



THE COUNCIL OF
ATLANTIC PREMIERS

COUNCIL OF ATLANTIC PREMIERS

ANNUAL
REPORT FOR
2003-2004

CAP
council of atlantic premiers
box 2044, halifax, n.s. B3J 2Z1
(902) 424-7590
www.cap-cpma.ca

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LETTER FROM THE PREMIERS



Bernard Lord, Premier
New Brunswick

Danny Williams, Premier
Newfoundland &
Labrador

John Hamm, Premier
Nova Scotia

Pat Binns, Premier
Prince Edward Island

It is our pleasure to present the annual report of the Council of Atlantic Premiers for the period April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004. This annual report includes highlights of work accomplished by the Council and its agencies. Each of us strongly believes that Atlantic Canada is more vibrant and prosperous as a result of the commitment to regional collaboration.

The initiatives reported in the following pages reflect a broad spectrum and will continue to have an impact on the quality of life of Atlantic Canadians. These initiatives benefit greatly from the commitment displayed throughout provincial government departments and agencies.

Collaboration in education, health, transportation, and energy continue to be areas of focus of the Council and we consider this collaborative commitment essential to the prosperity of all Atlantic Canadians.

We look forward to continuing the long history of Atlantic cooperation which will result in a stronger region within Canada and on the world stage.

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY

December 1, 2004

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

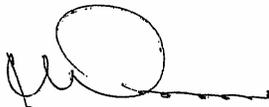
On behalf of the Council of Atlantic Premiers and its agencies, I am pleased to submit the Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP) annual report for 2003-2004.

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.

As part of its continued commitment to improve its management performance, the CAP Secretariat attained ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management Designation in February 2004. The ISO designation and adherence to the designation is a commitment made by the Secretariat to maintain high standards in inspecting production processes, updating records, maintaining equipment, training employees, and handling customer relations. I believe that this commitment to the ISO program will result in improved service to our clients.

The following report highlights the initiatives and activities undertaken by the Council of Atlantic Premiers and demonstrates how regional cooperation is making a positive difference in the lives of Atlantic Canadians.

Respectfully submitted,



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.

Key Accomplishments

In 2003-04, the CAP Secretariat implemented a number of initiatives as set out in its 2003-04 business plan.

- A research study on perceptions toward Atlantic Canada as a region in which to live and conduct business
- A research study on challenges and strategies for improving accessibility to equity capital financing
- Completion of a three-volume report on Atlantic insurance harmonization
- Creation of the Atlantic Health Human Resources Association
- Creation of the Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training

- Coordination of the implementation of the premiers' Action Plan for regional cooperation
- Development of professional development resources for students with special needs
- Publication of resources to promote literacy in the school systems
- Agreement by ministers of energy to proceed with harmonized regulations for oil and gas, and a regional electricity supply framework
- Designation of ISO 9001:2000 for the CAP Secretariat

These key accomplishments during the past year will serve as a framework to continue the implementation of regional initiatives in 2004-05.

COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

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 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 Conference.

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

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. 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 2004. 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

Major steps were taken to improve reading literacy skills with the release of a number of CAMET resources: four English-language brochures; two reading assessment resources; French-language arts resources; novels for grades 3 to 6; three French-language booklets on literacy; social studies resources for grades 4 to 6; and an Atlantic provinces' atlas.

In the area of higher education, the provinces completed a report on the infrastructure needs of our post-secondary institutions to pursue potential funding options between institutions and the federal and provincial governments.

The Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium developed a new 2004-2007 Strategic Plan and received approval for the new 2004-2005 APCCC Business Plan, *A Plan for Collaboration*. In addition, the APCCC collaborated with the CAP Labour Market Information (LMI) group to hold a construction sector labour market symposium for the region on November 6-7, 2003 in Moncton.

The Atlantic departments of health and post-secondary education continue to develop regional responses to address the challenge of health human resource planning. The CAP Secretariat coordinates meetings of the Atlantic deputy ministers responsible for health and education and the Atlantic Advisory Committee on Health Human Resources (AACHHR). The principal objective of these committees is to improve the responsiveness of the health labour force by recommending policies that meet the human resource requirements of Atlantic Canada's health care systems. Within their mandate, the AACHHR exchanges information on new and revised health education programs, analyzes issues and recommends responses to occupation-specific issues.

