

**Ontario Update at
Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer
June 17, 2008**

Facts and Figures – Ontario Postsecondary System

Structure

- Ontario's higher education system was not originally structured to create systematic pathways from one institution to another or to have institutions offer joint programs.
- Each university was chartered separately, with a high level of autonomy over its academic programs and conditions of admission.
- When the college system was created in the mid-1960s, the government's vision was that students would choose to attend either university or college, with only a small number attending college and then choosing to proceed to university, or vice versa.
- 19 universities
- a college of art and design with degree granting
- 24 colleges of applied arts and technology with limited degree-granting authority [baccalaureates in applied field of study under Ministerial consent]
- approximately 500 private career colleges.

Enrolment

- There are about 480,000 full-time students enrolled in Ontario colleges and universities who are eligible for government funding.
- This represents about 100,000 additional students in Ontario colleges and universities, representing an increase of almost 25% over 2002-03.
- Demand for postsecondary education is expected to continue to grow in both the medium- and long-term. Preliminary work suggests that demand for full-time undergraduate university and college enrolment could grow by between 65,000 and 110,000 by 2015 in Ontario.
- As part of Ontario's Reaching Higher Plan, the government is investing an additional \$6.2 billion into PSE by 2009-10 to improve access, quality and accountability.

Provincial Developments

- In October 2007, Ontario had a provincial election with the Liberals being re-elected for another four-year term.
- This government has identified the need to focus on the long-term knowledge and skills needs of the Ontario economy as a priority.
- It is recognized that this will require a postsecondary education system that is more responsive, flexible and has sufficient capacity to accommodate future demand.
- One component of such a system is a provincial mechanism to facilitate credit transfer in order to increase flexibility and choice for students and reduce costs to learners and government.
- The ministry, in partnership with colleges and universities, will be considering options on how to develop the best routes through learning to minimize costs and maximize results for partners.
- A Joint Task Force on Student Mobility lead by the Council of Ontario Universities and Colleges Ontario recently concluded its review of Ontario's transfer system. We anticipate receiving its recommendations very shortly. This work will form the basis for government's deliberations in this area.

Current Status

- In 1996, the ministry created the College-University Consortium Council (CUCC) to facilitate, promote and coordinate joint college-university initiatives. CUCC is staffed by an Executive Director and one part-time administrative assistant.
- CUCC is comprised of 2 presidents and 1 academic VPs from each of the college and university sectors, 2 student representatives, and the ADM of Postsecondary Education, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.
- CUCC operates under agreement with the ministry and receives an annual transfer of \$275,000 from the ministry.
- One of CUCC's key achievements has been the creation of an online Ontario College-University Transfer Guide that provides a list of collaborative programs, articulation agreements, and credit transfer arrangements between Ontario universities and colleges.
- The guide lists a total of 285 formal agreements between colleges and universities; the majority are bi-lateral (199) and degree-completion (222).
- CUCC has just completed a comprehensive review of the Transfer Guide including holding focus groups with student users. A report outlining recommendations for improvements is expected by the end of June.
- The Ministry provided \$3M to CUCC as part of a system-wide "Change Fund". The funds were directed towards innovative activities to expand and enhance opportunities for learners to have their credentials recognized by other institutions.

- To date, CUCC has approved 12 projects (totalling \$2M). Some examples:
 - Engineering and Technology Pathways in English and French involving the 2 universities and 2 colleges in Ottawa
 - Development of new joint programs at the existing partnerships of Guelph-Humber, Trent-Fleming and McMaster-Mohawk – you will hear more about these tomorrow.
 - Expanding transfer arrangements in General Arts and Science between Seneca College, University of Toronto, and Trent University building on the Seneca-York model
 - Improving Business education articulation agreements between Ryerson University and six Toronto-area colleges
 - Initiating degree completions and new joint programs in areas of priority to the Niagara region
- The majority of projects will be completed during summer 2008.
- Use of the remaining \$1M will be determined following sector discussions.
- Regulatory changes will make it possible for the Ontario Education Number (OEN) – a permanent student number assigned to each student in the K-12 system – to be used by the college and university application centres. The introduction of the OEN at the postsecondary level, along with other data sources, opens the possibility of answering many questions that have not been adequately answered in the past.