

News Release

Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour

Investments made to increase access and success in post-secondary education

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FREDERICTON (CNB) – The provincial government is making several investments to help more New Brunswickers to participate and succeed in post-secondary education. Details were released today by Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour Minister Martine Coulobme.

"Improving the quality and diversity of services, and increasing post-secondary participation and graduation rates are key priorities for our government and for the economic development of New Brunswick," said Coulobme.

The initiatives are designed to address the persistent gaps in participation in post-secondary education among several groups including:

- Aboriginals;
- persons with disabilities;
- low-income earners;
- rural youths; and
- young people whose parents did not obtain post-secondary credentials.

The publicly-funded universities and colleges were invited to submit funding proposals for innovative projects to address these challenges.

"The projects focus on activities to improve access and success in post-secondary education and to tackle poverty reduction through education." said Coulobme. "They are two of the most important ways in which individuals can improve their life circumstances and ensure a high quality of life for themselves, their families and their communities".

The provincial government is investing \$4.4 million. It has awarded funding to new initiatives and will continue to support pilot projects started over the past two years. All pilot projects are evaluated and the best practices are shared with the other institutions.

These measures are part of a series of initiatives to modernize the post-secondary sector.

Under this plan, additional funding of \$ 3.1 million supports initiatives including:

- the development of a research and innovation strategy;
- the New Brunswick Council on Articulations and Transfer, in order to ensure the smooth and effective transfer of credits and prior learning assessment for the benefit of learners;
- international education; and
- fostering collaboration among industry, post-secondary institutions, and community groups.

As noted in the document *Putting New Brunswick First*, providing the best possible post-secondary education is an

essential part of creating opportunities for job growth and employment through an innovative economy.

Following are details of the activities being funded at each institution:

University of New Brunswick (UNB):\$1,220,000

- Programs renewed : parent support programs; the Aboriginal Nursing Initiative, aboriginal recruiting officer, aboriginal-elder-in-Residence, admissions transfer officer, non-traditional recruiter, student accessibility counsellor; student development co-ordinator; Aboriginal academic advisors, student advocates at universities for every faculty with an Aboriginal student population; Aboriginal - provision of mental health services at post-secondary institutions.
- New initiatives : academic advising /student success-retention framework; student success series; alternative format text services; increased access and recruitment for Bachelor of Integrated Studies; literacy coach - knowledge mobilization (UNB Saint John); community-based recruiters (UNB Saint John); early intervention recruitment and persistence (UNB Saint John) Alumini mentor room and PNB Technology Learning Centre (UNB Saint John).

St. Thomas University:\$ 300,000

- Program renewed: initiative to provide a Learning for Success Program for first-year students who did not meet the regular admission average requirement.
- New initiative to provide an Aboriginal Education initiative to enhance post-secondary education and educational outcomes for the Aboriginal population of New Brunswick.

Mount Allison University: \$300,000

- Programs renewed: disability services co-ordinator; new equipment for students with disabilities, Meighen Centre; Literacy, Numeracy and career advising; part-time staff to assist disabled students with note-taking.
- New initiatives: programming for students with mental health challenges aimed at providing them with a comprehensive leadership development program which will position them for active citizen engagement; student support for writing and numeracy.

Université de Moncton: \$962,150

- New initiatives: access and learning support centre for students with disabilities on the Moncton, Shippagan and Edmundston campuses; development of promotional and advertising tools to recruit under-represented students; testimonials by professors to assist with teaching students with disabilities at the university level; facilitate credit transfers between the Université de Moncton and the Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick; increase high school recruitment to attract more students from low-income families by providing additional financial and academic guidance support.

New Brunswick Community College: \$ 683,000

- Renewal: continue to fund one Aboriginal Provincial Co-ordinator and four Aboriginal Student Advisors.
- New initiative to hire six student accommodation advisors and one provincial accommodations co-ordinator to assist and support students with disabilities.

Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick: \$725,000

- Additional funds for the operation of the learning support centre for the college and its five campuses
- Renewal: access to free academic studies courses for young people and adults on all five campuses.

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