

COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2004-05

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAIRPERSON’S MESSAGE	i
OVERVIEW	1
SHARED COMMITMENTS	2
HIGHLIGHTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS	3
OUTPUTS	6
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES AHEAD	7
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	8

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

November 1, 2005

Honourable Joan Burke
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to submit the 2004-05 Annual Report for the Council on Higher Education. The Council's fiscal year follows the academic calendar. Hence, this report covers the period from September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005.

The Council on Higher Education operates under a protocol agreement. Its mandate includes: providing a means for the fullest possible consultation and cooperation among public post-secondary institutions in areas of mutual interest and concern in post-secondary education and training; cooperating with other departments, institutions, agencies and special interest groups who share common interest in promoting the development of the post-secondary sector in Newfoundland and Labrador; and acting as an advisory body to the Government on province-wide policy and planning issues facing higher education, including issues related to the K-12 system that have a direct linkage to the post-secondary education sector.

The Council has been successful in meeting its mandate this past year as is indicated in the attached report.

My signature below is indicative of the Council's accountability for the results reported herein.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bruce Hollett", written in a cursive style.

BRUCE HOLLETT
Chairperson

OVERVIEW

The Newfoundland and Labrador Council on Higher Education (CHE) was formed in 1992 and is a joint venture of Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN), and College of the North Atlantic (CNA).

The mandate of the Council on Higher Education is 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.

Membership on the Council consists of:

- Senior executives from the Department of Education;
- The President and senior executives of Memorial University of Newfoundland;
- The President and senior executives of College of the North Atlantic; and,
- A representative of the K-12 Directors of Education.

The Deputy Minister of Education is Chairperson of the Council.

A Department of Education Senior Policy Analyst is funded jointly by the Council members and is Secretary to Council, serving as a liaison on behalf of the Council and its members.

The Council on Higher Education will also establish committees as needed to identify and investigate particular issues. There is currently one standing committee, the Articulation, Transfer and admissions Committee (ATAC). Other committees are established on an ad hoc basis depending on current policy and planning issues. Other committees of Council are the International Education Subcommittee and the Math Group.

SHARED COMMITMENTS

The Council is a tri-partite alliance between College of the North Atlantic (CNA), Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN), and the Department of Education. It was created on the basis of a Minute in Council (MC 0503-'91), and is designed as a permanent body operating under a Protocol Agreement. Council has been instrumental in establishing a post-secondary articulation framework between MUN and CNA, and in serving as a forum for addressing priority issues.

Council duties include:

- Functioning as a mechanism for active and meaningful cooperation among members in joint planning;
- Coordinating a variety of activities within the public education system;
- Acting as an advisory body to the Minister of Education on province-wide policy and planning issues facing the post-secondary sector in the Province;
- Providing direction with regard to province-wide initiatives while responding to new policy issues as they emerge;
- Serving as a clearinghouse in the exchange of information among members and the community at large; and
- Maintaining open lines of communication to the provincial learning network.

HIGHLIGHTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Articulation, Transfer and Admissions Committee

A workshop was held to finalize details of the revitalized Articulation, Transfer and Admissions Committee (ATAC) of Council. It was attended by senior officials from MUN, CNA and Department of Education. At the workshop, responsibilities of the institutional representatives were clearly outlined, and task groups were created in: Engineering; Senior High; Natural Resources; Business and Information Technology; Health Sciences; Common University Transfer Year; Applied Arts; Bachelor of Technology; and Fine Arts. Members of the task groups were tasked with: identifying potential areas of articulation; and, developing annual work plans for the 2004-05 academic year.

College of the North Atlantic

College of the North Atlantic continued to offer the College-University Transfer Year (CUTY) program at their five campuses in Burin, Carbonear, Grand Falls-Windsor, Labrador West, and Happy Valley – Goose Bay. CUTY is a program developed between the College and Memorial University of Newfoundland providing university credit for specific College courses. There are currently 36 courses which are transferable under CUTY arrangements. During this past year, two courses were added to the Physics course offerings at the Burin, Carbonear, Grand Falls-Windsor and Labrador West campuses. They were Physics 1130 and Physics 1131 which are equivalent to MUN's Physics 1050 and Physics 1051. CUTY enrolments, both full and part-time, were: 323 in fall 2004; 299 in winter 2005; and 54 during intersession 2005. Of the 512 CNA students who transferred to MUN, 222 were College Transfer Years.

Transfer Guide 2004-05

The eleventh edition of the Transfer Guide for 2004-05 was published. The Transfer Guide is an annual publication of the Council on Higher Education and lists established transfer of credit options which are available to students in Newfoundland and Labrador. For 2004-05, 321 courses were transferable between Memorial University, the Marine Institute and College of the North Atlantic. There were 14 block transfer agreements in place. The guide also lists 26 Advanced Placement and 28 International Baccalaureate courses that senior high school students can transfer to the institutions. Memorial University awarded transfer credit to 263 Advanced Placement students and 38 International Baccalaureate students.

