

**Council of Maritime Premiers
Annual Report 1997–1998**

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



The Council Logo

This distinctive logo of the Council was selected in 1972. The three “M’s” signify the three Maritime provinces—New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The equilateral triangle formed by the base of the letters symbolizes the equality of the member governments of the Council. The circle signifies the region.

CMP

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CPMM

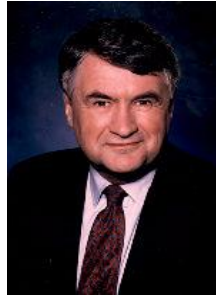
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LETTER FROM THE PREMIERS



Raymond Frenette, Premier
New Brunswick



Russell MacLellan, Premier
Nova Scotia



Pat Binns, Premier
Prince Edward Island

The Council of Maritime Premiers has been one of the main advocates for cooperation in the Maritime provinces. Over the years, the Council has identified potential areas for cooperation and established mechanisms to move the cooperation agenda forward.

The Council has not been the only significant ‘promoter and doer.’ There are numerous private and public organizations which have a keen interest in cooperation, and through their efforts, make a significant impact on the well-being and advancement of the Maritime region.

We would like to recognize these many organizations and the contribution they make to our provinces, individually and collectively. The listing included in this annual report, while not complete, illustrates the depth and breadth of their activities and interests. We salute their efforts and sincerely hope that they continue to advance the mutual interests of our three provinces.

During the reporting period of this Annual Report, Premier Frank McKenna made the decision to leave political life to pursue other interests. We wish to acknowledge the contribution he has made to regional cooperation.

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COUNCIL OF MARITIME PREMIERS -- AN OVERVIEW

Background

The Council of Maritime Premiers (CMP) is one of the most significant symbols of regional cooperation in Maritime Canada. The Council is a body formed by agreement between the governments of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island in May 1971 and ratified by legislation in 1972. Its purpose and powers are extensive, allowing the premiers considerable latitude in intergovernmental cooperation.

The purpose of the Act creating the CMP was to provide an effective legal framework for cooperation, with the goal “*to ensure maximum coordination of the activities of the governments of the three provinces and their agencies.*” Responsibility for meeting the goal is held by the Maritime premiers themselves, or is delegated to regional boards, commissions and committees, or to the Council Secretariat.

There are three primary ways that the provinces advance their interests through cooperation:

- creating regional organizations;
- harmonizing provincial policies and programs; and
- having common positions on matters involving other parties, for example, the federal government.

Each way provides opportunities for improvement in government services or economic activity to the provinces.

The Council of Maritime Premiers is the first agency of its kind in Canada by which three provinces systematically seek to identify and exploit opportunities for maximizing the benefits of government services through joint action. From the beginning, the Council adopted a pragmatic approach to seeking opportunities to address economic and social problems of the Maritime provinces through cooperative action.

The Council provides an organized capacity for the three 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 sharing costs, effecting a larger 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, particularly the federal government.

Overview of Meetings

The Council met once in 1997-98, in St. John’s, Newfoundland in conjunction with a meeting of the Conference of Atlantic Premiers (CAP).

At that meeting, the Maritime premiers examined issues in a variety of areas. The meeting resulted in the following decisions:

- to determine whether a sound economic case could be made for Atlantic Lottery Corporation taking over the promotion and marketing of the Maritime provinces’ harness racing industry; and
- to modify the mandate of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission to be more responsive to student and government needs—MPHEC’s challenge will be to provide service to students with particular emphasis on quality assurance, information management, and the promotion of cooperative regional arrangements.

The premiers addressed several other issues with the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, the results of which are described in the Conference of Atlantic Premiers’ section of this report.



Organization

The Council “organization” at present includes the premiers meeting as a group, the Secretariat, a number of central committees, and three line agencies. In addition, there are also regional agencies and committees outside the framework of the Council which are supported by the Council.

Over the Council’s 26-year history, the following line agencies have been created:

- Maritime Resource Management Service (1972); merged with Land Registration and Information Service in 1988
- Land Registration and Information Service (1973); closed March 31, 1994
- Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (1974)
- Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board (1974)
- Maritime Provinces Education Foundation (1982); replaced by the Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation (1995)
- Maritime Geomatics Board (1991); replaced by the Maritime Geomatics Committee (1994);
- Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission (1994)

Council employees work in three Maritime communities: Fredericton, New Brunswick (MPHEC); Halifax, Nova Scotia (Council Secretariat, MMTDB); and Summerside, Prince Edward Island (MPHRC).

Staff of the Council Secretariat are employees of the Council, while the other Council agencies employ staff directly. A unique labour code and labour relations board govern employer-employee relations. A regional pension plan is available for regional employees, including those of the Secretariat, Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission, Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, and the Atlantic Lottery Corporation.

A Regional Treasury Board 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 the Regional Treasury Board and then approved by the Council. Public funds for regional agencies are recommended to the legislatures as part of provincial estimates. An external auditor reports to the Council on the disposition of funds. Audited financial statements are available on request.

Council employees are governed by a collective agreement between the Council of Maritime Premiers and the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC).

MARITIME ECONOMIC COOPERATION ACT

The Maritime Economic Cooperation Act (MECA), proclaimed in the summer of 1992, provides the current framework for cooperative action by the Council of Maritime Premiers. It is the first broad, goal-oriented, multi-provincial legislation in Canada. It was also the first uniform Act adopted since the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission Act of 1973.