During the 2003-04 fiscal period, Atlantic governments conceived and implemented an initiative to quantify 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.

In 1999, Atlantic premiers directed departments of health to establish Health Infostructure Atlantic (HIA) to “be a leader in promoting and adopting information and communication technologies, information products, and knowledge that improves the planning, delivery, management and monitoring of health and community-based services available to Atlantic Canadians.” Since its inception, HIA has facilitated regional development of Common Client Registries in each province, Tele-i4 capacity (interprovincial integration of images and information), and Case Management Tools that provide health departments with common operating standards that improve the efficiency with which health information is accessed. HIA will continue to access funding and coordinate the development of common standards in the area of electronic health records, tele-health and health surveillance. Further information on these initiatives can be obtained online at www.gov.ns.ca/health/hia.

The Atlantic Procurement Coordinating Committee (APCC) developed two initiatives intended to harmonize provincial tendering regulations and to liberalize trade policies for provincial procurement. These initiatives are:

- *Standardized Terms and Conditions for Bidders* – to be posted electronically on provincial and CAP websites, to simplify and streamline the procedures and regulations the four provincial governments utilize for procurement of goods and services; and
- *Revisions to the Atlantic Procurement Agreement (APA)* – a draft APA is intended to update and re-focus the existing APA (1996) towards lowered thresholds, easier reporting, introduction of reciprocity provisions and more emphasis on supplier development.

Under the May 2002 Atlantic Energy Ministers (AEM) Forum, the four Atlantic energy ministers committed to pursue a more collaborative regional approach in the development of complementary energy policies and common approaches to the federal government on energy matters. Ministers met in Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia in February 2004 and set out a work plan which included: pursuing federal/provincial cooperation in reducing the regulatory burden for participants in the offshore oil and gas energy industry; seeking federal clarification and certainty on federal climate change regulations. The ministers also agreed to establish a working group to report back on electricity issues, including regional electricity marketplace issues, future generation requirements, transmission infrastructure development, renewable energy and demand side management.

Under the AEM initiative, the region’s power utilities have been engaged in a dialogue with government officials to develop a regional process and framework for the long-range development of the Atlantic electricity sector.

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

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

REGIONAL COOPERATION - ATLANTIC

ATLANTIC PROVINCES COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONSORTIUM

Background

The strategic goals of the Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium (APCCC) 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 assistant deputy ministers/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.

The Atlantic region's community colleges, advanced education departments, and the Council of Atlantic Premiers successfully completed the 2001-2004 three-year planning cycle. The APCCC's first business plan titled, *A Framework for Collaboration*, was designed to provide a vehicle for moving forward past the initial pilot phase 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 this year and accomplishments included the following.

- The first regional meeting between the APCCC college presidents and the ministers and deputy ministers responsible for the community colleges was held on February 17, 2003 in Halifax.
- The APCCC collaborated with the CAP Labour Market Information (LMI) group to hold a construction sector labour market symposium for the region on November 6-7, 2003 in Moncton. The symposium *Atlantic Canada – Working Together to Build Our Future* provided a forum for the construction industry, colleges, and governments to share provincial research on labour supply/demand, examine current practices regarding construction trades recruitment and training, and establish benchmarks for developing a regional assessment. The proceedings of the symposium were published.
- The APCCC facilitated the region's community colleges' participation in the pan-Canadian, Canarie-funded *eduSource Canada Project*. This national e-learning initiative prototyped the development of a collaborative learning object repository.

