

# **COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

**ACTIVITY REPORT**  
**Academic Year**  
**September 2002 - August 2003**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Overview .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Highlights/Accomplishments .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Activities .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Opportunities and Challenges Ahead .....</b>	<b>3</b>

## 1.0 OVERVIEW

The Newfoundland & Labrador Council on Higher Education (CHE), a joint venture of Government and the Province's two public post-secondary institutions is chaired by the Deputy Minister, Department of Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education. Membership on the Council consists of senior executives from the Department of Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education, the Department of Education, Memorial University and the College of the North Atlantic (CNA) as well as a representative of the K-12 Directors of Education. A Senior Policy Analyst funded jointly by the Council members and housed within the Department of Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education, acts as the Secretary to the Council and serves as a liaison for Council and committee members.

CHE was formed in 1992 as a permanent body and operates under a Protocol Agreement with a mandate to:

- provide advice on province-wide policy and planning issues; and
- develop a mechanism and process for enhanced coordination and articulation among and across sectors of the public education system.

## 2.0 HIGHLIGHTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### During 2002-03:

- ▶ Executive Committee of Council was created consisting of Presidents of Memorial University and the College of the North Atlantic as well as the Deputy Ministers of the Departments of Education and Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education.
- ▶ Council directed the Articulation, Transfer and Admissions Committee (ATAC) to proceed with implementing a new form of reporting structure where the Associate Deans (undergraduate) or equivalent at Memorial University and Chairs of Schools at the College of the North Atlantic will be responsible for specific articulation issues.
- ▶ A subgroup was established under ATAC to review the Council's principles and guidelines on credit transfer to ensure consistency with the *CMEC Ministerial Statement on Credit Transfer* with a report to be tabled at the next Council meeting.
- ▶ The College-University Transfer Year (CUTY) program was expanded to a fifth College of the North Atlantic campus in Happy Valley - Goose Bay, and Science courses were added to the course offerings at the Carbonear campus. Currently, 33 courses are transferrable from the College to Memorial University.

- ▶ The ninth edition of the CHE Transfer Guide 2002-03 was published. For 2002/03, 295 courses were transferrable between Memorial, the Marine Institute and the College of the North Atlantic. There were also 14 block transfer agreements in place between Memorial University and the College. Additionally senior high school students at various provincial schools were able to avail of 26 Advanced Placement (AP) and 28 International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. One Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Memorial and the College that will see the two institutions working as equal partners to advance their presence and accessibility in the Labrador region.
- ▶ Six students were accepted to the Concurrent Studies Program and 195 AP students and 31 IB students were awarded transfer credit to Memorial University.
- ▶ Comprehensive Economic Development Agreement (CEDA) funded two years (2002-03 and 2003-04) of a five-year international student recruitment project. An International Student Recruitment Steering Committee has been established consisting of representatives of all Council members and the relevant federal and provincial departments. The purpose of the project is to increase the number of international students in the province from over 400 to 2000 over a five-year period. During 2002-2003, provincial international student enrolment increased by 23.3% to 763. CEDA supplemented institutional international recruitment budget by \$236,695 during fiscal 2002-03.

### 3.0 ACTIVITIES

#### **During 2002-03:**

- ▶ Council had one meeting and discussed issues which included the revitalization of the Articulation, Transfer and Admissions Committee (ATAC); post-secondary mathematics performance; and international education.
- ▶ The Executive Committee of Council was formed because in recent years it has become apparent that the existing structure of Council is not conducive to achieving its mandate in the most effective and efficient manner. The Executive shall serve as a steering committee on policy matters and shall bring forward issues in respect of which it is anticipated that the Council may be required to formulate policies and proposals. It is intended that meetings of the Executive will be held twice annually, one at the commencement of the academic year to determine the year's policy agenda and one mid-way through the academic year to review progress.

The Working Group, which serves as a management committee to facilitate and expedite the work plan of Council, met once.

- ▶ ATAC met three times during the academic year. As many of ATAC's task and subgroups had become somewhat dysfunctional, changes were necessary to revitalize the articulation and reporting process. Proposed changes were ratified by Council in May and planning for a September implementation workshop for institutional officials commenced.
- ▶ Council was also involved in on-going activities to raise the profile of international education at the federal/provincial table. The International Student Recruitment Steering Committee met once during 2002-03 and discussed the international education activities of the institutional stakeholders. The International Education Subcommittee met three times during 2002-03 and is mandated to address international education issues within the public education system. An international coordination structure and the Terms of Reference were developed and ratified by Council in May.
- ▶ The failure rate of first-year Math students at Memorial and the College of the North Atlantic continues to be a major concern. As a result, the Council's Math Group met twice during the 2002/03 academic year and agreed to conduct a detailed analysis of the problem including identifying probable causes and making recommendations for Council's consideration. As of August 2003, the analysis was ongoing.

#### 4.0 OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

Council will continue to *function as a mechanism for active and meaningful cooperation among its members in joint planning and coordination of a variety of activities within the public post-secondary education system.*

- ▶ The recommended changes to the articulation and reporting process of ATAC will be implemented in 2003-04.
- ▶ A major initiative relative to international education was one of Council's priorities. This initiative will maintain a high degree of importance as Council attempts to respond to the opportunities that the demand for education as an export commodity is currently providing.
- ▶ Other principal issues such as the high failure rate of first-year Mathematics courses at MUN/CNA will continue to be of high priority to Council.
- ▶ In the next academic year, Council will continue to fulfil its mandate by providing a forum for collaboration on policy issues that challenge the province's education system.