The Act states seven strategic goals and five principles for cooperation between the Maritime provinces. It also establishes decision-making rules to guide the Council and the provinces. One innovative rule is that an item can proceed with the agreement of any two of the three parties. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador participates in some projects, and has observer status in others.



CONFERENCE OF ATLANTIC PREMIERS - AN OVERVIEW

Background

The Conference of Atlantic Premiers (CAP) was created in December 1989 as an instrument of public policy cooperation and coordination for the premiers of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. The Conference meets concurrently with regular sessions of the Council of Maritime Premiers.

Newfoundland is a full participant in several regional matters and an observer on others. The CMP Secretariat serves CAP, with costs absorbed by the Council.

Overview of Meetings

The Atlantic premiers met once in 1997-98, in conjunction with a Council of Maritime Premiers' meeting held in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Highlights of the premiers' discussions were:

- the tabling of a survey, conducted by the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council, of business and organization leaders to determine their views on previous cooperative projects and to compile suggestions for future cooperative efforts – *Advancing Economic Cooperation in Atlantic Canada: A Survey of Business and Other Regional Leaders*;
- an agreement that the future direction of the federal government's national economic policy for regional development should provide flexibility to build on provincial economic strategies and priorities, and be sensitive to regional interests and concerns;
- in recognition of the changing demographics of the Atlantic region, a commitment to work with the federal government in the area of job creation, immigration, and ensuring adequate health and social services programs;
- a request of the Shipbuilding Association of Canada to draft a Canadian shipbuilding policy, including long-term industrial and trade policies, to promote this industry in the face of inequities of access to foreign markets;
- a request to the provinces' attorneys general to explore the feasibility of initiating litigation against tobacco products' manufacturers for health-related costs associated with smoking; and
- an agreement to lead a trade mission to the Northeastern United States to encourage and nurture trade linkages.

REGIONAL STRATEGIC INITIATIVES – 1997-98

Accomplishments during 1997-98, organized under the strategic goals of the Maritime Economic Cooperation Act, include:

Building a Single Regional Market

- ✓ Atlantic Insurance Legislation Harmonization Project completed consultation process, and superintendents of insurance submitted policy recommendations for first draft of a consultation paper
- ✓ Atlantic Procurement Coordinating Committee continued to expand the scope of the Atlantic Purchasing Agreement to include government agencies at most levels, and developed plans to increase the volume of joint tendering
- ✓ Ministers responsible for labour issues to study the merits of harmonization of labour standards

Creating a Competitive Business Climate

- ✓ An Atlantic investment fund, ACF Equity Atlantic Inc., established in cooperation with the banks and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency to provide a source of venture capital to small enterprises



- ✓ Shipbuilding Association of Canada encouraged to develop a Canadian shipbuilding policy to reduce inequities of access to foreign markets

Increasing the Self-reliance of Businesses and Individuals

- ✓ Agreement signed with ACOA to create curriculum and instructional materials intended to familiarize students with entrepreneurship

Improving Infrastructure

- ✓ New funding agreement signed for the Atlantic Veterinary College
- ✓ Atlantic Lottery Corporation assumed responsibility for the marketing and promotion of the harness racing industry in the Maritimes

Establishing or Maintaining High Standards

- ✓ A common, regionally-developed social studies curriculum for junior high/middle school students that concentrates on Atlantic Canada in relation to global issues was implemented
- ✓ Work continued on the development and implementation of common curriculum in mathematics, language arts, and science
- ✓ Community colleges studied ways to reduce duplication and increase cooperation in delivery of programs throughout the region
- ✓ Memorandum of Understanding signed, enhancing the mandate of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission with service to students as the primary focus
- ✓ French Language Resource Fund, with contributions from the Department of Canadian Heritage, supported the purchase of *Innovations sciences*, an elementary science resource, and *Impacts mathématiques*, a grade 9-12 mathematics resource

Protecting and Enhancing the Environment

- ✓ Environment departments directed to develop acid rain and mercury action plans

REGIONAL COOPERATION – MARITIME

COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

The CMP Secretariat organizes and expedites the work of Council. In its role as a catalyst for Maritime intergovernmental cooperation, the Secretariat:

- 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 follows up 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; and
- performs head office functions for regional agencies and employees.

Employees of the Secretariat provide services to the Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation, the Maritime departments of transportation and communications, the Conference of Atlantic Premiers, 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.



MARITIME GEOMATICS COMMITTEE

In December 1994, the Maritime Geomatics Board was replaced by a Maritime Geomatics Committee, comprised of the President of the New Brunswick Geographic Information Corporation, the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs in Nova Scotia, and the Deputy Provincial Treasurer in Prince Edward Island.

The Committee is responsible for cooperation and integration between the three governments on all matters related to geomatics, and for overseeing the Council's interests in implementing the Maritime Geomatics Strategy and in the Champlain Institute.

MARITIME MUNICIPAL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Background

The Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board (MMTDB), established by the Council of Maritime Premiers in 1974, is widely recognized within the Canadian municipal public service and among Canadian leaders in the delivery of municipal training and educational programming. The work of the MMTDB has had a significant and positive impact on the quality of municipal decision-making in the Maritime region and in other parts of Canada.

Through the establishment of institutional partnerships; information resource development; coordination and/or sponsorship of seminars, workshops, and discussion forums; undertaking research; providing counsel, advice, and assistance to municipal officials and their professional associations; and through a variety of other means; the MMTDB works to improve the quality of municipal government operations in the Maritime region. A direct result of the agency's establishment and work is the creation of better-trained, highly-skilled, and more knowledgeable municipal decision-makers.

