



THE COUNCIL OF
ATLANTIC PREMIERS

ANNUAL REPORT

2000-2001



council of atlantic premiers
box 2044, halifax, n.s. B3J 2Z1
(902) 424-8975
www.cap-cpma.ca

ISBN 0-920925-27-8
ISSN 0380-0768

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Letter from the Premiers	i
Letter from the Secretary	ii
Council of Atlantic Premiers.....	1
Council of Maritime Premiers.....	2
Council Secretariat.....	2
Regional Strategic Initiatives	3
Regional Cooperation - Atlantic	
Team Canada Atlantic	4
Atlantic Provinces Community Colleges Consortium.....	5
Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation	6
ACF Equity Atlantic	7
Atlantic Committee on Public Sector Renewal	8
Atlantic Insurance Legislation Harmonization	8
Atlantic Procurement Coordinating Committee	9
Atlantic Canada On-line	9
Regional Cooperation - Maritime	
Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission	10
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.....	11
Maritime Geomatics Committee.....	13
Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board	13
Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers.....	14
Appendix I - Council Organizational Chart	17
Appendix II - Financial Operating Summary	18
Appendix III - Council Directory	19

LETTER FROM THE PREMIERS



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bernard Lord".

Bernard Lord, Premier
New Brunswick



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Roger Grimes".

Roger Grimes, Premier
Newfoundland &
Labrador



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Hamm".

John Hamm, Premier
Nova Scotia



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Pat Binns".

Pat Binns, Premier
Prince Edward Island

This year was the beginning of a new era of cooperation among the Atlantic provinces. In May 2000, we formed the Council of Atlantic Premiers through a *Memorandum of Understanding on Atlantic Canada Cooperation*. By entering into this new agreement, we have committed to strengthening the relationship among the Atlantic provinces, and to working together to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The coming years will continue to present new opportunities and challenges to the region. We believe that intergovernmental cooperation is the key to strength and vibrancy and we pledge to continue working together to accomplish our shared goals.

We are pleased with the measures taken by our departments and organizations in building relationships and implementing new initiatives. We acknowledge the benefits of taking a proactive approach on issues of importance to our governments and citizens, and applaud their contributions to our provinces, individually and collectively.

We are delighted to submit the first report of the Council of Atlantic Premiers for the period April 1, 2000 - March 31, 2001, which provides an overview of the activities of the Council and its agencies. The accomplishments outlined in this report signify our continued commitment to regional cooperation.

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY

July 17, 2002

Premier Bernard Lord
Premier Roger Grimes
Premier John Hamm
Premier Patrick Binns

On behalf of the Council of Atlantic Premiers and its agencies, I am pleased to submit the annual report for the fiscal year 2000-2001. 2000-2001 marked a milestone in regional cooperation with the formation of the Council of Atlantic Premiers.

During the past year we continued to collaborate in key sectors that are essential to the prosperity of the citizens of the Atlantic region. The activities pursued, as reported in the following pages, 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 and would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to these successes.

The work of the Secretariat continues to be rewarding and challenging. With a revitalized commitment to regional cooperation, the Secretariat will continue to work closely with the agencies and departments in fulfilling the Council's objectives.

Sincerely,



Leo J. Walsh
Secretary

Background

The Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP) was formally established in May 2000, with the signing of a *Memorandum of Understanding on Regional Cooperation* by Premiers Bernard Lord, New Brunswick; Brian Tobin, Newfoundland and Labrador; John Hamm, Nova Scotia; and Patrick Binns, Prince Edward Island. The Council of Atlantic Premiers, building on the long-established Council of Maritime Premiers and the Conference of Atlantic Premiers, is the first agency of its kind in Canada in which four provinces systematically seek to identify and exploit opportunities through joint action.



From left to right: Premier John Hamm (Nova Scotia); Premier Bernard Lord (New Brunswick); Premier Patrick Binns (Prince Edward Island); and Premier Brian Tobin (Newfoundland and Labrador) at a press conference following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Regional Cooperation in Moncton, NB in May 2000.

The goals of the Council of Atlantic Premiers are to:

- ⇒ cooperate for the benefit of the residents of Atlantic Canada;
- ⇒ enhance existing mechanisms for cooperation and communication between the provinces; and
- ⇒ commit to establishing a framework for joint development of an Atlantic Canada approach to national issues.

The Council provides an organized capacity for the four 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.

Currently the Council organization includes the premiers meeting as a group, the Secretariat, central committees, and regional agencies and committees. An organizational chart is presented in Appendix I.

Overview of Meetings

The Council of Atlantic Premiers met once following the signing of the *Memorandum of Understanding* in May 2000, and again by teleconference in November.

Topics and issues addressed during the inaugural meeting were:

- ⇒ the region's perspective as it relates to national issues;
- ⇒ identification of regional priorities for discussion at the 2000 Annual Premiers' Conference in Winnipeg—in particular, the following priority issues were identified

- ◇ sustaining health care
- ◇ improving federal-provincial fiscal arrangements
- ◇ promoting the continued economic development of Atlantic Canada
- ◇ CBC regional programming, and
- ◇ sustaining the impact of airline restructuring on the region.

The CAP teleconference in November addressed the First Ministers' Meeting on the Equalization Program held in January 2001. Discussion focused on advancing the region's strategy for improving the Equalization Program, and reaffirming the provinces' shared commitment to fair and equal treatment for all Canadians.

