



Atlantic Provinces Community  
College Consortium

Consortium des collèges  
communautaires des  
provinces de l'Atlantique

# APCCC Communicator

## **APCCC Meets with Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training**

In keeping with the MOU establishing the framework for the Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium, representatives from the APCCC Board of Directors met with the Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training (CAMET) on August 31, 2005. This was to provide an overview of its activities for the 2004 – 2005 year and to inform the ministers of the activities planned for the current year. The meeting also provided the opportunity to inform the ministers of the important role Atlantic colleges play in the social and economic development of the region and to discuss issues and challenges faced in carrying out that role. The ministers were receptive to the presentation and acknowledged that the work of the consortium is supportive and complementary to their agenda.

## **Annual Report Published**

APCCC published its first formal report in August for the year ended March 31,

2004. The report which provides background information on the consortium, as well as an overview of the key accomplishments for the period, is available in electronic format by contacting the Executive Director of APCCC at [cyril.farrell@cna.nl.ca](mailto:cyril.farrell@cna.nl.ca)

## **APCCC Board Welcomes New Members**

With a number of recent senior appointments at colleges in Atlantic Canada, the APCCC board has some new members at the table. Dr. Joan McArthur – Blair, President, Nova Scotia Community College, has replaced Ray Ivany who recently retired from NSCC. Dr. Brian McMillan, former VP (Programs) at Holland College and now President of that College has assumed the position as chair of the Board for the 2005-2006 year. Jeanette MacAulay, VP, Development and External Relations at Holland College who returned to the PEI Government was replaced on the APCCC board by Michael O'Grady Executive Director (Programs). Welcome aboard everyone!

## **Roundtable on Improving Competitiveness and Productivity in Atlantic Canada**

With the support of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, the consortium facilitated a roundtable on improving competitiveness and productivity in Atlantic Canada. This roundtable brought together 45 participants from governments and organizations to engage in “solutions - oriented” discussions regarding

- Literacy/under-education
- Seasonal workers/demographic changes
- Aboriginal needs
- Applied research/innovation; technology adaptation/adoption; and commercialization
- Immigration needs and constraints

The results of the one and a half days of interactive dialogue will be captured in a formal report by the end of November and will point to:

- A solid agreement that the community college system has a practical, indeed a vital role to play in impacting productivity and competitiveness issues.
- A commitment from Community College participants that they would carry this message back to their organizations
- A new realization among other government partners of the power the college system has to take action.
- A clear shortlist of areas where focus can lead to practical pilot projects.

- A sense of the partners who need to be involved in these projects to make them a success.



*A roundtable moment*

## **Planning Underway For ITC Symposium**

Colleges have been providing quality programs in information technology for many years and in an ever changing technology environment will provide this training into the future. In order to stay on the leading edge, it is important for colleges to learn from each other and from the industry they serve. Hence, APCCC, along with government partners, is planning an Information Technology and Communications Symposium for May 2006 in Halifax. The exact dates will be confirmed in the coming weeks. If you are connected to IT programming, supporting programs through the provision of labour market information or providing program administration, then this will be an event that you will want to attend. More information will be made available as the plans unfold.

## **Research Analyst Hired**

It is important that Atlantic community colleges are understood and recognized as major contributors to the social and economic development of the region. It is equally important for colleges to fully understand regional issues in order to inform discussion and directions. The APCCC board recognizes that that level of understanding can best occur when messaging is based on reliable and accurate information. To ensure this occurs, the Board has hired Lynn Bowen Avery as a research analyst to work closely with the Executive Director to research and analyze regional issues to:

- Inform messages that will lead to a better recognition of the impact colleges have on the lives of so many Atlantic Canadians as well as on the productivity and competitiveness of Atlantic businesses and industries
- Inform collaborative and cooperative initiatives that are in keeping with the regional mandate of the consortium
- Inform discussion with government bodies, such as CAP, CAMET, Federal regional caucus groups, government agencies such as ACOA, Service Canada, research granting agencies etc.
- Enhance the regional profile of colleges in Atlantic Canada
- Support the work of individual colleges.

Welcome Lynn!

## **Another Successful ACDI -**

As the years go by, The Atlantic Colleges Development Institute (ACDI) continues to be a significant forum for meeting, in part, the professional development needs of colleges in Atlantic Canada. The 2005 ACDI was noted by many participants as one of the most significant PD events that they've ever attended. This, in large part, was due to the 60 + participants who came to the institute with the goal of learning and sharing and yes having some fun while doing both.

The institute entitled "Designing a Learning Centered College" was the third in a series on this theme. The previous two were for administrators and faculty. The 2005 institute was designed for support staff, a key group of employees who contribute immensely to our colleges being truly learning-centered.

The 2005 ACDI was a highly interactive forum that engaged participants from all colleges in Atlantic Canada in a dialogue on the design, creation and implementation of learning colleges. Individuals had the opportunity to make personal meaning of their learning through activities that also provided the tools and confidence to play an important role in their own learning-colleges.

The week long event, which was held at the Coast Guard College in Sydney, NS, was hosted by the Nova Scotia Community College. Hats off to all NSCC staff for an absolutely super event!

