



APCCC Communicator

APCCC Welcomes New Board Chair

On September 1, 2006 APCCC welcomed Dr. Joan McArthur-Blair, President of Nova Scotia Community College as its new Board Chair for 2006-2007. She replaced Dr. Brian McMillan, President of Holland College who served for the 2005-2006 year.

APCCC looks forward to working closely with Dr. Joan McArthur-Blair during her term. With the strong commitment to the goals and objectives of the Consortium that she has exhibited during the short time she has been with NSCC coupled with the strong foundation left by former chairs, APCCC will continue to be a strong vehicle for regional collaboration among Atlantic Canada's community colleges.



APCCC Annual Report

The 2005 – 2006 APCCC Annual Report was recently published and distributed to the Council of Atlantic Premiers, Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training, other strategic organizations and electronically to all college employees in Atlantic Canada. The document provides an overview of the many activities that have been undertaken by the Consortium during the reporting period.

Participation in OECD Study

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has initiated a large international study on the role of institutions of higher learning in regional development. This study involves 14 countries including Canada and more specifically the Atlantic Canada region. APCCC along with the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council (APEC), the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU), Memorial University's Harris

Center for Public Policy Development and others, has been actively involved in providing the appropriate information to support the study. Thanks to college institutional research staff for the significant contribution they've made to this project. We hope that the end result will be a document that informs our colleges on best practices in regional economic development. We also believe that our contribution to the study will inform others about the many great practices undertaken by our colleges in supporting regional development.

Formation of Business and Tourism Studies Network

In line with its 2006 -2007 Business Plan, APCCC has established a "Community of Practice" in Business and Tourism Studies. The first face-to-face meeting of the network was held in Halifax on June 12, 2006 for the purpose of identifying activities that would add value to business and tourism programming in the Atlantic region. Potential action items identified were: professional development for faculty; development of an inventory of on-line courses that could assist students in meet their programming requirements; and identifying areas of research that would support college programming efforts. A fall meeting is planned to map out a go-forward strategy for the work of this network.

New Name - Same Commitment

The Professional Development Task Group has a new name – **The Strategic Organizational Learning Task Group**. At a spring meeting of the task group it was determined that the scope of work undertaken by the group was more in line with strategic organizational needs and as such a name change was recommended to reflect that role. Hence the new name. However, you can be assured of the same level effort and great professional development opportunities that we have seen from this group over the years. Great work folks!

DID YOU KNOW?

A 1% increase in mean literacy skills relative to the international average can raise labour productivity by 2% (Canadian Labour Congress, 2005)

Workshop on Services to Students with Special Needs

From May 17 to 19, 2006 NBCC, Miramichi Campus hosted a very successful workshop designed to assist college employees to better understand the various disabilities that students bring with them to colleges and the impact these disabilities have on learning. Embedded in this focus was the opportunity to share knowledge and best practices in the provision of services to students with disabilities.

The workshop was attended by approximately 50 participants from colleges in the region and included keynote speakers and interactive learning opportunities. One of the highlights of the event was an address by Gary Malkowski, a renowned speaker who brought a strong message that persons with disabilities have a lot to offer our society. He was a prime example. He is a hearing impaired individual who has held very senior positions in government, is very well educated and is a sought after conference speaker (with assistance from a translator).

Thanks to the great work of the NBCC organizing committee, with the support of the APCCC's Strategic Organizational Learning Task Group, participants enjoyed a great learning and networking opportunity.



Special Needs Workshop Participants

ICT Symposium

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) programming is an integral component of college programs in Atlantic Canada. ICT is also integral to the economic engines of the region. In recent years, post-secondary institutions throughout the country have seen declines in enrolments resulting in fewer graduates to feed a growing industry. APCCC felt that it was time to take a closer look at this issue which resulted in its hosting of an ICT

Symposium in Halifax on October 19 and 20. This symposium, attended by over 70 participants from business, industry, sector organizations, college faculty, administrators and students, as well as government representatives, focused on the role colleges and industry must play to ensure that Atlantic employers have a ready supply of ICT trained persons to meet their growing demand. A symposium report containing recommendations for follow-up will be published in November 2006.



ICT Symposium participants

DID YOU KNOW?

- According to Industry Canada, as of June 2005 there were 2,206 ICT establishments in Atlantic Canada.
- Over the past three years, national enrolment in post-secondary ICT programs has declined on average by 50 per cent.
- Software Human Resource Council estimates there are approximately 35,000 new ICT jobs created every year in Canada.

Guide to Block Transfer Agreements

In 2006 APCCC published, for the first time, a Guide to Block Transfer Agreements. This guide, published in compact disk format, identified over 200 block transfer agreements that have been negotiated by colleges on behalf of their students. 1500 copies were published and distributed to college recruitment staff and sent to high school guidance counselors and other career counseling agencies throughout Atlantic Canada. Work is currently underway to update the guide for republishing in 2007.