- The Atlantic colleges' tourism education and training departments involved with the *Memorandum of Understanding Creating the Atlantic Colleges Tourism Education Consortium* (ACTEC) held the inaugural Atlantic Canada Tourism Educators' Conference, June 2003 in Charlottetown.
- The APCCC colleges held a *Designing the Learning College* forum on October 4-7, 2003 in Sydney, NS. It brought together the region's senior college management to review best practices and to explore opportunities for improving community college education through innovation, experimentation, and institutional transformation. This forum was the first in a three-part series that will see technology-enabled networking and communities of practice expanded among the region's 4,000-plus college faculty and staff.
- The community colleges worked with the Atlantic Advisory Committee on Health Human Resources (AACHHR) to reduce barriers and ensure the interprovincial availability of seats for students wanting to access out-of-province community college health-related education and training programs.
- The community colleges continue to advance pan-regional mobility and transferability through the promotion of the *Memorandum of Understanding on College Transfer Credits Among the Atlantic Community Colleges*. The APCCC colleges have developed an inventory of programs to support a collective approach to identifying credit transfer agreements.
- The APCCC developed a new 2004-2007 Strategic Plan and received approval for the new 2004-2005 APCCC Business Plan, *A Plan for Collaboration*.

COUNCIL OF ATLANTIC MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Background

In March 2004, Hon. Madeleine Dubé, New Brunswick Minister of Education, Hon. Margaret-Ann Blaney, New Brunswick Minister of Training and Employment Development, Hon. John Ottenheimer, Newfoundland and Labrador Minister of Education, Hon. Jamie Muir, Nova Scotia Minister of Education, and Hon. Mildred Dover, Prince Edward Island Minister of Education, announced the establishment of the Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training (CAMET), replacing the Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation (APEF). CAMET's purpose is to promote regional cooperation in all areas of education and training, and will play a key role in establishing joint positions on national education issues and on matters pertaining to the federal government.

CAMET intends to build on the success experienced by APEF in coordinating and implementing regional education initiatives, with the objectives of improving learning for all Atlantic Canadians, optimizing efficiencies, and bringing added value to provincial initiatives and priorities.

In the 2003-2004 period, Atlantic ministers of education met three times, including the inaugural meeting of CAMET.

Highlights

Anglophone Projects

The anglophone sector of CAMET continued work on several projects in 2003-2004 aimed at improving student learning and support for program implementation:

- development of a draft resource, *Planning for Curriculum Integration: a Resource for Educators*—a handbook to assist teachers with the multi-faceted process of integrating curricula in their classrooms;
- development of K-9 social studies resources (curriculum guides, student texts and teacher guides). Resources for grades K-2 and grade 7 were piloted and grade 6 and grade 8/9 resource tenders were released;
- development of a literacy 7-9 resource project, a handbook designed to assist teachers in helping struggling readers;
- reading assessment resource designed to assist teachers in assessing reading comprehension of students in grades 4-6; and
- professional development resource, *Meeting Behavioural Challenges: Creating Safe and Caring Learning Environments* and the accompanying teacher's resource.

Francophone Projects

The francophone sector of CAMET completed several projects in 2003-2004 aimed at improving student learning and support for program implementation:

- grade 2-8 French-language arts curriculum resources;
- adaptation of Groupe Beauchemin's thematic atlas, reflecting the Atlantic region;
- three remaining booklets of a series of seven aimed at promoting literacy—the three booklets target libraries, preschools and community leaders;
- grade 4-6 social studies' resource *Regard sur les provinces atlantiques*;
- document outlining the integration of identity (sense of belonging) and culture into the different curricula;
- literacy contest for grade 9-12 students—the winning entry was transferred to a poster distributed in francophone schools in Atlantic Canada for the promotion of literacy;
- the 11th annual summer institute for French-language school principals was held in New Brunswick; and
- departments continued the regional acquisition and distribution of French-language audiovisual resources through the French video library.

French Second Language Projects

The French second language sector of CAMET continued its work in support of program implementation, with the completion of the following projects in 2003-2004:

- analysis of survey results of grade 11 students no longer enrolled in core French; and
- *Fascicule pour l'emploi du français en français de base*, a document which provides teachers with strategies to increase the use of the target language in a French second language class.

Bus Bulk Purchasing

CAMET continues to use the power of bulk purchasing to lower the cost of purchasing school buses. In 2003-2004 the winning submission provided a well-equipped, environmentally advanced, fuel-efficient school bus at a lower price than the previous year.