(***Block Transfer** – occurs when a group of courses, often in the form of a certificate or diploma, is recognized for transfer credit. **Advanced Placement** – AP is a program of college level courses and examinations for high school students administered by the College Entrance Examination Board, headquartered in New York City, with a Canadian office in Kelowna, British Columbia.

International Baccalaureate – IB program is administered by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with regional offices worldwide. IBO offers to schools programs at three levels: Diploma (16-19 age group); Middle Years (ages 11-16); and Primary Years (ages 3-12). In this province, Holy Heart of Mary High School offers the IB Diploma Program. * www.bctransferguide.ca)

Concurrent Studies Program

Sixteen students were accepted to the Concurrent Studies Program. The program provides students with high academic standards an opportunity to enroll in university courses during their final year of high school.

Bachelor of Business Administration Program

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic enabling graduates of the College's three-year business diploma programs to gain admission to the University's Bachelor of Business Administration program. To be eligible for the Bachelor of Business Administration degree, College of the North Atlantic graduates will have to complete 45 credit hours beyond those used for their diploma.

Business Development Program International Education Project

The Business Development Program International Education Project is a \$1.8 million project which was approved, retroactive to August 26, 2004, in December 2004. It is designed to increase the enrolment of international students at Newfoundland and Labrador secondary and post-secondary educational institutions. The project's goal is to have 2000 international students studying in the Province by 2006-07. Project funding will expire on December 31, 2007.

Funding from the Comprehensive Economic Development Agreement (CEDA), which was previously used to attract international students to this province, expired in March 2004. Memorial University then submitted an application for funding from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency's (ACOA) Business Development Program on behalf of itself, the province, College of the North Atlantic and the Newfoundland International Student Education Program (NISEP). The Humber Education Alliance is also eligible for funding under this program. This funding will continue implementation of the province's international student recruitment strategy.

The funding breakdown is as follows:

- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency \$900,000
- Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development \$450,000
- Partner institutions (MUN, CNA, & NISEP) collectively \$450,000

MUN is the lead partner on this project.

The number of international students studying in Newfoundland and Labrador has increased by 9.3% from 763 in 2003 to 834 in 2004 (72% increase from 484 students in 2001). These students are enrolled in secondary institutions, as well as private and public post-secondary institutions.

White Paper on Public Post-Secondary Education

The Minister of Education released a major policy paper regarding Government's strategy for public post-secondary education on July 7, 2005. *Foundation for Success, White Paper on Public Post-Secondary Education* examined all aspects of Newfoundland and Labrador's public post-secondary education system, including the role of Council on Higher Education.

The White Paper directives include amendments to the legislation governing Memorial University of Newfoundland and College of the North Atlantic requiring each institution to demonstrate a greater connectedness with each other, stronger accountability to the public and their contribution to the social and economic development of the province. This will include:

- Three joint appointments to the University and College Boards;
- A reconfigured Council on Higher Education recognized in legislation; and
- A process of monitoring and reporting to the Council by the jointly-appointed members.

The multi-year implementation of the White Paper directives has commenced. New legislation for the Council on Higher Education is expected to be passed during the fall 2005 session in the House of Assembly.

OUTPUTS

Articulation, Transfer and Admissions Committee

The Articulation, Transfer and Admissions Committee (ATAC) met twice during 2004-05. The principal purpose of the meetings was to obtain updates from the task groups with regards to the following directives provided at the workshop:

- Identifying potential areas of articulation; and,
- developing annual work plans for the 2004-05 academic year.

Initially, the task groups were to submit their work plans for ATAC's approval by the end of November 2004. However, this deadline was not met. By the end of December 2004, seven of the nine work plans were received.

At the January 25, 2005 meeting, Chairs of the various task groups were appointed and all groups were requested to submit updated work plans to reflect their activities since the November 2004 submission. The deadline of March 31, 2005 was not met. As of May 27, 2005 only two updated work plans were received.

International Recruitment Activities

Key international recruitment activities focused on missions by Memorial University, College of the North Atlantic, Newfoundland International Student Education Program and the Humber Education Alliance to major and secondary target markets. The four major target markets are China, India, Korea and Mexico. The secondary markets are Belize, Bangladesh, Libya, Kazakhstan, Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand and Maine. A second mission to Bangladesh was planned but was cancelled due to political unrest in that country.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

In March 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Province and Citizenship and Immigration Canada permitting international students to work in Canada for two years after graduation. A second MOU that will allow international students to work off campus after six months of study is currently being finalized.

Implementation of White Paper directives pertaining to the Council will present both opportunities and challenges. New legislation for the Council on Higher Education is expected to be passed during the fall 2005 session in the House of Assembly. The new Council is expected to be created soon after the passage of the legislation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Council on Higher Education members are appointed on the basis of their official capacities as representatives of their respective institutions and receive no additional remuneration. The Secretary of the Council is a full-time position and the salary and benefits are jointly shared by Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic. The Department of Education provides office and support services to the position. The Council is not required to prepare financial statements.