

## **Jurisdictional Report Summary – New Brunswick June, 2011**

The implementation of the 2008 *Action Plan to Transform Post-Secondary Education in New Brunswick*, including credit transfer and prior learning assessment and recognition, has come a long way.

The PSE Action Plan has taken into account the need for a post-secondary education system where post-secondary institutions collaborate much more closely and regularly with each other. A proposed long term operational plan for a New Brunswick Council on Articulations and Transfer (NBCAT), developed in 2009-2010 was endorsed by the participating institutions and the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour (PETL) and implemented in 2010-2011.

NBCAT is a participatory Council of PETL composed of institutional representatives at the academic VP level. The NBCAT serves as a body through which stakeholders work cooperatively for the benefit of learners to ensure smooth inter-institutional transitions and effective transferability of courses and / or programs. In addition, NBCAT promotes the appropriate and effective use of PLAR with a link to international credential and competency assessment to support learners in their postsecondary experiences and labour market integration.

The work of the Council is carried out by staff provided by PETL with a standing Contact Persons Committee composed of representatives from participating institutions at the registrar level and a standing NB PLAR Action Group established in accordance with the provincial PLAR coordination plan developed in 2009-2010.

A credit transfer portal was developed and will be officially launched in 2011. The portal will simplify the accessibility of credit transfer information for institutions and New Brunswickers for the benefits of increased access to both credit transfer and recognition of prior learning. This portal will simplify service provision for institutions while ensuring timely service based on a quality assurance model.

The development of a second phase of the portal commenced in 2010 and is to be concluded in 2011, which will include:

Social Marketing Strategy (facebook etc.)

Future integration of transfers from institutions outside province and the country

Program Mapping Tool

There is continued work underway for articulation and transfer agreements in the fields of Nursing, Business and Engineering.

A NB PLAR Action Group was officially established in May of 2010 and the following five key priority actions were founded for 2010-11:

- Develop NB PLAR Guiding Principles and Standards;
- Expand the Socrates Model (an on-line self assessment tool) to a common provincial NB PLAR Tool;
- Develop a training curriculum for PLAR advising and assessment, custom made for NB, and;
- Develop a Communication Plan for public awareness, including employers and regulated professions about the benefits of PLAR

In 2011-12, NBCAT will be undertaking more research that will help inform and shape policy and practice.

Acknowledging the importance of articulations and transfer and PLAR, New Brunswick will continue in the direction it has taken with the establishment of its NBCAT to facilitate Learners accessibility to post-secondary education through inter-institutional transfer and recognition of formal and informal learning experiences.