COUNCIL OF MARITIME PREMIERS

Background

The Council of Maritime Premiers (CMP) is one of the most significant symbols of regional cooperation in Canada. The Council is a body formed by an 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. From the beginning, the Council has adopted a pragmatic approach to seeking opportunities to address economic and social issues of the Maritime provinces through cooperative action.

Secretariat staff are employees of the Council while the other Council agencies, except the Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation, employ staff directly. A unique labour code and labour relations board govern Council and agency employer-employee relations. A regional pension plan is available for the Secretariat, MPHRC, MPHEC, and the Atlantic Lottery Corporation (ALC) employees. Members of this pension plan have been enjoying a contribution holiday since September 2000.

Council employees work in four Maritime communities: Fredericton, New Brunswick (MPHEC); Halifax, Nova Scotia (Council Secretariat, MMTDB); Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (APCCC); and Summerside, Prince Edward Island (MPHRC).

The 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 Council. Public funds for Council 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 2000-2001 financial statements are presented in Appendix II. Audited financial statements are available on request.

COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

Background

The Secretariat was established in 1971 to organize and expedite the work of the Council of Maritime Premiers. The role has remained similar in the transition to the Council of Atlantic Premiers. The Secretariat performs head office functions for regional agencies and employees and serves the premiers in meeting the goals of the Council of Atlantic Premiers. The Secretariat's responsibilities include:

- ⇒ assisting Council to fulfill its responsibilities;
- ⇒ coordinating activities of the Council and following up on decisions and initiatives of the premiers;
- ⇒ encouraging regional approaches in provincial decision making; and
- ⇒ providing the institutional memory of the Council.

Staff of the Secretariat provide services to the Council of Atlantic Premiers, the Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation, 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.

This report acknowledges the continued support of the Canadian Intergovernmental Conference Secretariat (CICS) in facilitating CAP meetings. Formed by the First Ministers in 1973, CICS is an agency of the federal and provincial governments that provides administrative services for senior level intergovernmental meetings in Canada. The services of CICS were especially appreciated during the inaugural meeting of the Council of Atlantic Premiers, the 25th Annual Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) in July, and providing interpretative services at the National Forum on Shipbuilding, Marine Fabrication and Technology in October 2000.

REGIONAL STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The following are the accomplishments and initiatives undertaken by the Atlantic/Maritime premiers during the 2000-2001 fiscal year:

- ⇒ established the Council of Atlantic Premiers in May 2000 to promote cooperation among Atlantic provinces, and represent the consolidated interests of Atlantic Canadians;
- ⇒ commissioned Dr. Charles McMillan, of York University, and President of Scotia Glenayr, Inc., to conduct a review of the region focusing on new opportunities where regional cooperation may be beneficial. The review will update his report, *Standing Up to the Future: The Maritimes in the 1990s*, released in December 1989;
- ⇒ conducted an internal review process to ensure the ongoing relevance of existing cooperation mechanisms;
- ⇒ conducted a successful trade mission to New England generating 313 business meetings;
- ⇒ announced they will lead a trade mission to Atlanta, Georgia in May 2001 with Atlantic-based representatives of companies, to build on existing partnerships and form new alliances;
- ⇒ sponsored a shipbuilding and marine fabrication forum called, *Charting a Course: Towards a Canadian Marine Industrial Policy* in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. The forum was a huge success, demonstrating the premiers' commitment to the shipbuilding and marine fabrication industry. At the forum it was recognized there is a need for a comprehensive national policy to secure a strong and viable future for the shipbuilding industry;
- ⇒ called on the federal government to
 - ◇ restore funding through the CHST to its 1994/95 levels and establish an appropriate escalator to ensure long-term, sustainable funding for health and social programs
 - ◇ enhance the Equalization Program by
 - i) permanently removing the ceiling on payments
 - ii) adopting a ten-province standard, and
 - iii) increasing revenue coverage;
 - ◇ invest in a new cost-shared highways program for Atlantic Canada to further economic development, and reduce regional disparity;
 - ◇ continue discussions with the United States regarding the renewal of the *Maritime Accord on Softwood Lumber*; and
 - ◇ pass new airline regulatory legislation and encourage competition in response to concerns raised by the public and air passengers over the deterioration of service to the Atlantic region.

REGIONAL COOPERATION - ATLANTIC

TEAM CANADA ATLANTIC

Background

The concept of a Team Canada Atlantic Trade Mission was put forward by the Conference of Atlantic Premiers (CAP) in 1998 and resulted in a pilot trade mission to New England in April 1999. The 1999 trade mission was led by the four Atlantic premiers, accompanied by 40 Atlantic Canadian companies. The mission was funded by the Canada/Atlantic Provinces Cooperation on International Business Development, which is supported by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), the four Atlantic provinces, Industry Canada, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Highlights

Based on the success of the 1999 initiative, a follow-up mission to New England was held in May 2000. The mission was designed to encourage companies to explore new business opportunities through exporting. This initiative was unique in that it provided many of the mission participants who are successful in our domestic market, an opportunity to explore the export marketplace. In addition to the leadership of the four Atlantic premiers, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien participated in the first day of the four-day mission. A new component to this trade mission was the addition of Junior Team Canada representatives who joined the delegation to learn first-hand about exporting and trade. The 2000 Mission resulted in 313 business meetings and generated sales of \$2.3 million in the short term and an estimated \$27.3 million in sales over the next three years. The next trade mission is planned for Atlanta in 2001.



