

**Council on Higher Education**

**Activity Plan**

**September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2026**

## Chairperson's Message

Pursuant to the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, the Council on Higher Education is defined as a category three entity. As Chairperson, I am pleased to submit the three-year Activity Plan of the Council on Higher Education. The strategic directions of the Provincial Government were considered in the preparation of this activity plan. This plan covers the period of September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2026.

Through increased collaboration, improved engagement and shared resources, the Council, working under the authority of the **Council on Higher Education Act**, will impact the strategic direction of public post-secondary education in the province.

My signature below is on behalf of the Council on Higher Education, and is indicative of the Council's accountability for the development of this plan and the achievement of its objectives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Howell', written in a cursive style.

**Honourable Krista Lynn Howell**  
Minister of Education

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## Overview

The Council on Higher Education (the “Council”) is a partnership between Memorial University (MUN), College of the North Atlantic (CNA), and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Council is tasked with the promotion of a shared approach between MUN and CNA with respect to program planning, promoting collaboration on issues related to economic development in the province, and enhancing cooperation in the delivery of public post-secondary academic programs.

## Mandate

As outlined in section 8(1) of the **Council on Higher Education Act**, the Council is responsible for making recommendations to MUN, CNA, and the Minister of Education with respect to the following:

- Strategic directions for post-secondary education in the province;
- Reduction of unnecessary duplication of effort and expense;
- Sharing of resources, information and student support services;
- Cost-effective provincial, national and international recruitment policies, standards and activities;
- Student credit transfer arrangements; and
- Other related matters.

## Guiding Principles

Recommendations provided by the Council are guided by the following principles:

- Promotion of a shared approach between the university and the college with respect to program planning and delivery;
- Fostering and promoting the collaboration of the university and the college on issues related to economic development in the province; and
- Enhancing cooperation and specialization in the delivery of post-secondary academic programs in areas agreed upon by the Council.

## Membership

The Council encourages collaboration at the highest levels of leadership and ensures the continued engagement of students in setting priorities and decision-making. As specified in section 3(1) of the **Council on Higher Education Act**, Council membership includes:

- Minister of Education (Chair);
- Deputy Minister of Education;
- Chair, MUN Board of Regents;
- Chair, CNA Board of Governors;
- President of MUN;
- President of CNA;
- MUN Student Representative; and
- CNA Student Representative.

As appropriate, the Minister of Education may appoint three additional members to the Council.

Current Council membership is listed below:

Name	Position	Membership Details
Hon. Krista Lynn Howell	Minister, Education	By virtue of position
Tracy King	Deputy Minister, Education	By virtue of position
Glenn Barnes	Chair, Memorial University Board of Regents	By virtue of position
Mark Bradbury	Chair, College of the North Atlantic Board of Governors	By virtue of position
Dr. Neil Bose	President and Vice Chancellor, Memorial University	By virtue of position
Elizabeth Kidd	President and CEO, College of the North Atlantic	By virtue of position
Vacant	MUN Student Member	Lieutenant-Governor in Council
Vacant	CNA Student Member	Lieutenant-Governor in Council

**Budget**

The Council does not have a defined budget and is not required to submit separate financial statements; all expenses are charged to the Department of Education’s Literacy and Institutional Services Division.

**Objective**

The following issue has been identified as a key priority for the 2023-26 planning period.

**Issue 1:** Revitalization of the role of the Council on Higher Education

With legislation proclaimed in 2007, the role and function of the Council on Higher Education is dated and requires a review in order to remain relevant and responsive to today’s educational and societal standards. For example, the membership of the Council on Higher Education does not include representation from private training institutions and the role they play in post-secondary training and articulation to other post-secondary providers. The Council is proposing the utilization of the 2023-2026 activity plan timeframe to review the mandate set out in the **Council on Higher Education Act**, which will include a fulsome review of Council composition, duties and responsibilities, and measurable mechanisms of accountability. To this end, the Council’s 2023-26 Activity Plan consists of one main objective with specified annual indicators to assist Council in achieving its modernization goal.

**Objective:** By August 31, 2026, work undertaken by the Council will be relevant and responsive to provincial educational standards.

**Annual Indicators:**

- By August 31, 2024, Council will have completed a jurisdictional scan to identify provincial/territorial best practices.
- By August 31, 2025, Council will have identified potential areas for change including Council composition, duties, responsibilities, and measurable mechanisms for accountability.
- By August 31, 2026, Council will have commenced collaborative work to enhance the post-secondary system in Newfoundland and Labrador.