

Backgrounder

Summary of Strategies: White Paper on Public Post-Secondary Education

STRATEGIES FOR STRENGTHENING THE BASE
<p>Adult Learners</p> <p>1. Advance a provincial Adult Learning Campaign to recognize the critical need to promote and raise the profile of adult learning.</p>
<p>Aboriginal Education</p> <p>2.a) Provide funding budgeted at \$250,000 to assess the facility requirements at College of the North Atlantic in Happy Valley-Goose Bay to accommodate the growth in Aboriginal enrolment.</p> <p>2.b) Persist in securing access to the Post-Secondary Student Support Program and other federal Aboriginal programs for members of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians and the Labrador Métis Nation.</p>
<p>Women's Participation</p> <p>3.a) Call on our institutions to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ensure recruitment strategies support the participation of women in engineering, applied science, technology and skilled trades;• identify more scholarship opportunities for women in engineering, applied science, technology and skilled trades programs;• improve women's representation in decision-making positions. <p>3.b) Work with the federal government, business and industry to enhance apprenticeship employment opportunities for women.</p>
<p>Rural Participation and Distance Delivery</p> <p>4. Provide funding to College of the North Atlantic and Memorial University to expand distance education programming to rural communities and to enhance delivery of workplace-based training for small and medium sized enterprises, budgeted at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">\$0.5 M for fiscal year 2005/06\$0.5 M for fiscal year 2006/07\$0.5 M for fiscal year 2007/08
<p>Adult Academic Upgrading</p> <p>5. Develop the ABE Level I program for delivery through a combination of part-time instruction in a class setting and web-based internet delivery.</p> <p>6. Require College of the North Atlantic to allocate 5% of its provincial operating grant to transitional and academic upgrading so that these programs are more readily available at the College's campuses.</p> <p>7. Pilot a 15-week structured educational program for GED certification at College of the North Atlantic with the intent of expanding it to all campuses, as demand warrants.</p>

Apprenticeship Training

- 8.a) Review the policy that requires one apprentice to work with one journeyman.
- 8.b) Work with the federal government, business and industry to identify the best strategies for increasing apprentices' employment opportunities, including piloting a wage-subsidy program with priority given to females, to support Small and Medium Enterprises in their hiring of apprentices.
- 8.c) Introduce a policy for Government to increase its hiring of apprentices.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING SYSTEM CAPACITY

Memorial University

- 9.a) Request that the Board of Regents review the administrative and governance structure for Sir Wilfred Grenfell College to more appropriately reflect its maturing role within the University.
- 9.b) Enhance Sir Wilfred Grenfell's ability to offer new programming by increasing Memorial's budget as follows:
- \$1.0 Million for fiscal year 2005/06
 - \$1.0 Million for fiscal year 2006/07
 - \$1.0 Million for fiscal year 2007/08.
- 9.c) Request that a review of the position of the Marine Institute within the context of our public post-secondary strategic plan be undertaken in consultation with Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic. The focus is to build on the international reputation of the Institute as a centre of excellence in marine and ocean technology and training.

College of the North Atlantic

10. Implement a transition plan to align College of the North Atlantic with the Province's social and economic agenda, linking the College's geographic resources and infrastructure to socioeconomic initiatives. This will include linkages to the Province's Innovation Strategy and Comprehensive Regional Diversification Strategy.

Education and Training for Health Professionals

- 11.a) Request Memorial University to assess the feasibility of establishing a Faculty of Health Sciences to include the Faculty of Medicine and the Schools of Social Work, Pharmacy and Nursing, with appropriate stakeholders. The appropriate placement of associated funding will be part of the discussions between Memorial University and the Departments of Health and Community Services and Education.
- 11.b) Direct the Departments of Education and Health and Community Services, in conjunction with the Schools of Nursing and appropriate stakeholders, to discuss implementing a consolidated model that provides for the administration of nursing education, including continuing education and other programs such as the Practical Nursing program and the Nurse Practitioner program within Memorial University. The appropriate placement of associated funding will be part of the discussions between the Schools of Nursing and the Departments of Health and Community Services and Education, and Memorial University.
- 11.c) Direct the Departments of Education and Health and Community Services, in conjunction

with the appropriate stakeholders, to provide for the delivery of paramedicine training at College of the North Atlantic.

Distance Education

12. Establish a committee consisting of the major players in distance delivery to identify opportunities for:

- stronger partnerships,
- more sharing of expertise and resources, and
- a more integrated educational system.

Specific areas to be addressed include connectivity, software and license purchasing, curriculum development and equipment use.

Rural and Economic Development

13. Require our post-secondary institutions to work with industry to explore the creation of facilities based on the Genesis Centre concept in regions throughout the Province, with immediate attention to Corner Brook.

STRATEGIES FOR HELPING STUDENTS

Student Services

14.a) Establish a system-wide public Post-Secondary Student Services Advisory Committee to enhance cooperation and improve services for students.