Participants at the May 2000 Team Canada Atlantic Trade Mission in Boston, Massachusetts on May 8, 2000. Front row: Mary Clancy (Consul General to New England); Premier Patrick Binns (Prince Edward Island); Premier John Hamm (Nova Scotia); Right Honourable Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister of Canada); Premier Bernard Lord (New Brunswick); Premier Brian Tobin (Newfoundland and Labrador); and Honourable Pierre Pettigrew (Canadian Minister of International Trade).

ATLANTIC PROVINCES COMMUNITY COLLEGES CONSORTIUM

Background

The 2000-2001 year was pivotal for the Atlantic Provinces Community Colleges Consortium (APCCC) as it moved from a pilot phase to a more permanent arrangement through individual provincial letters of understanding. This transition recognized the APCCC's initial success and responded to the recommendations in the external review *A Report to the Evaluation Working Group on the Pilot Phase of the Atlantic Community Colleges Consortium 1998-2000*. The evaluation of the pilot phase highly recommended that the Consortium continue as an important partnership that links the region's publicly funded community colleges.

The Atlantic region's community colleges, advanced education departments, and the Council of Atlantic Premiers, formalized their commitment to continued cooperation through the development of a three-year business plan *A Framework for Collaboration*. The business plan provides a vehicle for moving forward with continued cooperation among the public providers of community college education and training in the region.

The strategic goals of the APCCC are to enhance the quality and cost-effectiveness of the community college systems of the four Atlantic provinces through the pursuit of cooperative and collaborative initiatives. The activities of the APCCC are designed to reflect the values and principles agreed to by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) in their document *A Report on Public Expectations of Post-secondary Education in Canada*, February 1999.

The APCCC Steering Committee representatives include the community college presidents, the senior officials of the four government departments responsible for advanced education, and a representative of the CAP Secretariat. The Chair of the Consortium and meeting locations rotate among the community colleges. An Executive Director organizes joint initiatives and acts as Secretary to the Consortium.

Highlights

The APCCC met three times during 2000-2001. Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ endorsement of the *Memorandum of Understanding on College Transfer Credit between the Atlantic Community Colleges* signed by the college presidents at the May 2000 Association of Canadian Community Colleges Conference;
- ⇒ completion of the evaluation of the 1998-2000 pilot phase of the Atlantic Provinces Community Colleges Consortium and completion of a response to *A Report to the Evaluation Working Group on the Pilot Phase of the Atlantic Community Colleges Consortium 1998-2000*;
- ⇒ preparation of the report *APCCC Network and Affinity Groups - Summary of Atlantic Colleges Participation* supporting Consortium discussions on promoting faculty and staff participation, and maximizing the benefits to the region's community colleges;
- ⇒ delivery of a panel presentation entitled, *The Atlantic Community Colleges Consortium and Regional Cooperation, A Tool for 'Reaching Out - Reaching In,'* at the Association of Canadian Community Colleges' annual conference;
- ⇒ development of the 2001-2004 business plan, *A Framework for Collaboration*. The plan identifies four thematic areas that the Consortium will focus on:
 - ◇ program development and delivery;
 - ◇ mobility and transferability;
 - ◇ professional development; and
 - ◇ labour market information.

The business plan includes a number of initiatives or projects in these four areas with clearly identified outcomes;

- ⇒ establishment of a Research and Development Committee to promote the ability and capacity of the Atlantic region's community colleges in the areas of applied research and technology;
- ⇒ preparation of the report *Inventory of Community College Education and Training Programs for Health Care Occupations*, which serves to support Consortium discussions on the role of the community colleges in the provision of health care training in the region; and
- ⇒ development of strategic and collaborative linkages with organizations both regionally and nationally.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Background

The Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation (APEF) was established in September 1995 by agreement of the four ministers of education, replacing the Maritime Provinces Education Foundation (MPEF) 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.

In 2000-2001, the ministers of education of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island met and approved major initiatives in literacy and student services as part of the APEF three-year operational plan. The plan also serves as the foundation for continued cooperation in the development of curriculum and related resources.

Highlights

- ⇒ English-language regional initiatives in early literacy were developed to enhance the efforts already under way in each of the Atlantic provinces—regional initiatives focus on resource development, professional development, and early intervention and support strategies;
- ⇒ a French-language reading literacy work plan was approved, which includes the development of a series of booklets, training, and a website;
- ⇒ work began on an early literacy resource for French immersion classes to provide teachers with tools to track the development of literacy skills in classrooms from entry to grade 3;
- ⇒ a regional work plan for student services was approved, focusing on development of a regional professional development strategy, a teacher's resource, and a series of brochures;
- ⇒ a study on regional opportunities for on-line learning was initiated;
- ⇒ work proceeded on developing education indicators;
- ⇒ a curriculum implementation review project was undertaken to gather information about teachers' use of the new English-language arts curriculum and principals' views on the curriculum and its implications for their schools;
- ⇒ custom-developed senior high mathematics textbooks were completed for grade 11 with pilots ongoing in grade 12 for English-language schools;
- ⇒ the grade 12 mathematics resource *Impacts mathématiques* and teacher's guide were introduced in French-language schools;
- ⇒ work continued on the development of a common Atlantic social studies curriculum, entry through grades 8/9, for English-language schools;
- ⇒ a grade 9 social studies textbook *La diversité du Canada atlantique* and teacher's guide was published;
- ⇒ departments continued the development of grades 2-8 French-language arts curriculum resources;
- ⇒ the *Foundation for the Atlantic Canada Arts Education Curriculum* was completed and released;
- ⇒ the *Foundation for the Atlantic Canada Technology Education Curriculum* was completed and released;