ATLANTIC INSURANCE HARMONIZATION

Background

This project has been an ongoing initiative since the late 1990s to pursue the potential advantages of harmonizing and modernizing the insurance industry regimes in each Atlantic province. A draft Atlantic model insurance harmonization act was brought forward by a working group consisting of the four provincial superintendents of insurance, with the recommendation that the project proceed to the next phase—detailed legislative drafting and preparation of regulations.

The origin of the project stemmed from industry submissions that province-specific legislative and regulatory requirements for the insurance industry represented a cost-generating regulatory burden to the Atlantic insurance marketplace. The project represents an estimated investment of \$150,000 over six years in terms of meeting costs, rounds of consultations, research and expert review. The project achievements and regional benefits of the proposed Atlantic model insurance harmonization act are summarized by superintendents. The model act:

- is a landmark example of regional cooperation, unique in Canada;
- harmonizes, modernizes and improves upon existing legislation in each province;
- contains consumer protection provisions, and provisions of incorporation and operation of provincial insurance companies;
- accommodates changing industry practices and the impact of technology; and
- more clearly delineates between regulatory requirements and legislative provisions, creating a framework more responsive to changing industry conditions.

Highlights

Auto insurance reform and pressures on the offices of the superintendents due to auto insurance issues has delayed the completion of the harmonization project. Auto insurance reforms, including the Atlantic Auto Insurance Task Force process of 2003, have taken a separate track within each province. Therefore, to expedite the progress of the model act, the auto insurance provisions in the model act were removed. The superintendents' working group recommended proceeding to the next project phase involving regional coordination to ensure the legislation and development of the regulations are completed in a timely and effective manner.

ATLANTIC PROCUREMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Background

The *Atlantic Procurement Agreement* (APA) is one of the longest-standing examples of regional cooperation which establishes a regional process for monitoring provincial government procurement practices, sets the oversight responsibilities of the Atlantic Procurement Coordinating Committee (APCC), competitive tendering thresholds, as well as objectives to pursue joint tendering and Atlantic supplier development opportunities. The original agreement of 1992 was amended in 1996 and this *Memorandum of Agreement of Reduction of Inter-provincial Trade Barriers Relating to Public Procurement* remains in effect today.

Highlights

The APCC has focused its efforts on revising and modernizing the APA, developing an online Atlantic standardized terms and conditions document for bidders, as well as continuing to pursue joint tendering opportunities. In March 2003, the APCC was working on a final draft of a new procurement agreement; however, it was determined to set this initiative aside until the results and directions from the amendment process for the national *Agreement on Internal Trade* (AIT) became clearer in laying out a new national context for regional procurement policy arrangements. The Council of the Federation has made the amendments to the AIT a priority issue and the provincially approved work plans include an accelerated schedule for amending the procurement chapter of the AIT.

In June 2004, premiers launched the Atlantic standardized terms and conditions for bidders initiative aimed at making Atlantic provinces tenders for goods and services more accessible to all Atlantic suppliers by being posted online. The project harmonizes the tendering requirements of the four provinces, which simplifies and streamlines the process and improves the potential for region-wide joint tendering.

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 a new officials' seminar and judges' seminar;
- recruited officials through the apprenticeship program;
- completed the Officials' Field Procedures Manual;
- held appeal and complaint hearings to resolve grievances;
- conducted industry meetings on setting race and stake dates, rule changes and planning sessions;
- established procedural guidelines information requirements for setting up off-track betting theatres;
- 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 the negotiation and establishment of telephone account betting;
- facilitated contract discussions between track management and horsemen's associations;
- ordered and conducted a financial investigation of a licensed racetrack that formed the foundation for a five-year financial plan and a five-year joint agreement among horsemen and racetrack management;
- developed a draft field procedures manual for race officials for implementation in the 2004 racing season;
- conducted an industry consultation process for the review of a new comprehensive rulebook;
- developed a method for the standardization of financial reporting by racetracks; and
- published a newsletter and distributed it to industry members.

By invitation of Standardbred Canada, the Director of Racing attended the World Trotting Conference representing Canada. In addition, he made presentations to the North American Pari-Mutuel Association on changing regulatory roles and to a forum of Canadian horse racing regulators on dealing with common national issues and the setting of national standards in horse racing.