The MMTDB provides program support to the three associations of municipal administrators in the region and responds to numerous information requests from municipal officials and others who regularly seek out the MMTDB organization for help on matters such as: personnel-related issues, training, professional education, Internet applications, publications, management resources, and council-staff relations.

Highlights

In 1990, the MMTDB first began to promote the Internet to the municipal public service as an important communication medium. As with many earlier MMTDB initiatives, the actions it has taken to promote use of the Internet in the Maritime municipal public sector has had a ripple effect far beyond its borders and has provided the impetus and challenge for other jurisdictions to follow.

- www.munisource.org – Growing interest in the MMTDB's Internet information site for municipal government resulted in an extensive redesign in 1997. www.munisource.org is now recognized by many in Canada and throughout the world as the Internet starting place for municipal government information. An extensive database of Year 2000 resources is available through munisource, as well as information on a range of municipal functions from economic development, to by-laws and ordinances. Other services include: promotion of Maritime web sites developed by the MMTDB, and a municipal discussion forum for networking and the sharing of municipal government information. Registered users of the municipal discussion forum include individuals from the Maritime provinces, other parts of Canada, USA, England, Scotland, Bulgaria, India, Kenya, Finland, Jordan, Czech Republic, Spain, Portugal, Costa Rica, Thailand, and Australia.
- www.munisource.org/election – Developed in October 1997 as the first Nova Scotia municipal election web site. The site was accessed by more than 3,000 individuals for election information in the days immediately before and following the 1997 Nova Scotia municipal election.



- www.munisource.org/maritime-showcase – Established early in 1998 to complement provincial government web sites and add an extra measure to efforts aimed at promoting the Maritime provinces to the world. The site highlights arts & culture, tourism & travel, government, business, education, as well as people & places.
- The following official web sites have been developed, or are in the process of being developed, by MMTDB staff:

Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities	Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities
City of Charlottetown	Town of Cornwall
Town of Yarmouth	Municipality of the County of Richmond
Town of Oromocto	Municipality of the County of Antigonish
Council of Maritime Premiers	Association of Municipal Administrators, Nova Scotia
Association of Municipal Administrators of New Brunswick	
Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation (singled out in an article contained in an internationally recognized computer magazine as a Canadian example of the innovative use of frames in web site development)	
- Municipalities, through MMTDB-developed web sites, are able to increase levels of communication with residents, employees, elected officials, and potential business clients alike. They provide a cost-effective opportunity for municipalities to promote tourism and economic development in their communities. In the future, educational programming for the municipal community will be delivered, in part, through the Internet. Residents will be able to pay taxes, access databases, obtain permits, and a host of other municipal functions will be made user-friendly through Internet technology. The MMTDB expects to play a leading role in all of these areas of promotion and development.
- In co-operation with computer operations at Dalhousie University, plans were initiated for establishment of an MMTDB experimental Internet server. This server will allow for research into the delivery of online education for the municipal public sector, issuance of Canadian web site domains, and, among other functions, the housing of databases. It will facilitate future MMTDB research and service delivery.
- Internet workshop concerned with effective use of the Internet to promote municipal economic development and tourism for the Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities (FPEIM) Annual Conference.
- Nova Scotia Municipal Government Orientation '97 – a partnership initiative of the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs (DHMA), the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM), the Association of Municipal Administrators, Nova Scotia (AMANS), Henson College, and the MMTDB. Orientation '97 for newly-elected municipal officials took place November 28-29, 1997.
- Co-ordination of joint meetings of the representatives of the Association of Municipal Administrators of Prince Edward Island (AMAPEI), of Nova Scotia (AMANS), and of New Brunswick (AMANB), to seek agreement on cooperative arrangements in the delivery of membership services and on greater Maritime cooperation between the organizations. As a result of these initiatives, a joint gathering of Executive Committee members of the AMANS, AMAPEI, and the AMANB has been scheduled for April 1998 to consider issues and concerns of a regional nature and to make plans for a major Maritime municipal administrators' conference to be held in 1999.
- Co-ordination of a joint partnership involving the MMTDB, AMANS, UNSM, and DHMA to make available, on a trial basis, a broad range of research services of the University of Victoria's Local Government Institute to Nova Scotia municipalities, with the possibility of extending the membership services to municipalities in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland.
- "After the Wage Freeze Conference," offered in June 1997, through a partnership arrangement by the MMTDB, UNSM, AMANS, and Henson College.



- Assistance with the coordination and planning of “Citizen-Centred Service Delivery” discussions involving the federal, provincial, and municipal orders of government.
- Development, printing, and distribution of the 2nd edition of *The Next Step...A Handbook for Briefing Newly Elected Councillors on the Organization and Function of Municipal Government*, cost-shared with DHMA, UNSM, and AMANS.
- Revision of the very popular *It's Your Choice! A Model for Decision Making in Municipal Government*, 2nd edition.

MARITIME PROVINCES HARNESS RACING COMMISSION

Background

The Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission (MPHRC) assumed regulatory authority for the region's harness racing industry on April 1, 1994, upon the passing of legislation in the three Maritime provinces. The Commission is comprised of two representatives from each province, with the Chairperson being appointed by the Council. It governs, supervises, controls, and regulates harness racing and racetracks. The Commission office is located in Summerside, Prince Edward Island with a permanent staff of two – the Director of Racing and an Accounting Clerk/Secretary.