- ⇒ continued development of science curriculum guides, grades 1-10, and a review and revision of the regional biology, physics, and chemistry curriculum, grades 11 and 12, were undertaken;
- ⇒ the second francophone consultants' professional development workshop was held in May 2000 in Moncton;
- ⇒ the 9th annual summer institute for French-language school principals was held in New Brunswick;
- ⇒ the development of a linguistic actualization teacher's guide and annotated bibliography for French-language schools was initiated;
- ⇒ a guide to accompany an instructional video on best teaching practices in late immersion classrooms was completed;
- ⇒ departments continued the regional acquisition and distribution of French-language audiovisual resources; and
- ⇒ departments collaborated on a process of bulk purchasing more than 200 buses to renew their school bus fleets, realizing a saving of at least \$5,000 per bus.

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 (ACOA). Its mandate is to make equity and quasi-equity investments in small to medium enterprises within Atlantic Canada that possess a unique product, service or technology and are expected to generate significant growth. Staff provide multi-disciplinary, team-based managerial support of the Fund's portfolio companies through the board of directors and other regular company contacts.

The Fund has now fully drawn down its \$30 million capital allocation and is proceeding to complete a small number of new investments, retaining the majority of its remaining capital for follow-up investments in its existing portfolio.

Highlights

In operation since February of 1997, the Fund has, to date, invested \$16.2 million of the \$30 million capitalization in thirteen companies in the region. ACF has been extremely successful in leveraging its capital with other venture investors both from within the region as well as from other parts of Canada and has participated in more than \$75 million in venture investments since its inception. These investments encompass a broad range of technologies including functional genomics and stem cells, industrial application technologies, software and wireless technologies. Investments are provided for the early stages of development of these enterprises, and active nurturing by an experienced, multi-disciplinary investor like ACF is critical to these companies' success.

In the past year, the Fund concluded its first successful investment exit when one of its portfolio companies, Fastlane Technologies Inc. of Halifax, was sold to Quest Software of Irvine, California, for US \$100 million. Since the sale, Quest has further expanded its Halifax operation and now employs 100 highly skilled knowledge workers.

The Fund is an excellent example of regional cooperation by recognizing and addressing the difficulty of individual provinces to sustain a viable venture capital fund on its own.

ATLANTIC COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SECTOR RENEWAL

Background

The concept of an Atlantic Committee on Public Sector Renewal was first discussed at the Atlantic Vision Conference in Moncton in October 1997. The Committee was established following the Conference and is comprised of senior officials responsible for public service in the four Atlantic provinces, facilitated by CMP staff. The Committee meets on a regular basis.

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;
- ⇒ strengthening public sector capabilities;
- ⇒ staff development; and
- ⇒ identifying opportunities for collaboration.

ATLANTIC INSURANCE LEGISLATION HARMONIZATION

Background

In 1996, the Atlantic premiers directed 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, 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 a consultant who met with stakeholders and developed a set of recommendations to the industry-consumer-government committee for the harmonization of Atlantic insurance legislation.

In 1998-1999, the consultant prepared a legislative framework based on consultation with stakeholders and the Atlantic superintendents of insurance. The model Act was completed in March of 1999. More than 300 copies were distributed to stakeholders, primarily in Atlantic Canada. Superintendents of insurance received more than 200 responses to the model Act.

Highlights

A revised model Act was submitted to the industry-consumer-government committee for approval in July 2000. The superintendents of insurance undertook a detailed examination of policy issues, resolving many industry and jurisdictional impediments. The superintendents began the development process for drafting equivalent legislation in each province and will begin to draft accompanying regulations in the coming year.

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* (APA), established in 1992, 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 official in public procurement, and the other representing the department responsible for interprovincial trade.

Highlights

During the year, the APCC met three times to review issues relating to the *Atlantic Procurement Agreement*. Discussions centred on:

- ⇒ the potential benefits that the APCC can provide to the region;
- ⇒ the reduction of regional trade barriers and support for reduction of trade barriers nationally;
- ⇒ managing procurement to support regional economic development; and
- ⇒ exploration of the benefits available through joint purchasing.

The APCC agreed that the principal focus of the committee be redefined from one of monitoring APA compliance, to one of improving public procurement management through the establishment of common forms and procedures, reduction of thresholds for reciprocal treatment, more active management of joint procurement initiatives, and improving services to client and vendor communities.

Highlights of the committee's meetings were:

- ⇒ no formal trade complaints were registered;
- ⇒ support for bi-lateral arrangements to reduce tender thresholds below APA levels;
- ⇒ a decision to pursue regional standard terms and conditions for tender opportunities in the Atlantic provinces;
- ⇒ development of a regional dispute resolution process to expeditiously resolve interprovincial disagreements;
- ⇒ consideration of future direction of electronic notice boards, and related efficiency and liability issues; and
- ⇒ open forums with private sector interest groups
 - ◇ Inter-university Services Inc. (voluntary joint purchasing group for Atlantic universities)
 - ◇ Contract Management Services (voluntary joint purchasing group for NB hospitals), and
 - ◇ information technology sector associations.

