

Council on Higher Education

Annual Report

September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2019

Chairperson's Message

The Council on Higher Education is defined as a category three entity pursuant to the **Transparency and Accountability Act**. As Chairperson, I am pleased to submit the 2018-19 Annual Report of the Council on Higher Education. This report covers the period of September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 and highlights the second year of the 2017-20 Activity Plan.

The Council on Higher Education is having an impact on the strategic direction of public post-secondary education in the province through increased collaboration. The Council works together to provide the people of this province with the best public post-secondary education opportunities available.

My signature below is on behalf of the Council on Higher Education and is indicative of its accountability for the actual results reported herein.

Respectfully submitted,



Hon. Christopher Mitchelmore
Chairperson

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Overview

The Council on Higher Education (the “Council”) was reactivated in 2017 as part of The Way Forward and 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

The establishment of the Council is outlined in the **Council on Higher Education Act**. The Council is responsible for making recommendations to MUN, CNA, and the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour (AESL) with respect to:

- Strategic direction for public post-secondary education;
- 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.

The Council encourages collaboration at the highest levels of leadership and ensures the continued engagement of students in setting priorities and decision-making. Information on the Council’s lines of business can be found in its 2017-20 Activity Plan available at: [2017-20 Activity Plan](#).

Membership

Section 3(1) of the **Council on Higher Education Act** provides for the membership of the Council; membership as of August 31, 2019 is listed below.

Table 1: Council on Higher Education Membership

Name	Position	Membership Details
Hon. Christopher Mitchelmore	Minister, AESL	By virtue of position
Fiona Langor	Deputy Minister, AESL	By virtue of position
Iris Petten	Chair, Memorial University Board of Regents	By virtue of position
Alastair O’Reilly	Chair, College of the North Atlantic Board of Governors	By virtue of position

Name	Position	Membership Details
Dr. Gary Kachanoski	President and Vice Chancellor, Memorial University	By virtue of position
Bruce Hollett	President and CEO (Interim), College of the North Atlantic	By virtue of position
Robert Gardiner	Deputy Minister, Education and Early Childhood Development	Ministerial appointee, approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council
Aubrey Gover	Deputy Minister, Indigenous Affairs	Ministerial appointee, approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council
Charles Bown	Deputy Minister, Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation	Ministerial appointee, approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council
John Godfrey	MUN Student Member	Lieutenant-Governor in Council
Andrew Haire	CNA Student Member	Lieutenant-Governor in Council

Members serve without remuneration. The Council is not subject to the **Independent Appointments Commission Act**.

Staff

There are no staff positions directly employed by the Council; however, the Director of Literacy and Institutional Services provides support to the Council and acts as officer under the **Council on Higher Education Act**.

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 AESL's Literacy and Institutional Services Division. The Council did not incur expenditures during the reporting period.

Highlights and Partnerships

The Council is a tripartite alliance between CNA, MUN, and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, with the goal of increasing collaboration between the entities. The Council directly supports The Way Forward commitment for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to work with MUN and CNA to identify ways for the institutions to collaborate, partner, and pool resources in applied research areas and to assist in supporting and facilitating the transfer of students between the two institutions.

Committees and Subcommittees

During the 2018-19 academic year, the Council met twice and discussed priority areas for collaboration and the work of the three subcommittees: Articulation and Transfer, Applied Research Priorities, and Indigenous Education.

The Advisory Committee, consisting of senior officials from MUN, CNA, and the Department of AESL, met twice during the 2018-19 academic year. The committee focused on formalizing the work plans of the subcommittees and ensuring the work of the Council remained reflective of its mandate, the Council members' priorities, and The Way Forward commitments.

The Articulation and Transfer Subcommittee met twice during the 2018-19 academic year and developed a work plan to guide activities towards enhancing student mobility.

The Applied Research Priorities Subcommittee met three times during the reporting period to develop its work plan and commenced activities to increase collaboration between MUN and CNA on applied research initiatives.

The Indigenous Education Subcommittee met once during the 2018-19 academic year to discuss the development of a Terms of Reference and to explore opportunities to enhance Indigenous education.

Council on Higher Education membership

Under subsection 3(a) of the **Council on Higher Education Act**, two students are appointed to the Council, one from MUN, and one from CNA. Under current Provincial Government policy, Lieutenant-Governor in Council approval is required for their appointment to the Council. In the reporting period, student representatives from MUN and CNA were appointed to fill student representative vacancies, which arose due to student graduation.

Report on Performance

The Council's work is guided by two priorities identified in The Way Forward and reflected in its 2017-20 Activity Plan: to foster collaboration in applied research areas and support; and to facilitate the transfer of students between the two institutions.

Performance measurement information was identified in the Activity Plan to assist both the Council and public in monitoring and evaluating progress in meeting these objectives.