Highlights

The following describes much of the work undertaken by the Commission in 1997-98:

- as of May 1998, the Atlantic Lottery Corporation received approval to assist the harness racing industry by providing financial assistance for overnight purses, as well as to provide expertise in the promotion and marketing of the industry;
- the Commission is continuing to upgrade rules and regulations in an ongoing effort to improve integrity within the industry; and
- all race officials are required to attend a two-day seminar dealing with rules and regulations and the development of uniform policies in the implementation of these rules.

MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Background

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) was established in April 1974 by parallel acts of the legislatures of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, with a mandate “to assist the provinces and the institutions in attaining a more efficient and effective utilization of resources in the field of higher education in the region.”

At their May 26, 1997 meeting, the premiers endorsed An Agreement Respecting the Renewal of Arrangements for Regional Cooperation Concerning Post-secondary Education. This Agreement provides a new orientation and framework for the activities of the MPHEC, which will continue to function as a regional agency for post-secondary education in the Maritimes. The Commission's renewed mandate is 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 and outside the Maritime region to provide additional educational opportunities for Maritime students.” In carrying out its functions, the Commission will focus primarily on university education and will give first consideration to improving and maintaining the best possible service to students as life-long learners.



Highlights

Quality Assurance – The MPHEC adopted its “Policy on Quality Assurance” at its November 1997 meeting. The policy was edited and published in February 1998. The policy includes the review of academic programs prior to implementation, and the monitoring of institutional quality assurance policies and practices. The MPHEC has also approved guidelines for institutional quality assurance policies. At year end, it was in the process of developing new guidelines for the preparation of program proposals, and terms of reference for the committees charged with either program review or the monitoring function.

Program Planning – Institutions are required to submit proposals for new or modified programs to the Commission and the AAU-MPHEC Academic Advisory Committee for approval prior to implementation. In 1997-98, the Commission considered a total of 63 program proposals; of these, 56 programs were approved, 2 were not approved, 2 were terminated, and 3 are pending approval.

Accessibility Study – When the Commission met with student and faculty groups in October 1996, one of the issues raised during the discussion was barriers to post-secondary education. The Commission agreed to proceed with a study of barriers and accessibility to post-secondary education in the Maritimes, releasing the study *Accessibility to Post-Secondary Education in the Maritimes* in November 1997.

Graduate Follow-up Survey – In 1997 the governments of the four Atlantic provinces and the Commission conducted a survey of 1996 graduates from Atlantic universities. The document, *Survey of 1996 University Graduates* was completed in February 1998, and is scheduled for public release in April 1998.

Conference on the State of Higher Education – The Commission organized the first “MPHEC Conference on the State of Higher Education in the Maritimes” in November 1997. The Conference highlighted the most current and pressing challenges facing higher education in the Maritimes, provided a forum for discussion and an opportunity for its participants to explore means by which these challenges could be addressed. At a Commission meeting in February, plans were made for a second conference to take place in November 1998 in Moncton, New Brunswick with a focus on “Transitions.”

Information Framework Initiative – Work on the technical architecture, content, design, and development of the Information Framework continued during 1997-98. The framework will provide a comprehensive picture of post-secondary education in the region, including indicators and other information aimed at enhancing accountability, providing input to policy development, and improved decision-making. The first phase of the information framework will present information on selected student outcomes, and should be available on the MPHEC web site by the fall of 1998.

The Enhanced Student Information System (ESIS) pilot project with Statistics Canada continued to move forward to replace the University Student Information System (USIS). ESIS takes a more comprehensive look at the students, capturing detail down to the course level. This data will comprise a significant portion of the Information Framework. All Maritime institutions are expected to be reporting by way of ESIS starting July 1999.

University Costing Study – In January 1997, KPMG was awarded the contract to carry out Phase 2 of the University Costing Study. Phase 2 was intended to operationalize the conceptual model developed in Phase 1, and was designed to pilot test selected disciplines at several institutions in the region, including overhead as well as direct costs. The final report on Phase 2 of the University Costing Study was submitted to the Commission in February 1998.

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.



NB/PEI Educational Computer Network – In 1997-98, the NB/PEI Educational Computer Network completed its 27th year of operation and signed a new agreement that took effect May 1, 1997 and will run until April 30, 2002. The primary services provided by the Network are connectivity between members and to the wider world, shared purchase and support of computer hardware and software, and shared network-based services.

MPHEC World Wide Web Site – The MPHEC web site (www.mphec.ca) was launched on May 1, 1997 and continued to expand during the year. The site is fully bilingual and contains information about the Commission, its members and staff, its major stakeholders, approved minutes of Commission meetings, major MPHEC publications, the MPHEC Conference on the State of Higher Education, and other activities of the MPHEC.

REGIONAL COOPERATION – ATLANTIC

ACF EQUITY ATLANTIC

Background

The primary mandate of ACF Equity Atlantic is to make direct equity or quasi-equity investment in small- and medium-sized companies in Atlantic Canada that appear to have moderate or significant growth potential. The Company actively seeks out companies at all stages of development whose growth potential may be realized with an infusion of equity capital that is coupled, as appropriate, with management advice and support from the Company and from a co-investor.

The Fund is a pioneering effort in Atlantic Canada in a market where there has traditionally been very little formal venture capital activity. In order to generate qualified investment leads, Fund management extensively promotes its activities and an understanding of venture capital through seminars, direct calls on prospective investee companies, government agencies, industry and trade associations, and all media throughout the region.