ATLANTIC CANADA ON-LINE

Background

Atlantic Canada On-Line (ACOL), Atlantic Canada's premier government on-line service, provides electronic access to government services in this region, and beyond. The first multi-jurisdictional electronic Personal Property Registry (PPR) in the country is available through ACOL, serving the four Atlantic provinces, the Northwest Territories, and the Government of Nunavut. ACOL is owned and managed by Unisys Canada Inc., in partnership with the Governments of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, under a multi-year *Strategic Alliance Agreement* signed by the four premiers and Unisys in May 1996.

Services

Legal and financial institutions, as well as other businesses throughout Canada, access this service. The first database application, the Personal Property Registry 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. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia's Driver Insurance Abstract Services can now be accessed from the ACOL website and is used primarily by insurance companies to obtain drivers' profiles. ACOL also provides internet access to services, on behalf of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, enabling the public to perform selected transactions. New ACOL services available in Nova Scotia since early March 2001 include vehicle permit renewals, and vital statistics requests for birth, marriage and death certificates. ACOL will be the underlying electronic commerce infrastructure supporting the Nova Scotia Business Registry (NSBR), a "one-stop" service for businesses, currently being developed jointly by the Province of Nova Scotia, the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA), and the Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia.

Highlights

Building on its award recognition in 1998 (*Technology in Government*) and 1999 (*Computerworld Smithsonian Award*), ACOL continues to capture media attention including the feature story in *Government Technology* (December 2000) "PROVINCIAL PARTNERS: Rugged Success in Canada's Maritimes." ACOL continues to attract international attention, with visiting delegations in 2000-2001 from Croatia, Argentina, Chile, Malaysia, the Netherlands, and the Philippines to study how ACOL is helping government better serve citizens.

REGIONAL COOPERATION - MARITIME

MARITIME PROVINCES HARNESS RACING COMMISSION

Background

The Council of Maritime Premiers established the Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission (MPHRC) in 1994. The Commission was established as the region's harness racing authority with the jurisdiction to govern and regulate harness racing throughout the Maritime provinces. It is comprised of six members appointed by the provincial governments.

During the past year, the Director of Racing position was vacant due to the retirement of the former Director in October 1999. The position was filled by Mr. Kent Oakes from February 22 to August 31, 2000, and on February 26, 2001 the Commission appointed Mr. John L. Blakney as full-time Director of Racing.

Highlights

During the year, four additional judges were recruited, and the Commission issued licenses to eight new Maritime racetracks, seven of which hold both live and simulcast racing events. The Commission sent members to the United States Trotting Association's Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio, and the Canada Pari-mutuel Agency's Annual Industry and CPMA Workshop.

In addition to its normal administrative and regulatory activities, the Commission:

- ⇒ implemented a continuing education and evaluation program that included a new officials' seminar, and judges' seminar;
- ⇒ issued a newsletter to the industry;
- ⇒ conducted industry meetings on setting race dates and rule changes;
- ⇒ assisted in the negotiation and establishment of telephone account betting;

- ⇒ assisted and facilitated contract discussions between track management and horsemen's associations; and
- ⇒ developed a draft field procedures manual for judges and officials.

After full consultation with the Maritime harness racing industry, the Commission agreed to end a formal and traditional relationship with the United States Trotting Association to become formally associated with Standardbred Canada. The effective date of transition is May 1, 2001. Reciprocal arrangements with the United States Trotting Association will be maintained.

MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Background

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) was established in 1974. The MPHEC is an agency of the Council of Maritime Premiers that serves post-secondary education. In June 1997, the ministers of education in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island agreed, after an extensive review process, to renew and refocus the Commission's mandate through the *Agreement Respecting the Renewal of Arrangements for Regional Cooperation Concerning Post-Secondary Education*. This renewed mandate was ratified by the Council of Maritime Premiers.

The Commission's 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.

Highlights

Program Planning - Institutions are required to submit proposals for new or modified programs to the Commission for approval prior to implementation. In 2000-2001, the Commission reviewed a total of 55 program proposals; of these, 33 programs were approved through a cursory review process, eight programs were approved through in-depth assessment, one was reviewed and deferred, ten were pending, and three were recorded for information only.

Quality Assurance - The MPHEC's "Policy on Quality Assurance," initially approved in November 1997, includes the review of academic programs prior to implementation and the monitoring of institutional quality assurance policies and practices.

Monitoring of Institutional Quality Assurance Policies and Practices - The purpose of this new initiative is to assure that the procedures used by institutions to assess the quality of existing programs and other functions, as appropriate, are performing adequately as quality control and quality improvement mechanisms. The monitoring function is performed once at each institution in a seven-year cycle. The Quality Assurance Monitoring Committee met for the first time on November 15, 2000 to:

- ⇒ review the objectives of the monitoring functions;
- ⇒ prepare assessment criteria for the MPHEC monitoring process as well as guidelines for the preparation of the institutional self-study; and
- ⇒ establish the schedule to be followed to complete the first two assessments.

St. Thomas University and Dalhousie University have volunteered to be the first two institutions to undergo

the process.

Enhanced Student Information System (ESIS) - In 2000-2001, the Commission continued to work with Statistics Canada and each of the institutions within the Commission's mandate on the implementation of the ESIS. Benefits are already becoming evident, including the availability of detailed reports on enrolments and detailed graduate data. Also, the first phase of the financial cycle has been completed. This includes:

- ⇒ 1998/1999 USIS benchmark of institutions submitted in parallel with ESIS;
- ⇒ the validation of approved majors for each institution; and
- ⇒ the calculation and compilation of the full-time equivalents and weighted full-time equivalents as of December 1 and for the full year.

