



Council of Atlantic Ministers  
of Education and Training (CAMET)

Conseil atlantique des ministres  
de l'Éducation et de la Formation (CAMEF)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## COMMUNIQUÉ

### **Ministers of Education and Training Commit to Promote Career Development for Students and Strengthen Cooperation in Post-Secondary Education**

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**(Fredericton, N.B.)** – Atlantic Ministers of education and training initiated steps to promote career development in public schools, to collaborate in training for education staff in the area of autism, and emerged from their meeting today in Fredericton with a commitment to promote greater cooperation in the area of post-secondary education. The meeting was attended by Hon. Jody Carr, New Brunswick Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour; Hon. Marie-Claude Blais, New Brunswick Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development; Hon. Kevin O'Brien, Newfoundland and Labrador Minister of Advanced Education and Skills; Hon. Kelly Regan, Nova Scotia Minister of Labour and Advanced Education; Hon. J. Alan McIsaac, Prince Edward Island Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development; and Hon. Allen F. Roach, Prince Edward Island Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning.

#### *Career Education and Development*

Building on a number of high-quality career education programs and resources, and diverse approaches to the delivery across the Atlantic provinces, Ministers recognize the importance of mobilizing their efforts to support students' transition from public to post-secondary education. While provinces have made significant advances in promoting and supporting post-secondary participation, there are shifts occurring in provincial labour markets that are impacting the nature of work and careers, particularly for young people. Therefore, it is critical that provinces consider ways to strengthen and deliver leading-edge career development programs and services.

During the meeting, the Ministers received a presentation from Sareena Hopkins and Donnalee Bell from the Canadian Career Development Foundation (CCDF). The presentation focused on best practices in career education.

Ministers of education and training agreed to strengthen career education and development in Atlantic Canada, and have asked their senior officials to explore targeted initiatives and recommend appropriate provincial and regional actions to assist students in developing the critical knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to effectively manage career choices, transition and progression. In addition, the Ministers agreed that further work needs to be undertaken on improving transition from high school to post-secondary education.

Ministers strongly believe that a successful transition from public to post-secondary education will improve the socio-economic status of Atlantic Canadians. High-quality career development support will have a positive impact on educational attainment, especially in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, on increasing worker productivity, and decreasing health dependence on social assistance and criminal involvement. It is envisioned that successful career education and development programs will lead to higher retention in post-secondary education programs, assist students to make sound career choices, and lay the foundation for lifelong learning.

#### *Post-Secondary Education*

The Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training (CAMET) also discussed challenges and opportunities facing post-secondary education in the Atlantic region within the context of the current fiscal environment in the provinces, its long-term sustainability, and the overall role of institutions in meeting the region's labour market needs.

To assist Ministers in better understanding these emerging opportunities and challenges, Dr. Harvey Weingarten, President and CEO, the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario, made a presentation to Ministers on global, national and regional trends in higher education and how these are manifested in the Atlantic Canadian context. Ministers engaged in a strategic discussion and developed a common understanding on the overall value and future role of post-secondary education.

Ministers are committed to sustainable and accountable high-quality post-secondary education systems in each province and agreed to promote greater collaboration within the Atlantic region by continuing a meaningful dialogue, provincially and regionally, with all stakeholders.

#### *Autism Partnership*

Ministers of education also announced today the establishment of an interprovincial partnership on autism training for teachers, resource teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators. Building on the training program introduced in New Brunswick in 2011, the regional program will lead to consistency in training, build capacity across all four provinces through an e-learning program that promotes evidence-based practice, be responsive to emerging research and needs, as well as achieve efficiencies in delivery.

Ministers of education and training recognized that the opportunities discussed today will build on previous successful regional initiatives undertaken jointly in the past 40 years. Through a regional forum such as CAMET and other agencies, provinces have achieved program efficiencies and substantial cost savings in the area of joint purchases of school textbooks, software, and school buses, as well as collaboration in post-secondary education research.

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