The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) has committed \$10 million to the Company in the form of repayable grants. The Company received an initial \$4 million grant with the remaining \$6 million to be received in years two to five, based on a number of factors, including the amount invested to date by the Company, the amount required in the future, and the amount of funds received but unspent.

Highlights

The Fund, operational since February 1997, has been in contact with over 200 companies, received and reviewed business plans from over 65% of these, and identified 9 qualified candidates. During 1997-98, the Fund made an investment of \$1.5 million in Formal Systems Inc. (FSI), a software development company with operations in New Brunswick. In addition, a further \$1.5 million investment has been authorized in Ocean Nutrition Canada Ltd., a nutritional and dietary supplement manufacturer in Nova Scotia.

ATLANTIC AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN EMERGENCIES

Background

The Atlantic Agreement on Cooperation in Emergencies authorizes the provincial governments, local governments, and other accredited representatives to work together to provide mutual support and aid through the development of emergency management arrangements in contiguous areas of jurisdiction.

Highlights

Disasters – The provinces exchanged information during the January ice storm, the spring flooding, and the late summer hurricanes. Although inter-provincial assistance was offered, each province was able to manage the disasters on their own. Assistance was sent to Québec and Maine during the recovery phase of the ice storm.



Training and Exercises – In following the Atlantic training strategy, the provinces have developed a joint training calendar, have accepted students from each other on in-province courses, and continued developing training products for distance education and interprovincial courses.

During the winter and early spring, the provinces made preparations, in conjunction with the eight northeastern states and the two federal governments, for “RESPONSE ’98,” a hurricane exercise. They then participated in the exercise in April, testing communications infrastructure and protocols.

Planning – Cross-border planning activities included:

- coordinating with industry and federal agencies plans for emergencies relating to the Confederation Bridge and the Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline; and
- developing an international emergency management assistance compact with Québec and the New England States, which is now ready for legal drafting.

Meetings – The emergency measures directors met on a number of occasions to discuss and resolve matters of mutual interest. The deputy ministers responsible for emergency preparedness met in October with their directors to discuss a number of issues, including:

- contingency planning for emergencies that may arise as a result of the Year 2000 problems with possible microchip failures; and
- the premiers’ direction regarding a provincial/territorial consensus on disaster financial assistance arrangements (DFAA) with the federal government. Consensus positions were reached at a meeting of ministers in Winnipeg on November 2, 1998.

ATLANTIC CANADA ON-LINE

Background

The four Atlantic provinces, in partnership with the private sector, are transforming the way they do business with their clients. ACOL, a new regional electronic service, enables clients to access government information databases from their place of business and quickly retrieve, search, update, and register information for critical decisions or to comply with legislative requirements.

The ACOL concept evolved through an inter-provincial task group, mandated by the Atlantic premiers to identify opportunities for the provincial governments to cooperate to improve service delivery and achieve cost savings by sharing resources and leveraging on economies of scale. ACOL enables provincial government clients in Atlantic Canada to electronically access government databases and carry out multiple electronic transactions through a single window of service.

A Master Strategic Alliance Agreement, signed by the four Atlantic premiers and Unisys Canada in May 1996, grants Unisys the non-exclusive and non-transferable right and licence to access provincial government databases (all statutes and regulations of the four governments concerning privacy and confidentiality of information will apply), and to provide access to clients, and the exclusive, non-transferable right and licence to use the terms “Atlantic Canada On-Line” and “ACOL,” registered official marks of the provinces. The Agreement is for seven years, with renewal provision for additional three-year terms.

Highlights

Atlantic Canada On-Line (ACOL) has been operational since November 1997 when the first application, the Nova Scotia Personal Property Registry System (PPRS), went on-line. The Prince Edward Island Personal Property Registry System will go live in April 1998.



The ACOL-PPR System coincides with the introduction of new, harmonized, notice-based legislation which changes the way security interests are registered in those provinces, and redefines the roles of the interested parties – the debtor, secured party, and government. It involves transitioning from a paper-based, manual registry system (located in eighteen counties in Nova Scotia; three in Prince Edward Island) to a province-wide electronic system. Documents are no longer delivered to registry offices throughout the provinces but are filed electronically from remote locations, such as business offices, individual homes, workstations, and public access terminals. Negotiations are underway to extend the PPR System region-wide within about a year. Other service offerings being explored include: business/companies registry, court filings, used vehicle information, and driver abstracts.

ATLANTIC INSURANCE LEGISLATION HARMONIZATION

Background

In 1996 the Atlantic premiers directed the ministers responsible for regulation of the insurance industry to consult with industry representatives and prepare a draft insurance act to be enacted in the four Atlantic provinces. The goal of harmonizing insurance legislation is to provide insurance companies with a single business environment throughout Atlantic Canada, thereby allowing the provision of equivalent products and services in each province. Registration and regulation of insurance companies will be improved through the implementation of common standards of operation.

The premiers mandated the establishment of an industry-consumer-government committee to oversee the development of the harmonized act and ensure thorough consultation with all industry participants. Meetings of the committee began in late 1996.

Highlights

During 1997-98, the committee hired an expert in insurance law to conduct impartial consultations with all interested parties. The consultation process will lead to the circulation of a plain-language act to be used as the basis for a harmonized act. The consultant met with over 200 individuals and groups during a month-long tour of the Atlantic provinces in the summer of 1997, and submitted a report with recommendations on policy issues in January 1998.

