

## **BACKGROUND ON CMEC'S POSTSECONDARY CAPACITY ACTION PLAN**

At their September 2004 meeting, ministers agreed to make postsecondary capacity one of their three main priorities.

Postsecondary education systems face the following major challenges:

- Institutions have difficulty recruiting and retaining faculty.
- Demand for postsecondary education outstrips the number of places.
- More graduates are needed in certain strategic fields.
- There are too few doctoral students to meet needs.
- Facilities are deteriorating because of deferred building maintenance.
- Indirect research costs take a heavy toll on institutional and provincial budgets.

Provinces and territories expect the federal government to provide more adequate support for postsecondary education. To this end, provinces and territories will identify the main issues facing their higher education institutions/systems. Jurisdictions agreed on three objectives in their March 2005 action plan:

Objective 1: Survey the state of postsecondary education systems and produce an issues integration document describing postsecondary issues facing Canada's provinces and territories.

Objective 2: Agree on a joint provincial and territorial position with respect to the federal government and produce a position paper on postsecondary issues; table provincial/territorial position and strategy before the Council of the Federation (COF).

Objective 3: Implement the provincial/territorial strategy and ensure appropriate follow-up with the federal government.

The action plan timelines run from the fall of 2004 to the spring of 2005, and the strategy and appropriate action plan follow-up will be implemented starting in the fall of 2005.

For more information on the action plan please contact

Fiona Deller  
Coordinator, Postsecondary Education  
Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC)  
(416) 962-8100 Ext. 256  
[f.deller@cmecc.ca](mailto:f.deller@cmecc.ca)