

**Council of Maritime Premiers
Annual Report 1999-2000**

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.

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LETTER FROM THE PREMIERS



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernard Lord".

Bernard Lord, Premier
New Brunswick



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Hamm".

John Hamm, Premier
Nova Scotia



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Binns".

Pat Binns, Premier
Prince Edward Island

We are delighted to present the 1999-2000 Council of Maritime Premiers' annual report, which provides an overview of the activities of the Council and its agencies. The content outlined in this report reflects our continued commitment to the vitality of regional cooperation.

The numerous accomplishments outlined in this annual report have created positive spin-off effects for our Maritime citizens. These measures will strengthen our provinces and will create a strong and viable region. We recognize that these initiatives add value to our provincial programs and policies.

The period 1999-2000 was marked by a significant revitalization of Maritime and Atlantic intergovernmental cooperation. We acknowledge the need and benefits of undertaking a proactive approach on issues which are of common interest to our governments and citizens. The creation of a new Council of Atlantic Premiers, to supplement the work of the Council of Maritime Premiers, demonstrates our commitment to greater Atlantic cooperation.

The revitalized spirit of cooperation within the Council of Maritime Premiers has also helped us in our dealings with the federal government. By speaking with a common voice, we can exert more influence on the federal government. Greater dialogue and collaboration will provide the impetus for a regional voice on federal-provincial matters.

We would also like to recognize former Premier Brian Tobin of Newfoundland & Labrador for his continued support and commitment to Atlantic intergovernmental cooperation. During the past year, we have taken steps to solidify cooperation with the province of Newfoundland & Labrador, which will strengthen the region as we move into the new millennium.

The coming years will present new challenges for the Maritime and Atlantic provinces. We are committed to working together to build consensus that will lead to a stronger regional voice at the national level, enhanced economic growth, and improved and cost-effective delivery of public services.

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY

December 1, 2000

Premier Bernard Lord
Premier John Hamm
Premier Patrick Binns

On behalf of the Council agencies, I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Council of Maritime Premiers for the fiscal year 1999-2000.

The activities pursued by the Council and its agencies during 1999-2000, as reported in the annual report, reflect the tremendous amount of work conducted by your governments and the importance attributed to regional cooperation. I am extremely pleased by the commitment that agencies and line departments have demonstrated to fulfill the objectives of the Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all individuals who have contributed to a successful year.

In 1999-2000, the spirit of collaboration among the three Maritime provinces increased significantly with a renewed commitment by the premiers. The period 1999-2000 served to lay the foundation for continued collaboration in key sectors that are essential for the Maritime provinces to become a strong region within Canada and beyond.

The work of the secretariat continues to be challenging and rewarding. With a renewed commitment to regional cooperation, the secretariat will work closely with agencies and line departments in a professional manner to ensure that your vision and priorities are fulfilled.

By building on the successes of 1999-2000, the Council must continue to play an active and leadership role in advancing the interests of the Maritime provinces.

Sincerely,



Leo J. Walsh
Secretary

COUNCIL OF MARITIME PREMIERS - AN OVERVIEW

Background

The Council of Maritime Premiers (CMP) is the most significant symbol 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 is 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 the appropriate ministers, 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.

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.

Over the years, Maritime intergovernmental cooperation has expanded to include a variety of economic, social and public service priorities. Numerous institutions have been established, both within and outside the Council framework.

Overview of Meetings

The Council met twice in 1999-2000, and the premiers addressed several issues with the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador. The first meeting was held in Stellarton, NS and the second in Charlottetown, PEI. The following is a synopsis of the topics and issues addressed at these meetings:

- ⇒ commitment to regional cooperation;
- ⇒ cooperation in health;
- ⇒ cooperation in trade; and
- ⇒ common voice on federal/national issues.



During this period, Maritime and Atlantic premiers met on several occasions in conjunction with other regional and national events.



Premier Bernard Lord (NB), Premier John Hamm (NS), Premier Patrick Binns (PEI) at a press conference following the 98th Session of the Council of Maritime Premiers in Stellarton, NS in October 1999.

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 28-year history, the following line agencies have been created:

- ⇒ Maritime Resource Management Service (1972); merged with Land Registration and Information Service in 1987
- ⇒ 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 Secretariat are employees of the Council while the other Council agencies, except the Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation (APEF), 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. The Council organizational chart is presented in Appendix I.

A Regional Treasury Board (RTB), 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 RTB 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. An operating summary of the 1999-2000 financial statements are presented in Appendix II. Audited financial statements are available on request.

COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

The CMP Secretariat was established in 1971 to organize and expedite 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 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.

A committee of finance/treasury/management board ministers, with staff support from the Secretariat, oversees the administration of Council funds and employees.

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.

The Act sets out 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 activities, 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 and Labrador is a full participant in several regional matters and an observer in others. The CMP Secretariat serves CAP, with costs absorbed by the Council.