Graduate Follow-up Survey - In 1999-2000, the MPHEC embarked on its first longitudinal survey of Maritime university graduates with regard to outcomes and perceptions of their post-secondary education. The pilot project involved interviewing the Class of 1996 four years after graduation. Graduate satisfaction, increased employment, higher quality employment, and an increased number of graduates returning will be reported in the *1996 Graduate Follow-up Report*, scheduled for release on June 14, 2001.

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 a result, the MPHEC released, in September 2000, three documents which are available on the MPHEC website. The documents are:

- ⇒ a background report, entitled *Report on Post-Secondary Research Trends in Atlantic Canada*, which examines trends in post-secondary research in Atlantic Canada and includes comparisons 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 summarizes the steering committee's strategies and proposals;
- ⇒ 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.

Conference on the State of Higher Education - During 2000-2001, the 2001 Conference Steering Committee was busy organizing the third MPHEC Conference on the State of Higher Education in the Maritimes. The Conference will take place in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, June 13-15, 2001. The Conference, whose theme is expectations, will highlight current and pressing challenges facing the learner, institutions, and governments in the Maritimes, and will provide a forum for discussion, and an opportunity for participants to explore means by which these challenges may be addressed.

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.

MARITIME GEOMATICS COMMITTEE

Background

The Maritime Geomatics Committee (MGC) was formed in April 1995 to facilitate continued cooperation in the management of geographic information. The Maritime provinces enjoy a lengthy history of interprovincial cooperation in this sector through the regional programs of the Maritime Resource Management Service (MRMS), the Land Registration and Information Service (LRIS), and the Maritime Geomatics Board (MGB). The Maritime premiers wished to build on this legacy and ensure that the benefits of regional cooperation were not lost with the closure of these agencies in 1994.

The MGC is comprised of the deputy ministers responsible for geographic information, or geomatics, in each province, and the Secretary to the Council of Maritime Premiers. The Committee operates through an agreement signed by the respective ministers in each province. Special projects are funded either through the CMP or directly by the provincial agencies.

Highlights

The work of the Committee has been critical in building the successful geomatics systems and networks currently in place in the Maritime provinces. Given the rate and significance of technological advancements in geomatics and government service delivery this year, the Committee concluded that the current focus of the MGC is narrow and a decision was taken to develop a new mandate addressing broader issues related to electronic delivery of government services on an Atlantic basis.

MARITIME MUNICIPAL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Background

The Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board (MMTDB) was established by the Council of Maritime Premiers in 1974. The agency has been widely recognized in Canada for:

- ⇒ its leadership in advancing the quality of municipal training and distance education programming;
- ⇒ improving information sharing and professional development in the municipal public service;
- ⇒ developing municipal decision-making resources; and
- ⇒ promoting regional municipal cooperation, innovation, and excellence in service delivery.

Over a 27-year period, the MMTDB tradition has been one of client-centred, pro-active involvement with stakeholders. The approach has emphasized the need to share resources in order to achieve common goals. Thousands of municipal employees and elected officials have benefited through participation in workshops, conferences, and distance education programs delivered through MMTDB sponsorship. Publications and research made possible through the MMTDB have enhanced the quality of decision making within the municipal public service, and MMTDB undertakings have had a major, positive impact on the collective conscience of municipal management practices and policy making throughout Canada.

Since 1990, the organization has been a Canadian leader in promoting the internet as an important vehicle for:

- ⇒ improving public sector service delivery and education;
- ⇒ advertising economic development opportunities and tourism;
- ⇒ establishing opportunities for professional networking; and
- ⇒ facilitating enhanced communication between municipal government organizations and the residents they serve.

The MMTDB's work as an important internet resource and information provider for the municipal public sector has been recognized internationally.

NOTE: The Council of Maritime Premiers, on April 1, 2001, agreed to discontinue the MMTDB's mandate, and to phase out the organization in 2001-2002 as part of governments' review and restructuring initiatives. The MMTDB has made arrangements for some areas of the organization's work to continue through other venues.

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 (NEG/ECP) have met each 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 Halifax, Nova Scotia, on July 16-18, 2000. The next meeting is scheduled for August 2001 in Westbrook, Connecticut.

The Conference is a unique and highly effective international relationship of states and provinces. 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 for 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 25th Conference

The governors and premiers met in Halifax, Nova Scotia on July 16-18, 2000. The Conference focused on the knowledge economy, transportation, international trade, the environment, and energy. A business forum was held in conjunction with the Conference, where key business representatives from the eleven jurisdictions engaged in a dialogue on cross-border trade. At this year's Conference, thirteen resolutions were adopted that focused on:

- ⇒ a commitment to enhance cooperation among jurisdictions in both the private and public sectors;
- ⇒ the establishment of a Standing Committee on Trade and Globalization to examine and make recommendations pertaining to issues, opportunities, and constraints related to trade and globalization, relative to the New England and Eastern Canadian regions;
- ⇒ a recognition of the passing of the *U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service Data Management Act of 2000*, which will ensure both countries maintain close economic and trade links;
- ⇒ an expansion of university-level exchange programs;

- ⇒ the continued implementation of the *Acid Rain Action Plan* and the *Mercury Action Plan*; calling on Environment Canada and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to intensify their efforts to implement effective emission reduction strategies targeting the upwind sources of air pollution;
- ⇒ the organization of a climate change conference to examine the regional impacts of global warming, to discuss options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and to clarify the need for this region to adapt to climate change; and
- ⇒ a call on the United States Department of Energy to work with states and provinces to continue to develop and maintain an integrated North American electricity market, and to clarify the treatment of large-scale hydro-electric power under the federal electric restructuring legislation.



