Maritime Premiers (CMP) was established in May 1971 to create an effective legal framework for cooperation, with a goal to ensure maximum coordination of the activities of the governments of the three provinces and their agencies. In 1989 the Conference of Atlantic Premiers (CAP) was created. The Conference meets concurrently with regular sessions of the Council of Maritime Premiers.

The work of the Council, in its role as a catalyst for intergovernmental cooperation, is undertaken by a secretariat that

- serves the premiers in meeting the goals of the *Council of Maritime Premiers Act* and the *Maritime Economic Cooperation Act*
- coordinates activities of the Council and supports initiatives of the premiers
- provides a central service to provincial ministers and officials in the operation and coordination of selected regional programs and projects
- provides the institutional memory for Maritime intergovernmental cooperation and continuity for regional cooperation
- performs head office functions for regional agencies and employees

## Council's Committees and Agencies

Committees of the Maritime Economic Cooperation Act (MECA)

Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation (APEF)

Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC)

New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG-ECP)

Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board (MMTDB)

Atlantic Procurement Coordinating Committee (APCC)

Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission (MPHRC)

Maritime Geomatics Committee (MGC)

Inside is a synopsis of the major accomplishments and ongoing initiatives of each of the Council committees and agencies during the 1996-97 fiscal year.

## CELEBRATING

25 Years of  
COOPERATION

**RICHARD HATFIELD**  
October 1970 - October 1987

**FRANK MCKENNA**  
October 1987 - Present

**GERALD REGAN**  
October 1970 - October 1978

**JOHN BUCHANAN**  
October 1978 - September 1990

**ROGER BACON (ACTING)**  
September 1990 - February 1991

**DONALD CAMERON**  
February 1991 - June 1993

**JOHN SAVAGE**  
June 1993 - July 1997

**ALEXANDER CAMPBELL**  
July 1966 - September 1978

**BENNETT CAMPBELL**  
September 1978 - May 1979

**ANGUS MACLEAN**  
May 1979 - November 1981

**JAMES LEE**  
November 1981 - May 1986

**JOSEPH GHIZ**  
May 1986 - January 1993

**CATHERINE CALLBECK**  
January 1993 - October 1996

**KEITH MILLIGAN (INTERIM)**  
October 1996 - November 1996

**PATRICK BINNS**  
November 1996 - Present



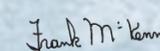
## Council of Maritime Premiers ANNUAL REPORT 1996-1997

## Letter from the Premiers

The year 1996-97 represents a milestone in cooperation between and among the Maritime provinces—it was 25 years ago that the Council of Maritime Premiers was created to advance the mutual interests of our three provinces. We acknowledge the commitment of our predecessors to regional cooperation. Without their support and leadership, the many successes of the past would not have been realized.

Hindsight is 20/20; if only foresight were the same. We cannot predict what our region will look like in the next 25 years. But as long as we learn from best provincial practices, and cooperate where and when it is in our best interests to do so, we sincerely believe the Maritime region will continue to prosper. Our provinces share much in common and it only makes sense to continue to support each other and work together for common ends.

  
John Savage  
Premier  
Province of  
Nova Scotia

  
Frank McKenna  
Premier  
Province of  
New Brunswick

  
Pat Binns  
Premier  
Province of  
Prince Edward Island



## Maritime Economic Cooperation

In 1996-97, the three Maritime governments continued their commitment to closer economic cooperation. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador continued to be involved in a variety of initiatives.

### Agriculture

- work continued on the harmonization of food inspection standards and inspection methodologies through participation in a national initiative

### Business Development and Business Climate

- an agreement to create an *Atlantic Investment Fund* in partnership with Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and seven major banks was taken

- this was the first year of implementation of Atlantic Canada On-Line (ACOL)

- an agreement to investigate the amalgamation of legislation, policies, and procedures of the general insurance regulatory functions was taken

### Education

- the premiers endorsed *Delivery of Education in the Atlantic Provinces Via Distance - An Opportunity for Cooperation and Resource Sharing*

- an agreement to create a Bachelor of General Studies degree was taken

### Health

- provinces continued to collaborate to develop a common drug benefit list for seniors' drug plans and work towards the establishment of a single drug benefit evaluation

- terms of reference were drafted to ensure ongoing dialogue on First Nation health issues among Health Canada, provincial departments of health, and First Nations

- a pilot project on emergency medical training for physicians was initiated

- a report was presented to the premiers identifying medical and supplementary services where interprovincial cooperation could lead to cost savings to the provinces

### Justice

- a framework and "draft" agreement for a Regional Judicial Council was developed

### Tourism

- the 1996 *Atlantic Canada Tourism Industry Benchmark Report* was released

- the draft *Atlantic Canada Agreement on Tourism* was completed

### Labour

- an agreement to share specialty services was signed

- a Memorandum of Understanding to recognize Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) related certifications among jurisdictions was drafted

- Atlantic Provinces Consultants List* was distributed

- work continued on the harmonization of the apprenticeship programs

## Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation

In 1996-97, the Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation continued to play a pivotal role in public education by providing a framework for joint undertakings of the four departments of education. Major accomplishments during that period included