The regional strategic initiatives outlined in the next section include issues addressed by both the Maritime and Atlantic premiers.

REGIONAL STRATEGIC INITIATIVES - 1999-2000

The following are the accomplishments and initiatives undertaken by the Maritime/Atlantic premiers:

- ⇒ announced a commitment to regional cooperation to build on the goals of the Maritime Economic Cooperation Act (MECA) and to ensure a stronger united voice in dealings with the federal government;
- ⇒ announced a commitment to identify new opportunities and set clear priorities for future regional cooperation with special emphasis on a stronger regional voice at the national level, enhanced economic growth through cooperation, and improved and more cost-effective delivery of public services;
- ⇒ conducted a successful trade mission in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont in the spring of 1999 which involved representatives of 40 Atlantic Canadian companies;
- ⇒ announced they will lead a trade mission to southern New England states in May 2000 along with representatives of companies to build on existing partnerships and form new alliances;
- ⇒ directed departments of health to pursue regional solutions to achieving cost efficiencies in the delivery of services;
- ⇒ committed to continue dialogue with the federal government to protect Maritime interests on World Trade Organization issues, including:
 - ◆ elimination of export subsidies to ensure market access;
 - ◆ ensuring food safety measures are based on sound science and credible risk assessment; and
 - ◆ adoption of a level playing field regarding subsidies;
- ⇒ reaffirmed ongoing support for the long-standing Maritime/Atlantic exemption from export restrictions;
- ⇒ called on the federal government to:
 - ◆ establish a new long-term National Transportation Implementation Strategy to enhance safety and improve competitiveness of Maritime citizens and industries;
 - ◆ establish domestic policies to counter the pricing advantages of Canada's major shipbuilding competitors;

- ◆ restore the Canadian Health and Social Transfer (CHST) funding to 1994-1995 level by 2000-2001 and an increase in CHST cash transfer to secure adequate funding; and
- ◆ eliminate the cap on the Equalization Program and move to a 10-province standard and more comprehensive revenue coverage;
- ⇒ agreed on a new profit-sharing arrangement for Atlantic Lotto;
- ⇒ continued the Atlantic Insurance Legislation Harmonization Project, which includes analysis and review of the model act.

REGIONAL COOPERATION - MARITIME

MARITIME MUNICIPAL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Background

The Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board (MMTDB) was established in 1974 and is widely recognized in Canada for its leadership in advancing the quality of municipal training and distance education programming; improving information sharing and professionalism in the municipal public service; developing municipal decision-making resources; and promoting regional municipal cooperation, innovation, and excellence in service delivery. Its work has resulted in a better-trained, more knowledgeable and highly-skilled municipal government public service and has had a meaningful impact on the collective consciousness of municipal management across Canada.

Since 1990 the MMTDB has been a leading advocate for the Internet as an important decision-making resource for municipal government—as a medium to improve services, deliver training, encourage networking, promote tourism and economic development, and to provide a means for greater citizen access to government. The MMTDB’s information website WWW.MUNISOURCE.ORG was developed in 1995 as an “Internet doorway” for the municipal government community. This website has generated a significant level of interest, world-wide, and has provided the MMTDB with a growing international reputation as an important municipal government information provider.

Highlights

- ⇒ *redevelopment of MUNISOURCE to that of a fully functional data-based driven environment* - Currently more than 4000 municipalities and 200 municipal associations are directly linked from MUNISOURCE. The site provides access to sample human resource polices, sample job descriptions, access to on-line training, and a wealth of decision-making resources for employees and elected officials of municipal government.
- ⇒ *development of a citizen & government e-commerce “concept” website to promote an awareness of the benefits and possibilities for municipal government e-commerce transactions* - In this context, e-commerce means use of the Internet in such a manner as will allow a municipality’s customers to have access to financial transactions and to information services of their municipal governments, on-line. Services include, but are not limited to, the payment of municipal taxes, licenses, fines, fees, permits, utility accounts, recreation program registrations, and other like manner of financial transactions. The kind of website that is envisioned will also serve as a municipal



government web portal providing for contact with municipal staff and elected officials; access to reports, minutes, by-laws, zoning regulations, policies, job opportunities, surveys, tenders, community notices—and other resources of interest to those who live in, or who conduct business with, municipal governments in Atlantic Canada. The concept is currently under consideration by the MMTDB Management Board and may lead to development of a proposal in 2000-2001 for a municipal government e-commerce website for the Atlantic region.

- ⇒ *graduation of municipal government employees from an Internet-delivered program in Hyper Text Mark-up Language (HTML) - A basic course in HTML programming was developed by MMTDB staff to meet this particular need in municipal government. Sixteen municipal government employees from throughout the Maritime provinces received certificates of completion in 1999-2000. Further information on the HTML course may be accessed through WWW.MUNISOURCE.ORG or through WWW.DISTANCE-ED.COM.*

Throughout 1999-2000 MMTDB staff continued to respond to requests from municipal government stakeholders for information, advice and counsel on a variety of public service related topics and concerns. Additionally, organizational support was provided to individual municipalities, municipal associations, and provincial government departments on a broad range of subject areas, ranging from website development and maintenance to policy development, conference planning, professional certification, training, and distance education.

