

Public Consultation – Campbellton

Highlights

April 23, 2007

Presentation by Réal Leclerc, President, Association francophone des conseillères et des conseillers en orientation du Nouveau-Brunswick (AFCONB)
(Full text on the Commission's website – In French.)

The AFCONB laments the fact that the cuts to the Excellence in Education program in the early 1990s deprived a whole generation of young New Brunswickers of the support of guidance counsellors in a critical period of their life. The Association would like to see more guidance counsellors hired. Currently, the ratio is 450 students to every counsellor.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition

The AFCONB recommends that the government form a permanent commission on post-secondary training with a mandate to oversee the recognition of prior learning process.

College - University relations

The relationship between the community colleges and universities should be cooperative rather than competitive. The AFCONB believes that this competition would be lessened if the institutions' mandates were more distinct and clear and the funding formula was modified to take these respective mandates into consideration.

Presentation by Betty-Ann Mercier, Executive Director, Enterprise Restigouche

Enterprise Restigouche believes there needs to be greater cooperation between the colleges, universities, and schools. The organization maintains that the people of the Restigouche region must have access to post-secondary education without having to go to the southern part of the province. Having basic training in the region is essential. Enterprise Restigouche considers it possible to build on existing structures like CCNB – Campbellton and to expand the programming, taking into account the needs of the clients, i.e. the businesses.

Association des ancien-ne-s et ami-e-s du Collège communautaire de Campbellton

Representatives of the Association emphasized CCNB – Campbellton’s vital role as a catalyst and economic engine in the region. The Association des ancien-ne-s et ami-e-s du Collège communautaire de Campbellton is appealing for greater recognition and adequate funding for the college.

Accessibility

One suggestion put forward was to offer the first year of university at the community college. Young people should have access to quality post-secondary education without having to leave the region. To counter student debt load, one of the stakeholders proposed an exemption from interest charges on student loans for a period of five years after graduation. One participant called for the New Brunswick government to offer community college students the same \$2,000 grant currently given to university students.

Governance

It was proposed to the Commission that two boards of directors be set up to govern the community colleges in New Brunswick, one for the Francophone network and one for the Anglophone network.

One participant expressed the desire to see both K-12 and post-secondary education under only one department.

College-level training in English

The mayor of Dalhousie, Mr. Clem Tremblay, maintains there is a need for college courses to be offered in English in the Restigouche region. In an effort to keep young people in the area, Mr. Tremblay proposed that college training in English be offered in Dalhousie.