

Nova Scotia Report
PCCAT Meeting
June 16-18 2008

Three-Year Framework for Action

In December 2004, Nova Scotia signed its first Memorandum of Understanding with the 11 universities in the province on funding and tuition fees. The MOU guarantees operating funding and limits tuition fee increases. As part of the MOU, the province and the universities agreed to continue to work on a number of initiatives, including credit transfer. An objective will be to clarify and simplify, particularly for students, the policies, agreements and arrangements around credit transfer. The province will work in collaboration with the college and universities to develop a strategy and process to improve and increase credit transfer arrangements/agreements between the university and the community college systems and among institutions in this province and in other jurisdictions.

Priority Action Areas

Two areas will be given priority in future discussions:

1. clarity around existing credit transfer arrangements;
2. development of strategy and process to improve and increase credit transfer arrangements.

Credit transfer arrangements and articulated programs exist within the system and among the Maritime/Atlantic region. Opportunities for further initiatives are ongoing. Nova Scotia supports the continuation of the CMEC Working Group on Credit Transfer.

Recent Initiatives:

Infrastructure Trust

The 2008 MOU commits the province and the universities to work together to facilitate identifying a combination of funding mechanisms that will provide \$25 million of infrastructure funds over the three year period of the MOU. Recognition exists that the need for the future is in the \$500-600 million range.

Memorandum of Understanding 2008

A second MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) on funding and tuition fees for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 was negotiated between provincial representatives and institutional representatives of the 11 universities in Nova Scotia. The available funding is set to increase by \$30 million per year over the three years of the memorandum.

Bursary Trust

A Nova Scotia University Student Bursary Trust was established to reduce the amount of tuition paid by some university students in Nova Scotia. Annual bursaries will be dispersed from the trust to Nova Scotian students studying at Nova Scotia universities for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 and for out of province students studying Nova Scotia universities in 2010-11 to further a reduction in tuition to the national average by 2011.