Although the MMTDB's operation and focus has constantly responded to changing economic realities, the primary mandate remains that of improving municipal governance and service delivery. Its work is undertaken in the belief that the quality of life in the Maritime provinces is significantly enhanced through knowledgeable and effective use of scarce municipal resources. While funding contributions over the past few years have created significant operational challenges, resulting in staff reductions and office closure, the MMTDB has continued to maintain situational legitimacy. Its record of accomplishment and innovation has enabled its principals to effectively facilitate, advocate, lead, innovate, and to be catalysts for positive change.

MARITIME PROVINCES HARNESS RACING COMMISSION

Background

In 1999, the Council of Maritime Premiers called for a review of the Commission. The Matrix Consulting Group was chosen for this work through an open proposal call. The following recommendations stemmed from the review: development of an effective communications strategy, upgrading of officials, strengthening of relationships with other regulatory agencies, and a thorough review of the Commission rulebook and procedures.

During the past year, several factors have intervened to change the operational flow of the Commission. The retirement of the former director of racing in October 1999 prompted a change in assignments and direction within the Commission. The Commission made a renewed commitment to revisit all operational and procedural aspects of the Commission. At the request of the respective ministers, a part-time director, Mr. Kent Oakes, was secured from February 22nd to August 31st, 2000.



A top priority in the planning process was the establishment of a new program for the training and evaluation of officials. The Commission identified the need to open expanded communication services with the harness racing industry participants. To this end, “paddock meetings” with horsemen, newsletters to the industry members and an open dialogue with industry groups were established.

Highlights

- ⇒ upgrade of the technology in the judges’ stands at the racetracks to improve services; and
- ⇒ rotation of judges among the Maritime racetracks has commenced with the intent to formalize and strengthen the regulatory aspect of the industry.

The Commission is committed to improving and expanding its regulatory responsibilities to the industry while offering expanded services to industry members and the wagering public.

Plans are underway to form a Rules Committee in each of the three provinces to review the bylaws, rules and regulations of the Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission. This Committee will consist of industry people. Another important step has been the Commission’s collaboration with other provincial racing commissions as well as a regular dialogue with the Canadian Pari-mutuel Agency.

The Commission, in cooperation with the Ontario Racing Commission, plans to hold a judges’ development seminar in April 2000 with a review workshop in mid-August in Charlottetown.

MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Background

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) was established in 1974 and serves as a “regional agency for post-secondary education.” In June 1997, the Ministers of Education of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island agreed, after extensive review, to renew and refocus the Commission’s mandate through an *Agreement Respecting the Renewal of Arrangements for Regional Cooperation Concerning Post-Secondary Education*. This renewed mandate was ratified by the Council of Maritime Premiers. Parallel legislation is being drafted in each of the three provinces to give effect to this Agreement.

The Commission’s renewed mandate is to: undertake measures intended 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 the Maritimes as well as interprovincial agreements 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

Planning Initiatives - The renewed Agreement calls for the submission of an MPHEC multi-year business plan on an annual basis. The first was submitted in August 1999 to the ministers and deputy ministers responsible for post-secondary education in the Maritimes. The August 1999 Multi-Year Business Plan, 1999-2000 through 2002-2003, provided an analysis of a number of major trends and issues facing Maritime post-secondary institutions and their stakeholders. An update to the August 1999 business plan is scheduled for release in August 2000.

Program Planning - Institutions are required to submit proposals for new or modified programs to the Commission for approval prior to implementation. Upon receipt, the vast majority of all program proposals undergo a cursory review, that is, they are reviewed by staff and granted automatic approval if they meet agreed-upon criteria. If a proposal does not meet the information requirements, additional clarification and information is sought from the submitting institution or the proposal is forwarded to the Academic Advisory Committee for an in-depth assessment. In 1999-2000, the Commission considered a total of 75 program proposals; of these, 45 programs were approved through the cursory review process, 20 programs were approved through in-depth assessment, four were reviewed and deferred, four were pending, and two were recorded for information only. At year end, the Commission had received another six proposals.

Enhanced Student Information System (ESIS) - The Commission continued in 1999-2000 to work in cooperation with Statistics Canada on the implementation of the Enhanced Student Information System (ESIS) in the Maritimes, the first region in the country to switch from reporting by way of the University Student Information System (USIS) to ESIS. ESIS takes a much more comprehensive look at students, capturing detail down to the course level, than did USIS. In fact, the Commission now collects 215 ESIS elements compared to 49 elements in USIS. To accommodate this significant increase in data, the Commission was busy preparing for the first 1999-2000 ESIS reports from institutions within the Commission's mandate.