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. 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

Review of the Policy on Quality Assurance – It has been five years since the implementation of the cursory review process, and in December 2003, the Commission agreed it was an opportune time to seek input from MPHEC staff and board members, the AAU-MPHEC Academic Advisory Committee, and institutions on its schedule on the implementation of the programme review process. The objectives of the consultation process include identifying ways to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the staff-based programme review process as well as identifying ways to increase the clarity and organization of the policy document. The key outcome of the consultation is a re-write/re-organization of the policy document to clarify and enhance the intent of the policy and the programme review procedures and guidelines. The revised policy document is expected to be released in the fall of 2004.

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 for an in-depth assessment. In 2003-2004, the Commission considered a total of 51 programme proposals; of these, 25 programmes were approved through the cursory review process, 22 programmes were approved through in-depth assessment, and four 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 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 (AAU) and the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC), carries out the monitoring function on behalf of the Commission. The pilot phase of the new monitoring function was officially completed in September 2003. Dalhousie University and St. Thomas University volunteered to take part in the pilot phase. The two final reports assessing the quality assurance policies and procedures at these two universities are available online at www.mphec.ca. The remaining universities on the Commission's schedule will undergo the process over the next three years.

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 databases, including: Enhanced Student Information System (ESIS) (previously the University Student Information System - USIS); graduate data (Statistics Canada); MPHEC programme review data; Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO); University and College Academic Staff Survey (UCASS); and the Graduate Follow-up Surveys (MPHEC's and Statistics Canada national graduate surveys). External sources of data and information are also employed as the need arises. In any given year, MPHEC staff answer as many as 300 ad hoc requests for quantitative data.

Graduate Follow-up Survey – The purpose of the survey programme of Maritime university graduates is to monitor the integration of recent graduates into the labour market, and to track elements such as mobility patterns, debt repayment, returning to study and graduates' assessment of various aspects of their university program. In addition, it allows the Commission to monitor changes in these key variables and their interrelationships over time.

At its April 28, 2003 meeting, the Commission established a new survey schedule. Beginning with the Class of 1999, the Commission now plans to interview every fourth Maritime university graduating class (cohort) two and five years after graduation. In addition, a ten-year-out pilot survey is planned with the Class of 1996 (previously surveyed in 1997 and 2000).

On May 13, 2003, the Commission released the *Survey of 1999 Maritime University Graduates in 2001*, available online at www.mphec.ca. The report found that two years after graduating from universities in the Maritimes, members of the Class of 1999 enjoy high employment rates, earn more than previous graduates and are satisfied with their education. In addition, results showed that even though more graduates borrowed more money and are coping with significantly greater debt loads than members of previous classes, the vast majority still agree that the money and time invested in their degree was worth it.

Work is now well underway to conduct the five-year-out longitudinal survey of the Class of 1999. A request for proposals was released on March 19, 2004.

Trends in Maritime Higher Education – This series publishes short, in-depth analyses of important issues in higher education in the Maritimes. Articles recently published under this series are available online at www.mphec.ca and include: *The Gender Gap in Employment Outcomes of University Graduates* (March 2004) and *Profile of Maritime University Students: Enrolment, Participation and Degree Completion* (October 2003). A third article under development and slated for release in the fall of 2004 will explore the topic of the impact of family educational background on graduate outcomes, including debt and repayment patterns.

Faculty Recruitment and Retention in the Maritimes – On February 17, 2004, the Commission presented *Strategies for Faculty Renewal in the Maritimes* to the ministers of education of the Maritime provinces. This document, available online at www.mphec.ca, is the outcome of discussions among representatives of the region's degree-granting institutions, faculty associations, graduate student associations, provincial governments, the Council of Atlantic Premiers, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, and federal government agencies during the MPHEC's Symposium on Faculty Recruitment and Retention, held in Moncton in October 2002. The purpose of *Strategies* is to help institutions and governments in the region to address the issue of faculty renewal in a competitive hiring environment created by a wave of faculty retirements and an under-supply of new PhDs.

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.

CONFERENCE OF NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS AND EASTERN CANADIAN PREMIERS

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.