Issue 1: Engagement to identify further research opportunities in the province and foster collaboration to partner and pool resources in applied research areas.

Applied research in public post-secondary education is essential to creating opportunities for students and industry to work collaboratively and contributes to the province's economic growth. MUN and CNA are leaders in degree and diploma programs that include areas such as health, ocean technology, engineering, business, and other industries specific to the province. Each institution continues to develop innovations through applied research that assist businesses throughout the province to grow and strengthen their competitiveness in key sectors nationally and internationally. Coordination and collaboration between the province's two public post-secondary institutions and its stakeholders, specifically in the areas of applied research in priority sectors, continues to support economic and labour market growth.

The following objective and indicators apply to the 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 academic years.

Objective: By August 31, 2019, the Council on Higher Education will have assessed current research programs and initiatives to identify opportunities to enhance research programs and initiatives through collaboration, partnership and the pooling of resources.

Indicator	2018-19 Results
1. Assessed the current level of research programs and initiatives.	Completed and reported on in the 2017-18 Annual Report.
2. Identified opportunities to enhance the amount of research programs and initiatives	In the 2018-19 academic year, the Council continued its work in this area. The Applied Research Priorities Subcommittee, which includes representatives selected from CNA, MUN, and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, developed its work plan and commenced activities to increase opportunities for collaboration between MUN and CNA on applied research

undertaken by public post-secondary institutions.	<p>initiatives. The work plan was approved by the Advisory Committee and the Council.</p> <p>Key goals of the work plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing an inventory of past MUN/CNA research collaborations and opportunities for future collaborative applied research; • Encouraging collaboration between MUN and CNA; and • Developing at least one joint CNA/MUN application for submission to an applied research funding program offered by a federal funding agency.
3. Identified opportunities and made recommendations to members for collaboration, partnering, and pooling of resources to further support applied research.	<p>During the 2018-19 academic year, the Applied Research Priorities Subcommittee held three meetings: September 20, 2018, March 19, 2019, and July 29, 2019, and developed its work plan. The subcommittee identified opportunities for collaboration, partnering, and pooling of resources to further support applied research and continues to explore those opportunities to inform recommendations to the Council. This included identifying equipment and facilities that could be used for joint projects, and joint presentations from funding bodies to MUN and CNA for potential research partnerships.</p>

Issue 2: Supporting and facilitating the transfer of students between the two institutions.

Educational attainment is a vital aspect of labour market attachment and success. The province's public post-secondary system seeks to be responsive to the needs of the local labour market while remaining an attractive destination for students. To facilitate this, institutions work to identify commonalities in programming and credentials achieved to ensure seamless academic mobility for students, non-duplication of effort, and cost-efficiency.

The following objective and indicators apply to the 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 academic years.

Objective: By August 31, 2019, the Council on Higher Education will have assisted the two-way transfer of students between institutions.

Indicator	2018-19 Results
1. Assessed current student	In the 2018-19 academic year, the Department of AESL worked with MUN and CNA to assess, update, and release the Newfoundland and Labrador Credit and Program/Block Transfer

transfer opportunities.	<p>Guide (released December 1, 2018). The Transfer Guide lists established transfer of credit and program precedents available to students in Newfoundland and Labrador; the document is available online:</p> <p>http://www.aesl.gov.nl.ca/postsecondary/transferguide/index.html.</p> <p>Additionally, the Articulation and Transfer Subcommittee developed its work plan, which included assessing current student transfer opportunities.</p>
2. Consulted regarding opportunities to support the transfer of students between the two institutions.	<p>In the 2018-19 academic year, the Articulation and Transfer Subcommittee continued to consult and held two meetings: February 26, 2019 and July 4, 2019. The subcommittee progressed on its work plan, which includes identifying further opportunities to support the transfer of students between MUN and CNA.</p> <p>Key goals of the work plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing an overarching MOU between MUN and CNA to facilitate and guide work on articulation and transfer between the institutions; • Developing an inventory of existing articulation and transfer agreements between MUN and CNA; • Developing an agreement template to standardize the articulation and transfer process; and • Conducting analysis of data on the current and recent student mobility landscape between MUN and CNA.

Opportunities and Challenges

The Council continued to work towards all objectives and indicators during the 2018-19 academic year and set up the appropriate mechanisms to ensure that all objectives and indicators will have results in the 2019-20 academic year. Work plans for the Applied Research Priorities Subcommittee and the Articulation and Transfer Subcommittee have been developed and approved and the Indigenous Education Subcommittee has finalized a Terms of Reference and continues to work on developing its work plan in support of activities to enhance Indigenous Education. CNA, MUN, and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador are committed to achieving results in all indicated priority areas.

The independent public post-secondary education system review, announced in Budget 2018 and recommitted in phase three of The Way Forward, continues. CNA and MUN continue to play an active role in the review and future work of the Council may be guided by the results of the review.