Graduate Follow-up Survey - Ongoing, longitudinal surveys of graduate outcomes and satisfaction with their post-secondary education continues to be a priority. In 1999-2000, the MPHEC embarked on its first longitudinal survey—the pilot project involved interviewing the Class of 1996 four years after graduation. Preliminary results and analysis suggest some interesting trends in graduate outcomes. The final report is expected to be released in November 2000.

Research Capacity Project - In 1999-2000, the MPHEC received funding from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) to examine university research capacity in Atlantic Canada. As part of the project, a Research Project Steering Committee of vice-presidents, research and other senior research administrators from the majority of Atlantic Canada's 17 degree-granting institutions, came together to assess the current situation and to develop collaborative strategies. Initiatives included preparation of:

- ⇒ a background report, entitled *Report on Post-Secondary Research Trends in Atlantic Canada*, which examines trends in post-secondary research in Atlantic Canada as compared with national and international trends;
- ⇒ a strategy document, entitled *Securing our Future Together: A Renewal Strategy for Post-Secondary Research in Atlantic Canada*, which provides highlights from the background report and more importantly, summarizes the Steering Committee's strategies and proposals; and

- ⇒ an information package, entitled *Post-Secondary Research in Atlantic Canada*, which outlines the unique research niches and strategies of each participating post-secondary institution in Atlantic Canada.

MPHEC World Wide Website - The MPHEC website (www.mphec.ca) is fully bilingual and contains information about the Commission, its members and staff, its major stakeholders (including links to the websites of institutions within the MPHEC's mandate), major MPHEC publications, past and future MPHEC Conferences on the State of Higher Education, and other activities of the MPHEC. In 1999 the Commission began work on its "Maritime On-Line Database" (MOD) so as to facilitate access to data and "value-added" information products. Two of the six planned phases for MOD are now available on our website. These two phases include student enrolment data and credentials granted as well as faculty demographics.

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 Multi-Year Funding Plan - During 1999-2000, the New Brunswick Department of Education commissioned a study to establish a multi-year funding plan for New Brunswick's universities. A task force composed of representatives of New Brunswick's four universities, the MPHEC, the Department of Education and the New Brunswick Student Alliance was formed to provide advice in formulating the report. The report was submitted to the Department of Education in August 1999.

NB Special Projects Fund - The Commission administers funds under the New Brunswick Special Projects Funding initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to achieve results in eight targeted areas by allocating funding to universities and government for specific activities if the initiatives are in the interest of university education in New Brunswick. All requests for funding are analyzed by MPHEC staff prior to being forwarded to the Department of Education for decision on funding approval.

ACF EQUITY ATLANTIC

Background

ACF (the "Fund") is a \$30 million venture capital fund formed as a joint initiative of Canada's seven chartered banks, the four Atlantic provinces and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Its mandate is to make equity and quasi-equity investments in SME's within Atlantic Canada that possess a unique product, service or technology and are capable of generating significant growth.

The Fund's initial capital draw-down of \$12 million was supplemented with its committed draw-down of an additional draw-down of \$9 million in March of 2000. It is anticipated that the final draw-down of \$9 million will occur early in 2001.

Highlights

Operational since February of 1997, the Fund has aggressively surveyed almost 700 Atlantic Canadian companies and contacted over 350 of these. Most companies are technology-based and at an early stage. The Fund has now passed its start-up period, which was consumed with development of investment policy, identification of qualifying opportunities and education of the marketplace on the nature of venture capital. ACF now has a portfolio of 11 dynamic, young companies, located throughout the region, in industries ranging from functional genomics and stem cell research, through industrial automation technologies, e-commerce, software, remote sensing and even manufacturing of a new generation of acoustic guitars. Three additional investments have been identified which will likely be completed before calendar year-end. Investments have ranged from as small as \$100 thousand to as large as \$2 million. Companies are generally at early stages of development and require significant managerial support in order to succeed. ACF has assembled a strong multidisciplinary team of professionals in finance, accounting, engineering and strategic marketing/business development to assist portfolio companies in the development and execution of their commercialization strategies. This is done through board of directors' participation and regular contact.

The Fund has been very successful in leveraging its capital with other private sector investors, many from outside the region, and was involved in \$24 million of the \$61 million in venture capital investments completed in the region in 1999. Also, its first successful divestiture has been announced with the sale of one of its portfolio companies, FastLane Technologies, to Quest Inc., a U.S. public company based in California. ACF is forecast to double or triple the value of its \$2 million investment in FastLane as a result of this transaction and Quest has reaffirmed its intention to continue to employ and grow its base of over 100 highly-skilled workers in Halifax.