- publishing of the first report *Education Indicators for Atlantic Canada* - a Canadian first in reporting of comparative education statistics across jurisdictions

- implementing *Foundation for the Atlantic Canada Mathematics Curriculum*

- beginning development of custom mathematics textbooks to support the grades 10-12 regional English mathematics curriculum

- the awarding of a contract to Éditions de la Chenelière for the adaptation of Impacts mathématiques to support the grades 9-12 French language mathematics curriculum

- realizing significant progress in the development of common curriculum grades 1-12 in English language arts, math, and science

- making available regional grade 12 physics and chemistry assessments to those provinces who chose to implement; and continuing work in the development of grade 12 biology and grade 6 math assessments

- developing a social studies foundation document and curriculum as well as a new text, *Atlantic Canada in the Global Community* (for release fall 1997)

- releasing elementary entrepreneurship education resources, *Pathways to Enterprise* and *Coup de main*

- sponsoring and coordinating the third entrepreneurship education conference in Moncton, New Brunswick, for more than 60 educators

- holding leadership development institutes for English and French language school principals

- continuing joint school bus purchasing, realizing substantial savings to the region

## Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission

Highlights of the activities of the Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission for the 1996-97 year included

- launching Maritime TeleTheatre Network, in conjunction with the region's major racetracks, which saw the establishment of off-site wagering venues in ten locations throughout the Maritimes

- developing an industry overview and recommendations on the support required to ensure the continuation of the industry

- assigning, training, and evaluating racing officials, licensing of all industry participants, and the leveling of fines and suspensions where applicable

## Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission

In 1996-97, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission continued to play an important role in the coordination of policies, statistics, and programs of Maritime universities. Highlights for 1996-97 included

- releasing *Responding to Financial Challenges 1996-97*
- reviewing 71 programme proposals

- conducting a pilot survey of 1995 graduates from Maritime universities and publishing a report summarizing the results

- publishing *Programme Review Policies and Procedures at Maritime Universities*, hosting a conference on academic program review in relation to assurance and improvement; and releasing the discussion paper *Options for Quality Assurance in Higher Education in the Maritimes*

- adopting and implementing "Articulated Programmes Between Institutions-Guidelines for Program Proposals"

- agreeing to proceed with a study of barriers to accessibility to post-secondary education in the Maritimes

- releasing *Report to the Senate Subcommittee on Post-Secondary Education* and its presentation to the Senate Subcommittee

- launching the Information Framework initiative and distributing the initial report to stakeholders

- designing, developing and hosting of the MPHEC Web site

- having the University Costing Study become a regional initiative and implementing phase two of the costing study

- coming to an agreement with Statistics Canada to pilot the Enhanced Student Information System (ESIS) to replace the current University Students Information System (USIS)

## Atlantic Procurement Coordinating Committee

The Atlantic Procurement Coordinating Committee (APCC) monitors compliance with the Atlantic Purchasing Agreement (APA), settles disputes, promotes greater awareness within the supplier community of the APA and the Maritime Purchasing Authority, and considers activities that further economic development in the region. The APA is intended to reduce and eliminate discrimination based on geographical location and to provide equal access to procurement opportunities over designated threshold levels. The APCC met three times during 1996-97. Highlights of activities during the year included

- continuing promotion of the APA
- supporting the extension of procurement agreement coverage to municipal governments

- reviewing electronic bulletin boards that advertise nationally
- investigating further opportunities to increase joint procurement of goods and services

## Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board

The Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board (MMTDB) has had key involvement in every major initiative related to Maritime municipal management upgrading since 1975. The role of the MMTDB includes advocate and catalyst for positive change, facilitator and coordinator of municipal training and education programming, and source for municipal government decision-making information.

Pioneering innovative approaches to municipal decision-making needs, avoiding duplication of effort, and sharing scarce resources through meaningful partnerships to meet common goals are MMTDB traditions that continue to guide the agency's work. Major accomplishments during 1996-97 included

- reorganizing the MMTDB structure and operations
- developing of the capacity to deliver a broad range of specialized Web site services for municipal governments
- redesigning *www.munisource.org* establishing *munisource* as a leading, worldwide information Web site for municipal government information; and relocating of this site to the Nova Scotia government server

## Maritime Geomatics Committee

In 1996-97, the Maritime Geomatics Committee continued to meet to discuss mapping, survey control, land information, land assessment and other geomatics issues. Newfoundland and Labrador participated in some of these discussions. Highlights for 1996-97 included

- reviewing and revising the terms of the Council of Maritime Premiers' contribution to the Atlantic Coastal Zone Infomation Steering Committee

- financially supporting the annual Geomatics Atlantic conference

- a meeting of assessment staff from the three provinces to compare strategies and identify areas for cooperation

- continuing work on the establishment of the Maritime High Precision Survey Control Framework

- continuing interprovincial cost-sharing for the rental of GPS equipment

- continuing work on the collaborative development of tools for the user community

- continuing the housing and copying of aerial photography for the three provinces at the Geomatics Centre in Amherst, Nova Scotia