14.b) Improve the timely transmission of student data from one institution to another and to the Department of Education to enhance student services.

15. Increase collaboration in student recruitment and advising activities between Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic.

16. Enhance current levels of career employment services for post-secondary students through increased co-operation between Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic.

Disability Services

17. Establish a collaborative service and support model which partners public post-secondary institutions with other agencies involved in supporting students with disabilities.

Student Housing

18. Request that our institutions explore opportunities for collaboration to enhance access to student housing, including possibilities for common residences.

Library Services

19. Establish a Working Group of the Department of Education, Memorial University, College of the North Atlantic and the Public Libraries Information and Resource Board to identify opportunities to enhance use of the Queen Elizabeth II Library at Memorial by other communities and library structures within the Province.

STRATEGIES FOR MAINTAINING STABLE FUNDING

Government's Investment

20. Provide Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic with sufficient funds to maintain a tuition freeze for a three-year period. In lieu of tuition increases, Government will provide increased funds to the institutions, budgeted as follows:

- \$4.3 Million for fiscal year 2005/06
- \$8.9 Million for fiscal year 2006/07
- \$12.4 Million for fiscal year 2007/08.

21. Provide Memorial University with sufficient revenue to address operating needs through an increase in its grant-in-aid, budgeted as follows:

- \$3.3 Million for fiscal year 2005/06
- \$7.2 Million for fiscal year 2006/07
- \$7.2 Million for fiscal year 2007/08.

22.a) Provide College of the North Atlantic with sufficient revenue to address operating needs through an increase in its grant-in-aid, budgeted as follows:

- \$1.6 Million for fiscal year 2005/06
- \$2.1 Million for fiscal year 2006/07
- \$2.8 Million for fiscal year 2007/08.

22.b) Provide funding to College of the North Atlantic to upgrade equipment, budgeted as follows:

- \$1.0 Million for fiscal year 2005/06
- \$1.0 Million for fiscal year 2006/07
- \$1.0 Million for fiscal year 2007/08.

Infrastructure Requirements

23.a) Support an infrastructure fundraising campaign for Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic by matching dollar for dollar private-sector contributions, budgeted as follows:

- \$3.0 Million for fiscal year 2005/06
- \$3.0 Million for fiscal year 2006/07
- \$3.0 Million for fiscal year 2007/08.

23.b) Ensure the physical space available for College of the North Atlantic's Labrador West campus is suited to the programming needs of the community and its employers.

23.c) Encourage federal investment in post-secondary infrastructure renewal to support our economic growth, particularly in knowledge-based industries.

Research Capacity

24.a) Support the Industrial Research and Innovation Fund by providing matching and start-up funds that will attract further federal investments in research at Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic, budgeted as follows:

\$5.0 Million for fiscal year 2005/06

\$7.5 Million for fiscal year 2006/07

\$10.0 Million for fiscal year 2007/08.

These funds will help position the University and College to play a key role in supporting the Province's Innovations Strategy.

24.b) Pursue additional federal contributions so that the indirect costs associated with research supported by federal granting councils can be adequately funded.

Student Financial Assistance

25.a) Increase provincial loan limits from \$110 to \$140 per week, consistent with the federal government increase of 27%.

25.b) Ensure Debt Reduction Grants are applied against the new weekly provincial loan limit of \$140.

25.c) Reduce expected parental contributions to enhance access to the loan program for more low-to middle-income families.

25.d) Improve debt management measures by providing a 5% increase in the income threshold to qualify for interest relief. These changes to the Student Loan Program are budgeted as follows:

\$0.5 Million for fiscal year 2005/06

\$1.0 Million for fiscal year 2006/07

\$1.7 Million for fiscal year 2007/08.

25.e) Negotiate an agreement with the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation to pilot a program to provide enhanced financial support for dependent students from low-income families.

STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING GOVERNANCE

Strategic Planning

26. Amend the *Acts* governing Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic to require each institution to demonstrate greater connectedness with each other, stronger accountability to the public and their contribution to the social and economic development of the Province. This will include

- three joint appointments to the University and College Boards,
- a reconfigured Council on Higher Education recognized in legislation,
- a process of monitoring and reporting to the Council by the jointly-appointed members

27. Expect Memorial and College of the North Atlantic to employ a system-wide approach to new program planning in areas of potential overlap or where cooperative and collaborative efforts may enhance design or delivery.

28. Enter into three-year outcomes-based performance contracts with Memorial and the College that will include

- financial performance measurement,
- efficiencies for shared service delivery,
- performance reporting on programs, research and administration,
- an enhanced credit transfer system,
- enhanced delivery of academic upgrading and other strategies to improve access for under-represented groups,
- links to economic development from applied research and innovation, links to regional diversification strategies of the Province.