Participants at the 25th Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers in Halifax, NS in July 2000. From left to right: Premier John Hamm (Nova Scotia); Governor Paul Cellucci (Massachusetts); Louise Beaudoin (Québec Minister of International Relations); Governor John Rowland (Connecticut); Premier Bernard Lord (New Brunswick); Governor Angus King (Maine); Premier Patrick Binns (Prince Edward Island); Governor Jeanne Shaheen (New Hampshire); Governor Lincoln Almond (Rhode Island); Premier Brian Tobin (Newfoundland and Labrador); and Governor Howard Dean (Vermont).

Committee Activities

Trade and Globalization

At the 2000 Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, the Standing Committee on Trade and Globalization was established, and mandated to:

- ⇒ work with road, rail, marine, and air operators with a goal of strengthening transportation services and infrastructure;
- ⇒ consider the establishment of a forum of key knowledge economy innovators to facilitate information sharing and the creation of potential linkages and joint collaborative efforts; and

⇒ work with the business community to meet the mandate and goals of the Conference's future activities.

The Committee met twice since its establishment—in Boston, Massachusetts and in Montréal, Québec; and has held numerous teleconferences and bilateral discussions working toward meeting the goals of the resolutions.

Environment

The Committee on the Environment met once in Boston, Massachusetts in May of 2000 in preparation for the NEG/ECP Conference in July. The Committee charged the Acid Rain Steering Committee and the Mercury Task Force with the implementation of the *Acid Rain* and *Mercury Action Plans* respectively.

Activities undertaken in acid rain and mercury include:

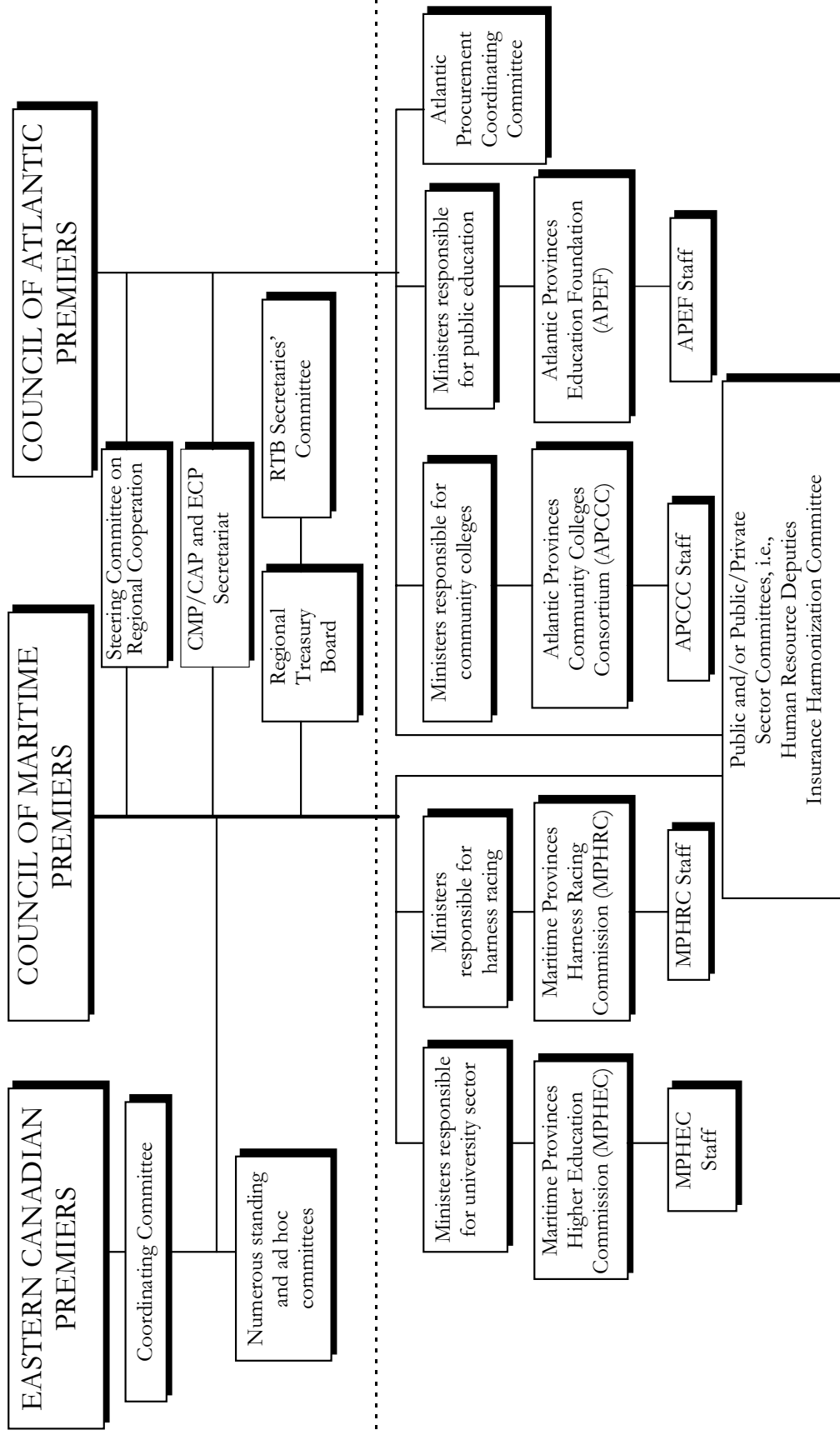
- ⇒ publication of two reports providing scientific information on critical issues pertaining to acid deposition in lakes and rivers;
- ⇒ implementation of the fine particulate, forest mapping, data exchange, and water monitoring initiatives;
- ⇒ completion of a report on technology options and recommendations for reducing mercury and acid rain precursor emissions from boilers, including reduction targets;
- ⇒ initiation of a regional mercury monitoring and deposition modeling system;
- ⇒ development of policy concepts for mercury education and reduction programs; and
- ⇒ completion of a public opinion survey to measure public awareness of acid rain and mercury issues.