## **Meetings with NSERC**

Colleges continue to build relationships that are supportive of their mandates. With Applied Research and Innovation taking on a more and more prominent role at colleges throughout the Atlantic Provinces, building relationships with granting councils such as the National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) is important. As a result, the APCCC Board invited the Dr. Yves Gagnon, Visiting Executive,

Atlantic Regional Office, NSERC, to participate in a board meeting designed to inform the NSERC office of the work of APCCC members in the areas of applied research and innovation and to learn more about how colleges can connect to the work of NSERC. The meeting was productive and has since lead to Dr. Gagnon meeting with the APCCC Applied Research Network to discuss how we can strengthen the relationship.

## **APCCC Hosts Networking Session during 2005 ACCC Conference**

For the sixth year in a row, APCCC has hosted a reception for Atlantic Delegates to the Annual Conference of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges. The 2005 annual conference hosted by the New Brunswick Community College / Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick which was held in Moncton provided the opportunity for approximately 100 delegates to participate in this networking opportunity. As in previous years, Atlantic delegates used the event to meet their Atlantic counterparts, re-acquaint themselves with old friends and to learn more about all of the great things that are happening at Atlantic Colleges.

## **APCCC Presents to House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance**

On October 31, Dr. Joan McArthur-Blair and Dr. Brian McMillan presented at the Pre-Budget Consultations held by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. The presentation was designed to provide members of the committee with information on the significant contribution that colleges make to Atlantic Canada and to highlight some of the challenges that colleges face in serving the needs of the region. Specifically the discussion around the challenges focused on:

- Infrastructure renewal
- Literacy and under education
- Applied research and Innovation
- Immigration
- Access to Skills Training

The presentation, which generated a number of questions from members of the committee, was well received.

### **Did You Know?**

Atlantic Community Colleges are engaged in applied research projects valued at approximately \$30 million

## **Atlantic College Students Shine at the 2005 Provincial and National Skills Canada Competitions**

We know where you can find lots of medals. They can be found proudly displayed by Atlantic college students who won them at the 2005 Provincial and National Canadian Skills Competitions. In fact if you were to total the number of provincial and national winners you will be able to find nearly 120 medals in all. Congratulations to all who participated coached and won the medals!

## **Hats Off To NBCC/CCNB for Being Great Hosts**

Under the able chairmanship of Michel Thériault and the strong team of organizers from NBCC / CCNB working in concert with ACCC conference planners, the 2005 ACCC Annual Conference was rated as a great success. There were many excellent presentations, keynote speakers, and exhibitors who combined to provide an excellent professional development opportunity for hundreds of college employees and supporters from all across Canada. That coupled with the warm hospitality of New Brunswickers made this an event to remember.

## **Tourism and Hospitality Educators participate in Professional Development Activities.**

Hosted by the Nova Scotia Community College, tourism instructors and administrators Atlantic community colleges were treated to the type of hospitality tourists expect when they met for their annual conference in Halifax from May 31 to June 2, 2005. At the same time, participants learned about what's important to the tourism industry in Atlantic Canada and how to support the industry through the delivery of quality programming. This annual event, which is an activity of the Atlantic College Tourism Educators Consortium, provided 40 participants from all colleges in Atlantic Canada the opportunity to share ideas, meet colleagues and to explore first hand tourism sites to learn by doing. Great job NSCC for hosting in fine tourist style!

## 2006 Skills Canada National Competition to be held in Halifax

For the first time, the 12<sup>th</sup> Canadian Skills Competition (CSC) and Career Showcase will be held in Atlantic Canada. The event is hosted by Skills Canada~Nova Scotia in Halifax, NS, May 23-26, 2006 at the Halifax Metro Centre, World Trade and Convention Centre, and Nova Scotia Community College.

Secondary, post-secondary, and apprentice level students will compete for two days in over 40 different skilled trades, technology, and employability contests. Contest areas include carpentry, graphic design, culinary arts, and landscape gardening, to name a few.

Participating students will qualify to compete in the Canadian Skills Competition by earning a gold medal in their respective provincial/territorial competitions. Select medalists from the Canadian Skills Competition then form Team Canada, and travel to the World Skills Competition (a bi-annual event).

There are tours for school groups, community groups, and general public of the interactive Career Showcase as well as the competition areas to showcase the skills being demonstrated. Schools from all Atlantic Provinces will be invited to come and participate in this event. Over 5000 visitors including school tours are predicted to visit the CSC.

All four Atlantic Provinces will be showcased throughout the event in order for the participants to experience true East Coast hospitality.

How can you become involved?

- Register online as a volunteer for the CSC (over 500 volunteers needed!)
- Be a sponsor of a portion of the competition and receive great benefits
- Inform Skills Canada~Nova Scotia of opportunities in your local area to promote the CSC

For more information, contact Skills Canada~Nova Scotia at (902) 424-5193 or visit <http://skillsns.ednet.ns.ca/>



## **Holland College Hosts PLAR Workshop**

Each year APCCC holds a workshop on an important area of interest to Atlantic colleges. This year APCCC's Professional Development Task Group, under the capable leadership of Gerry Seaward, recognized the tremendous need for colleges to understand more about Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) and they immediately began planning for the annual workshop that focused on that theme. The result was a very successful professional development activity for approximately 70 college employees. The workshop was designed to be very hands on and provided participants with new ideas, tools and resources to use in designing flexible assessment practices for PLAR. In addition participants were guided through the PLAR process and systems and learned from the best practices of workshop leaders and participants. Now the real work begins for participants – applying their new and improved PLAR skills



*Our Latest Experts - PLAR Workshop Participants October 2005.*



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Community Colleges...  
key to building  
**Productivity**  
&  
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in Atlantic Canada



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