It is anticipated, as was originally projected in the Fund's initial business plan, that ACF will likely stop investing in new opportunities when its portfolio reaches 14 or 15 companies. This will likely occur in the early part of the next calendar year. As ACF's portfolio is made up of fairly young companies, significant follow-on investment will be required in each if they, and the Fund, are to succeed. Fund management recognizes the need and the desire of its investors to continue to grow a viable, sustainable venture capital industry in the Atlantic region. To this end, ACF and its Board are currently contemplating the raising of a new venture capital fund to continue new investment activity within the region for the future. Regional cooperation in this and similar initiatives will be crucial as ACF management believes that for reasons of critical mass and portfolio management economics, no one Atlantic Canadian province can sustain a viable venture fund on its own.

ATLANTIC CANADA ON-LINE (ACOL)

Background

Since its launch in 1997, Atlantic Canada On-Line (ACOL), the electronic information service, is already having an impact on the transition to e-government. ACOL is managed by Unisys Canada Inc., in partnership with the governments of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, under a Strategic Alliance Agreement signed by the four premiers and Unisys in May 1996. ACOL enables government clients in the Atlantic region, and across Canada, to electronically access information databases from their place of business and quickly retrieve, register, search, and update information. ACOL enables government departments to increase revenue from existing information and generate new sources of non-tax revenue through the introduction of new real-time services.



Highlights

The first database application, the Personal Property Registry (PPR) System for Nova Scotia went on-line in November 1997. This was followed by the Prince Edward Island Personal Property Registry System in April 1998, New Brunswick in April 1999, and Newfoundland and Labrador in December 1999, resulting in the first region-wide database application. Product and market development of other potential applications is ongoing: business registry access; electronic filings for court documents and judgment enforcement; driver abstracts; and land records. ACOL has been recognized for excellence in helping improve the delivery of government service in Canada. It was awarded a silver medal in the 1998 awards program at the Government Technology Exhibition Conference in Ottawa. It was also a laureate in the 1999 Computerworld Smithsonin Awards, recognizing innovative uses of information technology.

ATLANTIC COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SECTOR RENEWAL

Background

The idea for an Atlantic Committee on Public Sector Renewal was first discussed at the Atlantic Vision Conference in Moncton in October 1997 and was created following the conference. The Committee is comprised of the senior officials responsible for the public service in the four Atlantic provinces and is served by staff from the CMP.

The Committee was formed to advance the interests of all four provinces by sharing information on:

- ⇒ the challenges and opportunities facing the public service in each province;
- ⇒ the provinces' best practices and innovations in public sector governance, management and service delivery;
- ⇒ the identification of emerging issues;
- ⇒ promoting and recognizing excellence;
- ⇒ improving future practices;
- ⇒ informed decision-making;
- ⇒ strengthened public sector capabilities;
- ⇒ staff development; and
- ⇒ opportunities for collaboration.

The Committee continues to meet on a regular basis.

ATLANTIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES CONSORTIUM

Background

The Atlantic Community Colleges Consortium was established in August 1998 by the four Atlantic community colleges and the four provincial departments responsible for advanced education. The goal of the Consortium is to pursue joint initiatives and projects that will enhance the quality and cost-effectiveness of the community college systems in order to better serve the learners, businesses and communities in the four Atlantic provinces.



Some of the areas that the consortium has identified as having potential for collaborative effort include: labour market analyses, articulation and transfer agreements, graduate follow-up surveys, awareness and promotion of community colleges' education and training, prior learning assessment, curriculum development and standards, and professional development and succession planning. The initiatives of the Consortium do not require the participation of all parties and any projects or activities must recognize the economic development strategies of each of the four provinces. The location and chair of the Consortium meetings rotate between the member colleges and departments.

There is a regional coordinator for community colleges located in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island to coordinate joint initiatives and act as secretary to the Consortium.

Highlights

The senior college and government officials met four times during 1999-2000 and accomplishments included:

- ⇒ development of strategic and collaborative linkages with regional and national organizations, such as: the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, the Atlantic Provinces Association for Continuing University Education, the Atlantic Colleges Committee for Entrepreneurial Development, the Weston Foundation, the Association of Atlantic Universities, and Statistics Canada;
- ⇒ establishment of committees with representatives from each of the region's community colleges, including: the Professional Development and Succession Planning Committee, the College Transfer Credit Committee, and the Programs Information Working Group;
- ⇒ preparation of *Professional Development and Training in the Atlantic Community Colleges - Summary of Activities*, which serves as an inventory of existing developmental activities and is intended to guide a regional approach to collaborative initiatives among the region's community colleges;
- ⇒ evaluation of the pilot phase of the Atlantic Community Colleges Consortium, which included an extensive series of stakeholder interviews and a review of accomplishments;
- ⇒ preparation of *A Report to the Evaluation Working Group on the Pilot Phase of the Atlantic Community Colleges Consortium, 1998-2000*, prepared by an external education consultant, highly recommends the continuation of the Consortium and provides the members with twenty-five suggestions for improvement and future work;
- ⇒ co-host of the Atlantic Region Consultation of the Prime Minister's Advisory Council on Science and Technology's *Expert Panel on Skills*;
- ⇒ development of a *Memorandum of Understanding on College Transfer Credit between the Atlantic Community Colleges* to facilitate student mobility in the college system and support lifelong learning in the region; and
- ⇒ the Consortium assisted Statistics Canada and the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission with the introduction and implementation of the Enhanced Student Information System (ESIS) in the region's community colleges.