The Atlantic superintendents of insurance met during February and March of 1998 to adjudicate the policy issues identified during the consultation process. Consideration was given to the views expressed by industry and consumer associations, as well as those of the consultant in the development of common policy statements. The recommendations stemming from these deliberations were forwarded to the consultant to direct the preparation of the plain-language draft act.

The plain-language harmonized act will be reviewed by members of the insurance industry and the public during 1998-99. The committee will invite everyone with an interest in the insurance industry to submit comments and concerns, prior to submitting the draft act to the premiers.

ATLANTIC PROCUREMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Background

The Atlantic Procurement Coordinating Committee (APCC) was established by the Atlantic premiers to monitor compliance to the Atlantic Procurement Agreement, and to rule on disputes arising from government tenders awarded in the Atlantic region. The APCC is comprised of two officials from each government, plus a chair and a vice-chair from the private sector, each appointed by CAP. All rulings are made public, and annual reports of the APCC are tabled in the four legislatures and are available from the Secretariat.

Highlights

In 1997-98, over \$660 million worth of tenders were awarded by the Atlantic governments within the Atlantic region that met or exceeded the thresholds of the Atlantic Procurement Agreement. During that same period, the Atlantic provinces participated in 17 joint public tenders with a value of over \$13 million.



During the year, the APCC met twice and worked together to enhance the Atlantic Procurement Agreement and ensure compatibility with the Agreement on Internal Trade. A great deal of attention was focused on revising the Agreement to include municipalities throughout the Atlantic region. Other initiatives of prime interest to the APCC are the identification of further opportunities for joint purchasing, and movement toward a formal agreement to create an Atlantic Purchasing Authority to govern the joint tendering process.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Background

The Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation was established in September 1995 by Agreement of the four ministers of education, replacing the Maritime Provinces Education Foundation which had operated since 1982. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide the framework for joint undertakings of the four departments in the area of entry-grade 12 public education.

Highlights

This year, 1997-98, marked an intensive development and production phase as the departments of education continued to operationalize the ministers' commitment in the areas of common curriculum and assessment. Significant progress was made in both anglophone and francophone sectors to meet established goals within their respective five-year strategic plans. The following highlights are indicative of the range of work undertaken and completed in the course of the year:

- *Atlantic Canada in the Global Community* – a new curriculum and custom textbook for junior high/middle level social studies was implemented.
- New English Language Arts curriculum guides for grades 1 through 12 became available across the region. The new program is shaped by a vision of enabling and encouraging students to become reflective, articulate, literate individuals.
- The Atlantic provinces signed a cooperative agreement with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency to develop a number of English-language resources to infuse entrepreneurship/enterprise education in the provinces' curricula. Work also continued on the development of French-language entrepreneurship resources intended for grades 4-6 students.
- Provinces began collaborating on the development of curriculum outcomes documents for Core French and French Immersion programs.
- The APEF launched a new web site (www.apef-fepa.org). The site offers access to reports, curriculum and other documents, information on regional projects, provincial contacts, and links to access information found in each province's department of education web site.
- Leadership development institutes for English- and French-language school principals were held.
- The joint purchase of school buses continued, realizing substantial savings to each province.
- Regional grade 12 physics and chemistry assessments were available to those provinces choosing to implement; and work was well underway in the development of grade 12 biology and English language arts assessments.
- Collaboration with ITP Nelson for the custom development of English-language mathematics textbooks to support the new high school mathematics program continued.
- Collaboration with the Learning for a Sustainable Future organization to ensure the concept of sustainable development is incorporated in the new curricula.
- Grade 9 *Impacts mathématiques* was introduced in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island schools.
- Departments continued the implementation of a French-language elementary science curriculum, along with the resource *Innovations sciences*.
- The elementary French language arts curriculum was introduced in all francophone schools in the region.
- A French-language course was delivered through distance education to teachers across the region.
- *Atlas de l'Atlantique* was introduced in elementary schools to support the provinces' social studies curricula.
- A K-12 human rights teachers' guide, *L'Éducation aux droits de la personne*, was introduced in schools across the region.



- APEF entered into an agreement with ECOM Inc. for the development of a teacher training model intended for teachers called upon to teach courses through distance education.

REGIONAL COOPERATION – INTERNATIONAL

CONFERENCE OF NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS AND EASTERN CANADIAN PREMIERS

Background

In 1973, the governors of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, and the premiers of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Québec came together at Brudenell, P.E.I., for their first conference. It was an historic occasion. Since then, the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers meet once a year to share ideas and advance common interests. The last meeting of the Conference was held in Newport, Rhode Island in June 1997. The next meeting of Governors and Premiers is scheduled for June 1998 in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

The Conference is a unique and highly effective international relationship of states and provinces sharing ideas and building on historic ties. It advances the interests of the eleven jurisdictions through cooperation and encourages cooperation with the private sector. Over the years, the Conference has addressed many topics, including the environment, economic development, energy, fisheries, trade, and agriculture. In over 250 projects, some of the specific accomplishments of the governors and premiers include:

- implementation of a regional program to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions;
- the adoption of principles of a good neighbour environmental relationship;
- sponsorship of 10 international roundtables on energy;
- international tourism projects to promote the New England/Eastern Canadian region; and
- adoption of the Mystic Covenant, a pledge to strengthen and promote trade relations.