The 28th Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers took place in Groton, Connecticut on September 7-9, 2003. The Conference focused on energy, security, jobs, and the environment.

Committee Activities

Environment

Environmental issues have been a critical component of premiers' and governors' agenda since the inception of the NEG/ECP. In 1998, the *Acid Rain* and *Mercury Action Plans* were approved by premiers and governors for implementation. In 2001, a *Climate Change Action Plan* was adopted.

Acid Rain Steering Committee (ARSC)

The Acid Rain Steering Committee has been active on many fronts, implementing its action plan. Current projects include:

- harmonizing data between the two countries to enable scientists and the public to better understand the impact of sulfur and nitrogen deposition;
- raising awareness of the relationship of air quality to public health; and
- mapping the impact of sulfur and nitrogen deposition on our region's forests.

Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC)

The Climate Change Steering Committee is overseeing several projects including:

- developing an inventory and registry of regional greenhouse gas emissions;
- benchmarking energy efficiency of government buildings;
- promoting renewable energy use and energy efficiency; and
- fostering research and developing linkages to the university/college and municipal sectors.

Mercury Task Force (MTF)

At the 28th NEG/ECP Conference, the MTF announced that not only had they met their interim goal of mercury reduction in the region, but they had exceeded it by achieving a 55% reduction in overall mercury emissions in the NEG/ECP region. With the project reaching a mature phase, the MTF will now meet on an annual basis and report to premiers and governors every second year.

Trade and Globalization Committee (T&G)

In addition to conference calls, the Trade and Globalization Committee met in June 2003 and in March 2004 and the Transportation Working Group met in May 2003. Several projects were advanced in this period, including:

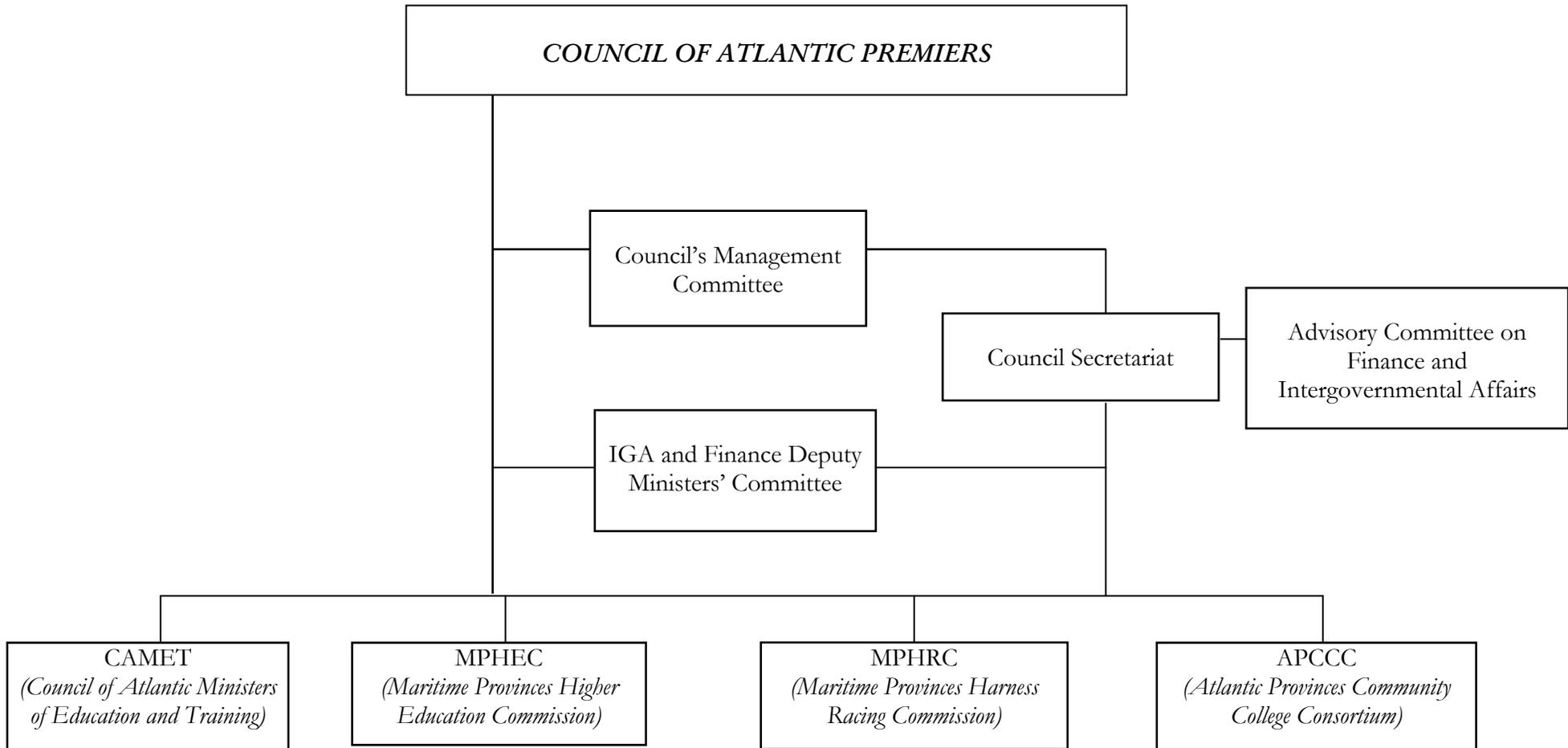
- proposal and subsequent work for improving rail freight data inventory collection as follow-up to the Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials' (NASTO) study;
- cooperation proposals and improved planning between federal and state and provincial transportation and customs officials for infrastructure upgrading and roll-out of new customs programs (FAST and NEXUS) at border crossings, as well as support for Operation Safe Commerce;
- regional transportation issues were advanced, including a position paper on air access and US pre-clearance approvals, harmonization of weight and size requirements for trucking, and promotion of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITA) technologies;
- report for US/Canada cross-border certification for professional engineers; and
- proposal and further development of a three-year trade plan.