Early Childhood Education Community of Practice

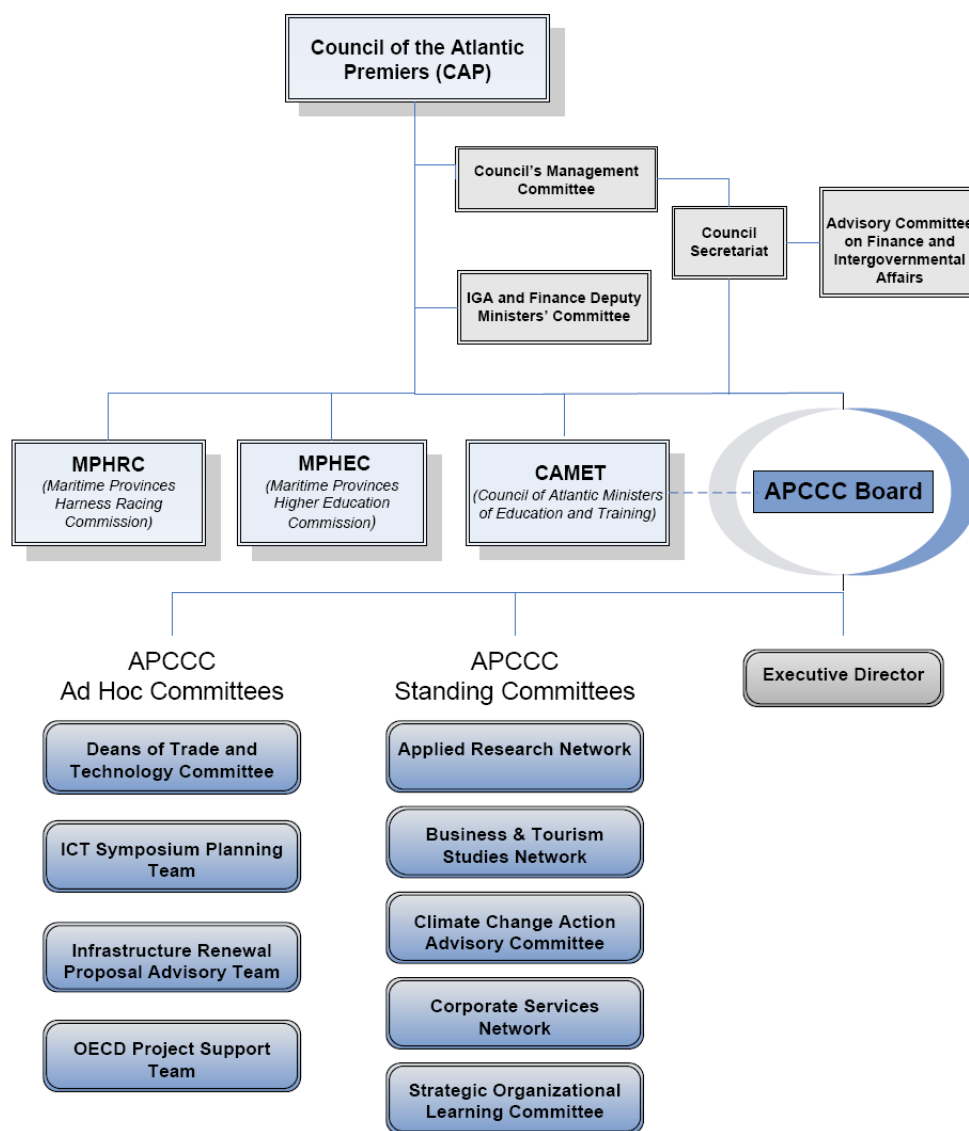
In developing its 2006-2007 business plan the APCCC looked to The Council of Atlantic Premiers Action Plan for 2005 - 2008 for guidance in the development of its goals and objectives. One of the areas noted was the Premiers' desire to explore best practices and share information on early learning and child care so that families and children will benefit from higher quality programs. To support the Premiers with this goal, APCCC's business plan included an objective that led to the establishment of a community of practice in early childhood education. To date one meeting has been held with early learning program deans and managers to explore the benefits of forming this network and to plan next steps. Those who participated expressed the view that this network will add value to programs and services in early learning and indeed other social programming areas.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Construction Sector Council publishes a great tool for program planning for construction trades. Check it out at:

<http://www.csc-ca.org/pdf/ConstructionLF-Atlantic.pdf>

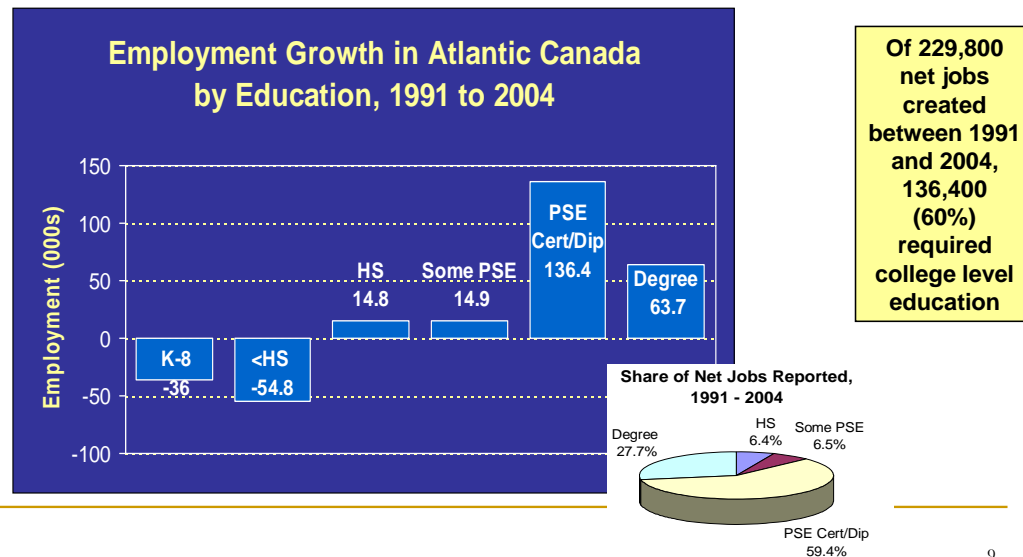
**Did you know where APCCC fits into the Atlantic regional structure?
This organizational chart will help you better understand.**



Executive Director Appointed to National Advisory Group for the Adult Learning Knowledge Network (ALKN)

Cyril Farrell, APCCC's Executive Director, was recently appointed to the National Advisory Group for the Canadian Council on Learning's ALKN. To date the group has had one introductory meeting. A fall 2006 meeting is planned for the purpose of developing a work plan. Involvement in this group will serve as a great conduit for connecting colleges to the activities and opportunities that can arise for this organization.

Did you know how critical colleges are in providing a skilled workforce in Atlantic Canada? Take a look for the answer.



APCCC Board Meets with Strategic Guests

The APCCC Board has made it a point of inviting strategic guests to their board meeting in an effort to build a stronger awareness of the importance of colleges to Atlantic Canada's social and economic development. Most recently, the Board has hosted Elizabeth Beale, President and CEO of the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council, Jim Quigley, President of the Atlantic Provinces Chambers of Commerce, Claire LePage, Director General for Industry Canada in the Atlantic Region, and the Atlantic Apprenticeship Council.

NBCC / CCNB Hosts ICEED Conference

From September 28th to 30th approximately 60 post-secondary educators and leaders from Mexico, the United States and Canada were in Fredericton to attend the International Consortium for Education and Economic Development (ICEED) Conference hosted by NBCC/CCNB. The agenda included presentations ranging from student experiences with international exchanges to program renewal processes. As well, time to network on potential international transfer agreements and exchanges was part of the program. As usual, NBCC / CCNB were great hosts.

More information on ICEED can be obtained at www.iceed.com

Upcoming Events

- **Deans responsible for skilled trades programs to meet with Atlantic Directors of Apprenticeship January 31-Feb 1, 2007 (tentative).**

The purpose of this meeting is to explore issues that impact apprenticeship training such as:

- Apprentices registering without college training
 - Better engagement of employers
 - The changing source of students and how to collectively respond
 - Sharing the burden related to essential skills, PLAR, remediation, etc.
 - Improving retention of apprentices as a means to addressing skills gap
 - Cooperation on promotion, particularly to aboriginals and other under-represented groups
 - Research to better understand issues affecting apprenticeship
- **Atlantic Colleges Development Institute (ACDI) with a focus on the program development process in the learning college – Spring 2007**

College of the North Atlantic, of behalf of APCCC's Strategic Organizational Learning Task Force (formerly the ACDI Steering Committee) and in support of the APCCC Business Plan, is in the preliminary stages of designing a workshop on the Program Development Process in the Learning College. Program Development leaders and practitioners at each of the four member colleges have been invited to provide input on both the program and process for this event, which is scheduled to take place in late Spring 2007 in Newfoundland and Labrador. The goal is to develop a learning experience that will meet the specific needs and interests of participants, in the process of fostering a spirit of sharing and collaboration among the four provinces.

A detailed program agenda, including information on dates and venue, will be available early in the New Year.

For more information, or to provide input, please contact Sheldon Brown, Coordinator, Learning and Teaching Initiative, CNA, at Sheldon.brown@cna.nl.ca or by telephone at 709-643-7727.

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