Staff support to the NEG/ECP Conference and its committees is provided jointly by the New England Governors' Conference, Inc. in Boston and the Eastern Canadian Premiers' Secretariat in Halifax. Council of Maritime Premiers' staff are seconded to the Eastern Canadian Premiers' Secretariat as required, with costs shared by the five provinces.

Overview of the 24th Conference

The governors and premiers met in Newport, Rhode Island in June 1997. Numerous matters of common interest were addressed. Five resolutions were passed regarding energy, acid deposition, mercury, greenways, and economic cooperation. A brief overview follows.

- Direction to the Northeast International Committee on Energy (NICE) to monitor changes in the electricity market regarding competition and deregulation, with special attention to be paid to the evolution of the market for natural gas.
- Direction to the Environment Committee to study the association of acid rain deposition with atmospheric problems such as smog, particulate matter, and mercury.
- Direction to the Environment Committee to develop a Mercury Action Plan that will incorporate routine updating of monitoring information for the region and permit a voluntary approach to reducing emission and discharge into the environment.
- Promotion of international links of cycling networks, bike routes, and greenways to take advantage of environmental benefits and the increased interest in eco-tourism.
- Agreement to organize, during the winter of 1997-1998, a forum of business people designed to facilitate linkages among companies and identify actions to be taken to increase interregional business relations that will increase the competitive edge of companies from the Northeast.



Committee Activities

The Environment Committee held an acid rain/mercury deposition workshop in February 1998, hosted by Maine. More than 200 government, environment advocacy groups, and environment industry representatives attended. As a result of the workshop, action plans for further reduction of acid rain and mercury are being developed for presentation to the Conference in June 1998.

The Northeast International Committee on Energy (NICE) actively followed changes in the energy marketplace, particularly in response to deregulation in New England and exciting energy developments in Eastern Canada. The Committee is preparing an energy profile report for presentation at the June 1998 Conference.

Preparations for a “Northeastern Business Forum” are well underway, to be held in April 1998. Québec is hosting this Forum, with a focus on market liberalization and strategic alliances.

APPENDIX I - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OPERATING SUMMARY¹

Council's Consolidated Fund, under the control of Council and Regional Treasury Board, is the framework through which activities are financed. The following excerpts from the audited financial statements show the Consolidated Fund revenue and expenditures.

	1998		1997
	Budget	Actual	Actual
Revenue			
Province of New Brunswick	1,113,918	1,098,430	1,070,574
Province of Nova Scotia	1,434,670	1,360,123	1,409,777
Province of Prince Edward Island	243,146	240,371	241,609
Other	<u>617,552</u>	<u>1,107,045</u>	<u>985,326</u>
	<u>3,409,286</u>	<u>3,805,969</u>	<u>3,707,286</u>
Expenditures			
Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation (grant)	214,374	214,374	218,749
Champlain Institute (grant)	157,500	120,000	108,750
Council Secretariat	1,227,030	1,306,741	1,266,457
Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board	297,500	296,048	356,368
Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission	468,382	427,536	428,608
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission - Administration	882,500	1,129,332	1,066,206
Oceans Institute of Canada (grant)	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
	<u>3,297,286</u>	<u>3,544,031</u>	<u>3,495,138</u>
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure	<u>112,000</u>	<u>261,938</u>	<u>212,148</u>

¹ Audited financial statements are available upon request to the Council Secretariat.



APPENDIX II - COUNCIL DIRECTORY

Council Secretariat

Council of Maritime Premiers

P. O. Box 2044

Halifax, Nova Scotia

B3J 2Z1

Keith Wornell, Secretary Tel: (902)424-7590

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www.cmp.ca

Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation

P. O. Box 2044

Halifax, Nova Scotia

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Barbara Murray, Secretary Tel: (902)424-5352

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www.apecf-fepa.org

Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board

6100 University Avenue

Halifax, Nova Scotia

B3H 3J5

Donald Smeltzer, Executive Director Tel: (902)494-3712

ads23@ac.dal.ca

www.munisource.org

Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission

263 Harbour Drive, Suite 7

Harbour Quay Building

Summerside, Prince Edward Island

C1N 5P1

Ted Andrews, Director of Racing Tel: (902)888-3489

mphrc@pei.sympatico.ca

Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission

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Fredericton, New Brunswick

E3B 5H1

Carmelita Boivin-Cole, Chief Executive Officer Tel: (506)453-2844

mphec@mphec.ca

www.mphec.ca



APPENDIX III - MARITIME/ATLANTIC COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATIONS²