The Committee on the Environment, in collaboration with the Northeast International Committee on Energy (NICE), and the Province of New Brunswick, organized a climate change conference in March 2000 to examine the regional impacts of global warming, to discuss options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and to clarify the need for this region to adapt to climate change.

Energy

The Northeast International Committee on Energy (NICE) met twice during the 2000-2001 year—in May via teleconference, and in February in Montréal, Québec. At the July Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, NICE was directed to continue to monitor developments in regional energy markets, cooperate with the Committee on the Environment on the development of a regional climate change action plan, and to examine ways to reduce levels of energy consumption through demand-side management, energy efficiency and new technologies. The Committee began work on a graphical energy database that will illustrate energy resources, infrastructure and transmission systems in each jurisdiction. The Committee also began development of a report on current energy efficiency programs as a means of identifying comprehensive conservation measures for the region.

APPENDIX I - COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



APPENDIX II - FINANCIAL OPERATING SUMMARY

COUNCIL OF MARITIME PREMIERS

Statement of Consolidated Fund Revenue and

Expenditures

For the year ended March 31, 2001

		2001	2000
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	\$	\$	\$
Revenue			
Province of New Brunswick	1,150,052	1,105,178	1,116,773
Province of Nova Scotia	1,483,847	1,389,345	1,394,221
Province of Prince Edward Island	257,348	257,350	261,504
Other	643,308	615,253	889,539
	3,534,555	3,367,126	3,662,037
Expenditures			
Council Secretariat	1,136,997	1,128,501	1,113,920
Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board	214,017	210,752	243,427
Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission	451,307	398,909	429,586
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission	1,210,981	1,079,471	1,295,555
	3,013,302	2,817,634	3,082,488
Grants -			
Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation	212,230	212,230	212,230
Champlain Institute	84,375	84,375	105,000
Oceans Institute of Canada	50,000	50,000	50,000
	3,359,907	3,164,239	3,449,718
Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year	<u>174,648</u>	<u>202,889</u>	<u>212,319</u>

APPENDIX III - COUNCIL DIRECTORY

Council Secretariat

Council of Atlantic Premiers
P.O. Box 2044
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2Z1

Tel: (902) 424-7590
Fax: (902) 424-8976
info@cap-cpma.ca
www.cap-cpma.ca

Leo Walsh, Secretary to Council
Barb Murray, Assistant Secretary to Council/
Secretary to APEF
Rod Casey, Chief Financial Officer
Patricia Wishart, Director of Administration
Kim Thomson, Information Officer &
Regional Coordinator
Laurie Alexander, Regional Coordinator

Glenn Davis, Regional Coordinator
Rhéal Poirier, 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

Atlantic Provinces Community Colleges Consortium

140 Weymouth Street
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island C1A 4Z1

Tel: (902) 629-4242
Fax: (902) 566-9549

Calvin Caiger, Executive Director

Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation

P.O. Box 2044
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2Z1

Tel: (902) 424-5352
Fax: (902) 424-8976
apef-fepa@cmp.ca
www.apef-fepa.org

Barbara Murray, Secretary

Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission

263 Harbour Drive, Suite 7
Harbour Quay Building
Summerside, Prince Edward Island C1N 5P1

Tel: (902) 888-3489
Fax: (902) 888-2762
mphrc@pei.sympatico.ca
www.wsn.net/harness

John L. Blakney, Executive Director
Debbie Walsh, Administrative Assistant

Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission

P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 5H1

Tel: (506) 453-2844
Fax: (506) 453-2106
mphec@mphec.ca
www.mphec.ca

Carmelita Boivin-Cole, Chief Executive Officer
Mireille Duguay, Director of Research and Academic
Planning
Karen Cliff, Acting Senior Finance Officer
Sharleen Bulmer, Research Officer
Dawn Gordon, Research Officer
Catherine Brown, Research Officer
Mohamed El-Bayoumi, Manager of Special Projects

Mylène Michaud, Database Administrator
Joanne Neilson, Administrative Assistant
Alexandra Gagné, Secretary
Kevin Bourque, Clerk - Accounting and Business Support
Services
Scott Stonehouse, Technical Officer
Brian Penney, Technical Officer
Dragan Lepir, LAN Administrator