Northeast International Committee on Energy (NICE)

This longstanding NEG/ECP committee has hosted regional energy roundtables and conferences, produced energy research reports, as well as briefings and recommendations to senior state and provincial officials on regional electricity and oil and gas issues. In addition to conference calls, the NICE met in November 2003 in Boston. NICE has several initiatives underway including:

- development of a two-year NICE action plan;
- follow-up stakeholder consultations from the New Brunswick report *Barriers to Inter-jurisdictional Electricity Transmission Development in New England and Eastern Canada* (Navigant);
- research and report on the regional implications of the August 14, 2003 power blackout in the US and Canada; and
- preparation of a renewable energy power resources planning database and report.

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, 2004

	Budget	2004 Actual	2003 Actual
	\$	\$	\$
REVENUE			
Province of New Brunswick	1,043,420	981,621	1,146,707
Province of Newfoundland and Labrador	277,872	277,872	16,313
Province of Nova Scotia	1,331,460	1,254,510	1,447,214
Province of Prince Edward Island	258,465	247,215	262,142
Other	650,219	649,307	502,850
	3,561,436	3,410,525	3,375,226
EXPENDITURES			
Council Secretariat	1,305,483	1,220,488	1,136,028
Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission	572,500	627,781	542,420
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission	1,414,035	1,147,484	1,047,061
	3,292,018	2,995,753	2,725,509
Grants –			
Action Plan Trust Fund	0	0	218,283
Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium	72,500	72,500	72,500
Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation	212,230	212,230	212,230
Champlain Institute	0	0	28,125
	3,576,748	3,280,483	3,256,647
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR	-15,312	130,042	118,579



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
Glenn Davis, Regional Coordinator
Brad Hodgins, Regional Coordinator
Guyaine Roy, Regional Coordinator
Joe Rudderham, Regional Coordinator

Angela Buckles, Administrative Assistant
Doreen Hamilton, Administrative Assistant
Janice Henderson, Administrative Assistant
Karen Hosking, Administrative Assistant
Sharon Pinaud, Receptionist
Jackie Ruggles, Accounting Clerk
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

Tel: (902) 424-5352
Fax: (902) 424-8976
camet-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