Aircraft Engineers Association (Atlantic) Inc.	Atlantic Provinces Hatchery Federation
Archeological Institute of the Maritimes	Atlantic Provinces Library Association
Arts Atlantic	Atlantic Provinces Pharmacy Council
Association of Atlantic Universities	Atlantic Provinces Ready-Mixed Concrete Association
Atlantic Agri-Products Competitiveness Council	Atlantic Provinces Restaurant & Foodservices Association
Atlantic Association of Applied Economists	Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority
Atlantic Association of Broadcasters	Atlantic Provinces Telecommunications Council
Atlantic Building Supply Dealers Association	Atlantic Provinces Towel Trades Conference
Atlantic Canada Centre for Environmental Science	Atlantic Provinces Transportation Commission
Atlantic Canada On-Line	Atlantic Provinces Trucking Association
Atlantic Canada Tourism Program	Atlantic Publishers Association
Atlantic Canada Trail Riding Association	Atlantic Region Education Association
Atlantic Canada World Trade Centre, Halifax	Atlantic Region Management Training Centre
Atlantic Career Development Network	Atlantic Research Centre for Mental Retardation
Atlantic Coast Scallop Fishermen's Association	Atlantic Snow Crab Association
Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee	Atlantic Universities Athletic Association
Atlantic Community Newspaper Association	Atlantic Veterinary College
Atlantic Consultation Committee on Communications	Atlantic Wood Truss Fabricators Association
Atlantic Crime Prevention Headquarters	Champlain Institute
Atlantic Dairy Council	Comité de coopération intergouvernemental des affaires acadiennes et francophones
Atlantic Farm Credit Corporation	Conference of Atlantic Premiers
Atlantic Farmers Council	Consulting Technology Centre Atlantic
Atlantic Federation of Musicians	Council of Maritime Premiers
Atlantic Filmmakers' Co-operative	Eastern Canada Society for Cable Television Engineers
Atlantic Health Promotion Centre	Educational Publishing Development Program Board
Atlantic Home Based Business Network Inc.	Fédération des scouts de l'Atlantique
Atlantic Home Warranty Program	Fédération Régionale Acadienne des Pêcheurs Professionnels
Atlantic Insurance Industry-Consumer-Government Committee	Genealogical Institute of the Maritimes
Atlantic Lottery Corporation	Institute of Certified Management Consultants of Atlantic Canada
Atlantic Maritime Trades Association	Maritime Angus Association
Atlantic Masonry Research and Advisory Bureau	Maritime Association of Native Firefighters Inc.
Atlantic Pest Control Association	Maritime Association of Professional Sign Language Interpreters
Atlantic Planning Institute	Maritime Boating Association
Atlantic Police Academy	Maritime Centre of Excellence for Women's Health
Atlantic Procurement Coordinating Committee	Maritime Committee for Archaeological Cooperation
Atlantic Provinces Agricultural Services Coordinating Committee	Maritime Fishermen's Union
Atlantic Provinces Art Gallery Association	Maritime Forest Rangers School
Atlantic Provinces Association of Landscape Architects	Maritime Forestry Complex Corporation
Atlantic Provinces Athletic Therapists Association	Maritime Hereford Association
Atlantic Provinces Chamber of Commerce	Maritime Limousine Association
Atlantic Provinces Council on Sciences	
Atlantic Provinces Economic Council	
Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation	

² This is a sample listing of regional organizations and is not intended to be a complete inventory.



Maritime Lumber Bureau
Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board
Maritime Professional Photographers Association
Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission
Maritime Provinces Transportation Commission
Maritime Sales Association
Maritime Shorthorn Association
NEG-ECP Committee on the Environment
NEG-ECP Coordinating Committee
NEG-ECP Northeast International Committee on Energy
(NICE)
Oceans Institute
Professional Association of Residents & Interns of the
Maritime Provinces
Regional Treasury Board
Steering Committee on Regional Cooperation
The Atlantic Fertilizer Institute



APPENDIX IV - ATLANTIC CANADA SOCIAL INDICATORS -- 1996

	NB	NF	NS	PEI
POPULATION				
July 1 (000s)	753.3	553.2	936.3	136.6
Annual growth	.04	<1.3>	.54	.29
Immigration	668	561	3,734	125
Emigration	1,030	287	893	78
FAMILY				
Birth rate (per 1,000)	10.7	9.9	11	12.4
Marriage rate (per 1,000)	4.1	4.4	4.1	5.06
Divorce rate (per 1,000)	1.0	0.8	1.05	.78
LABOUR FORCE				
Total employment (000s)	313	190	385	60
- goods sector (000s)	95.8	60	108	22.3
- service sector (000s)	266.6	176.1	338.6	48.8
Total unemployment (000s)	46.4	44.3	54.7	10.6
Unemployment rate (%)	11.7	19.4	12.6	14.5
Part-time employment (%)	14.6	13.3	18.1	14.8
Women's participation rate (%)	52.5	47.5	52.6	59.2
Unionization rate (% of paid workers)	30	41	31	29
INCOME				
Median family income	40,150	37,691	39,796	41,511
Average family income	46,284	43,564	45,087	47,414
% of families with low income (1992 base)	13.5	16.1	15.4	11.3
Women's full-time earnings as a % of men's	61.7	69.7	68.1	70.2
EDUCATION				
Elementary and secondary enrollment (000s)	136.77	110.9	167.96	24.7
Full-time postsecondary enrollment (000s)	23.152	19.204	36.549	3.421
Doctoral degrees awarded	38	28	86	-
Government expenditure on education (as a % of GDP)	5.5	6.7	5.5	6.1
HEALTH				
% of deaths due to cardiovascular disease - men	25.7	28	27.2	28.2
- women	25.7	27.3	25.5	30.6
% of deaths due to cancer - men	29.1	27.5	29.1	27.6
- women	26.2	24.8	26.8	24.7
Government expenditure on health (as a % of GDP)	6.3	7.5	7.3	6.2
JUSTICE				
Crime rates (per 100,000) - violent	905	969	1119	814
- property	3302	2703	4018	3505
- homicide	1.18	1.22	1.9	.72
ECONOMIC INDICATORS				
GDP (at market prices) - annual % change	2.1	2.0	3.4	2.7
Annual inflation rate (%)	1.9	2.1	2.1	1.2
Urban housing starts	1600	1,100	2,700	300

Sources: Statistics Canada
Atlantic Provinces Economic Council



NOTES