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 delivery of equivalent products and services in each province. Registration and regulation of insurance companies will be streamlined with the implementation of common policies and procedures.

An industry-consumer-government committee was established to oversee the development of the harmonized act and ensure that a thorough consultation occurred with all industry participants. Meetings of the committee began in late 1996, leading to the engagement of an expert consultant who would consult with stakeholders and prepare a recommendation to the industry-consumer-government committee for harmonization of Atlantic insurance legislation.

Highlights

By the fall of 1999 the superintendents of insurance received reactions to the model act representing nearly 300 pages of commentary and identifying more than 200 separate areas of concern. The project management committee worked on the analysis and review of the act throughout the year. The intent of the committee was to complete the revision of the act and submit it to the industry-consumer-government committee for approval during the summer of 2000. The response to this consultation will dictate the final form of the recommendation to Council for harmonizing insurance legislation.

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, one senior official in public procurement, and one representing the department responsible for economic development. All rulings are made public, and annual reports of the APCC are tabled in the four legislatures and are available from the Secretariat.

Highlights

The APCC met once in 1999 to review and enhance the *Atlantic Procurement Agreement*. The meeting involved discussions related to the core responsibilities of the committee.

Highlights of the committee's meetings were:

- ⇒ no formal trade complaints were registered;
- ⇒ a recommendation that the scope of the agreement be extended to ensure that municipalities adopt the tendering practices described within the agreement;
- ⇒ a recommendation to reduce the size of the APCC by dispensing with the appointment of a private sector chair and vice-chair;



- ⇒ a recommendation that would prohibit the sanction of discriminatory procurement practices by private sector providers;
- ⇒ a decision to meet regularly with representatives from regional and provincial organizations representing specific industry sectors; and
- ⇒ initiation of a process of submitting quarterly reports required under the *Atlantic Procurement Agreement* into a searchable database.

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 English- and French-language cooperative activities of the four departments responsible for entry-grade 12 public education.

A *Memorandum of Understanding on Common Core Curriculum*, signed in 1994, mandated the adoption of grade 12 educational outcomes, development and implementation of common core curriculum, and development of common assessment strategies to support the curriculum. In 1999, the Board and ministers approved a three-year operational plan focusing on continued cooperation in the development of curriculum and assessment resources and enhanced commitment to early literacy and the provision of French-language instruction in a minority setting.

Highlights

- ⇒ ministers of education met to discuss regional education priorities and to review progress on strategic plan;
- ⇒ English-language mathematics curriculum guides piloted in grades 9, 11, 12; completed in grades 8 and 10;
- ⇒ Atlantic foundation documents for anglophone arts education and technology education validated;
- ⇒ summer institute for English-language school principals held August 1999 with the theme *Creating a Student-Centred School*;
- ⇒ the 8th annual summer institute for French-language school principals was held in New Brunswick;
- ⇒ continued support from Canadian Heritage and the Council of Maritime Premiers for the *APEF French Language Resource Fund*;
- ⇒ commissioned reading literacy research to inform future work;
- ⇒ project on English language arts curriculum implementation review approved and teacher and principal surveys developed;
- ⇒ initiated development of social studies curriculum guides entry-9;
- ⇒ continued development of science curriculum guides, grades 1 through 10;
- ⇒ proceeded with adaptation of French version of *Atlantic Canada in the Global Community*;
- ⇒ initiated development of grade 7-8 French-language math workbooks and teacher guides;
- ⇒ initiated new education indicators project;

- ⇨ established working group to report on student services;
- ⇨ completed all regional entrepreneurship education projects jointly funded by ACOA;
- ⇨ approved and initiated a linguistic actualization initiative;
- ⇨ held a francophone consultants' professional development workshop June 1999 in Moncton;
- ⇨ prepared an inventory and analysis of English second language curriculum across Canada;
- ⇨ completed the validation process for the grade 11 francophone math modules;
- ⇨ early literacy identified as a priority and project proposals requested by ministers;
- ⇨ developed a regional strategy *Secondary School to Work Transitions*;
- ⇨ *Let's Talk About... Curriculum Outcomes*, a brochure developed to inform parents about the outcomes' curriculum structure, completed;
- ⇨ completed consultation process associated with the development of new grade 10 mathematics textbooks;
- ⇨ the Atlantic departments of education, through the médiathèque, expanded the number of French-language instructional videos available to complement curriculum;
- ⇨ completion of an orientation document describing program characteristics and common key-stage outcomes in core French; and
- ⇨ jointly purchased school buses for the four provinces, providing substantial cost savings.

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 have met once a year to share ideas and advance common interests, with the exception of 1991, 1992, and 1996. The last meeting of the Conference was held in Rockport, Maine on October 3-5, 1999. The next meeting is scheduled for July 2000 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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, tourism, energy, fisheries, trade, and agriculture. Some specific accomplishments include:

- ⇨ implementation of a regional program to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions;
- ⇨ adoption of principles of a good neighbour environmental relationship;
- ⇨ adoption of action plans to address acid rain and mercury deposition;
- ⇨ sponsorship of 10 international roundtables on energy, and publication of energy inventories/profiles;
- ⇨ 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 of 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 Rockport, Maine on October 3-5, 1999. Numerous matters of common interest were addressed, including the environment, energy, border crossing, and trade and globalization. Six resolutions were adopted, as follows:

- ⇒ called for the full repeal of Section 110 of the *Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996* to ensure that the United States and Canada continue to maintain the close economic and trade links currently enjoyed;
- ⇒ established a task force of officials to provide recommendations on the mandate and terms of reference for a Conference committee on trade and globalization, and to provide recommendations on broadening the Québec-Maine, New Brunswick-Maine, and Nova Scotia-Massachusetts annual promotion of business to business alliances into all member states and provinces;
- ⇒ adopted work plans, to support the Conference's *Acid Rain Action Plan* adopted in 1998, establishing a regional data merging and exchange program, a fine particulate monitoring network, a surface water quality monitoring network, and a forest mapping project; and called upon the US and Canadian federal governments to contribute towards these efforts;
- ⇒ committed to continue efforts towards the goals of the *Mercury Action Plan*, and called upon the US and Canadian federal environment departments, and other appropriate agencies, to provide financial and resource assistance towards implementation of the Plan;
- ⇒ committed to continue to monitor developments in the energy markets and address issues regarding energy and the environment, energy reliability and security, and the development of new energy resources in the region; and to prepare a report on the status of renewables in the New England-Eastern Canadian region; and
- ⇒ called upon the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada to pursue additional reduction strategies for those sources outside the region that significantly contribute to air quality problems in New England and Eastern Canada, through the long-range transport of air pollution.

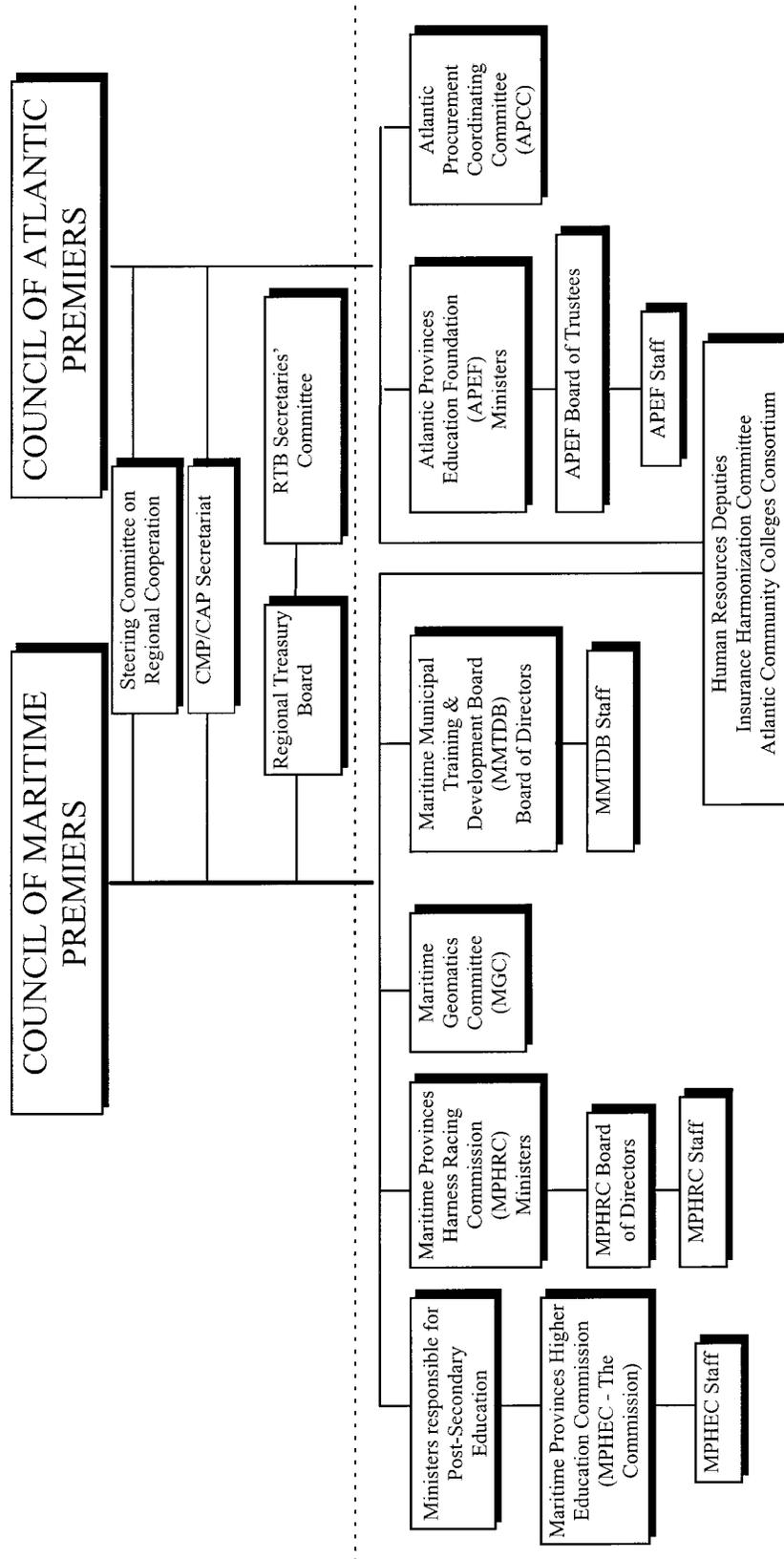
Committee Activities

The Committee on the Environment met once during the 1999-2000 fiscal year in Boston, Massachusetts. During the year, this committee oversaw the implementation of the acid rain and mercury action plans. At the October 1999 Conference of Governors and Premiers, resolutions were adopted on the implementation of the acid rain and mercury action plans and a resolution calling on both national governments to pursue additional sulfur and nitrogen reduction strategies.

The Northeast International Committee on Energy (NICE) met once during the 1999-2000 fiscal year—in March in Providence, Rhode Island. At this meeting, the committee continued to share information regarding energy deregulation and energy developments, and addressed natural gas supply and infrastructure, energy security and reliability, and the definition of renewable energy. At the October 1999 Governors' and Premiers' Conference, Resolution 24-5 was adopted mandating NICE to i) continue to monitor developments in energy markets; ii) address issues regarding energy and the environment, and reliability and security; and iii) to develop a regional map displaying key energy structures, projects and resources.

An electronic commerce meeting was held in September 1999, in Montréal, Québec. Entitled, *Electronic Commerce: Issues and Challenges for the Northeastern Economy*, the session offered economic stakeholders in the region a unique opportunity to discuss e-commerce with their business peers, review current experiences, and propose innovative and effective solutions to help businesses achieve a smooth transition into this revolutionary business practice. This meeting was held as a follow-up to the NEG-ECP sponsored *Northeastern Business Forum*, held in April 1998.

APPENDIX I - COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



APPENDIX II - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OPERATING SUMMARY

Council of Maritime Premiers

Statement of Consolidated Fund Revenue, Expenditures and Operating Surplus

For the year ended March 31, 2000

	Budget	2000 Actual	1999 Actual
	\$	\$	\$
Revenue (Schedule A)			
Province of New Brunswick	1,232,200	1,116,773	1,077,149
Province of Nova Scotia	1,514,423	1,394,221	1,346,962
Province of Prince Edward Island	264,921	261,504	245,399
Other	822,389	889,539	823,598
	3,833,933	3,662,037	3,493,108
Expenditures (Schedule B)			
Council Secretariat	1,140,629	1,113,920	1,142,233
Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board	234,872	243,427	249,795
Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission	407,992	429,587	420,752
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission	1,302,923	1,295,555	1,092,592
	3,086,416	3,082,489	2,905,372
Grants			
Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation	212,230	212,230	214,374
Champlain Institute	150,000	105,000	111,250
Oceans Institute of Canada	50,000	50,000	50,000
	3,498,646	3,449,719	3,280,996
Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year	335,287	212,318	212,112



APPENDIX III - COUNCIL DIRECTORY

Council Secretariat

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Barbara Murray, Assistant Secretary to Council /
Secretary to APEF

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Patricia Wishart, Director of Administration

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Regional Coordinator

Rhéal Poirier, Regional Coordinator

Laurie Alexander, Regional Coordinator

Glenn Davis, Regional Coordinator

Janice Henderson, Administrative
Assistant

Doreen Hamilton, Administrative Assistant

Karen Hosking, Administrative Assistant

Angela Shea, Administrative Assistant

Hannah Stewart, Accounting Clerk

Jackie Ruggles, Accounting Clerk

Sharon Pinaud, Receptionist

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Barbara Murray, Secretary

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Donald Smeltzer, Executive Director

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Debbie Walsh, Administrative Assistant

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Dawn Gordon, Research Officer

Catherine Brown, Research Officer

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Joanne Neilson, Administrative Assistant

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Support Services

Dragan Lepir, LAN Administrator
Information Framework Contract Staff

Renée Davis, Director of Information
Management

Scott Stonehouse, Technical Officer

