



Public Meetings – Moncton

Highlights

April 11, 2007

Role of private colleges

The New Brunswick Association of Career Colleges, representing New Brunswick's private colleges, made known its desire to see private colleges recognized and considered by the Government of New Brunswick to be major players in the post-secondary education sector.

The Association commended the efforts of its members to ensure the quality of instruction. The representatives of the private colleges feel that their education can complement other training offered in public institutions.

Role of universities

Secondly, a stakeholder stressed the vital role that universities play in developing critical thinking. Universities put considerable effort, as circumstances permit, into coordinating theory and practice. According to this participant, it is essential to avoid promoting one to the detriment of the other.

April 12, 2007

Presentation by Jean Morency

(Full text on the Commission's website – In French.)

In his presentation to the Commission on Post-Secondary Education, Jean Morency, holder of the Canada Research Chair in Intercultural Literary Analysis at the Université de Moncton, pointed out that it was difficult to reflect on post-secondary education without considering primary and secondary education. According to Mr. Morency, we should not limit ourselves to market needs when studying the question of education. He also stressed the importance of the social mission of the Université de Moncton and its impact on Acadian society. With regard to collaboration between the universities and colleges, he believes this should not be done to the detriment of either one.

Presentation by Arsène Richard

(Full text on the Commission's website – In French.)

Another contributor, Arsène Richard, addressed the Commission, saying that every educational activity should promote the development of critical thinking. Every teaching strategy must promote democracy. Further, Mr. Richard stated that courses that stimulate critical thinking should be a prerequisite for university training.

Presentation by the president of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour, Michel Boudreau

The president of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour, Michel Boudreau, reiterated the importance of post-secondary education remaining public. He also pointed out the need for better preparation in high school.

According to Mr. Boudreau, the New Brunswick government made a bad decision when it did away with the more practical training offered in the province's schools. He recommended two-tiered post-secondary education, i.e. training that is spread out over longer periods than usual, in an effort to benefit students with learning difficulties.

Various contributions

Many other topics were addressed during the public meeting. One of the questions in the discussion paper was criticized. This question attempts to find the reason why so many university students enroll in Arts programs when there is a growing need for graduates in science, pure and applied mathematics, computer science, and engineering. The question projects a perception of opposition between the disciplines; however, it is really a much broader problem of preparation and choice where there should not be any room for opposition between different disciplines.

It was also mentioned that research and collaboration between post-secondary institutions is sometimes difficult owing to bilingualism and the specificity of language. If there is close collaboration, true bilingualism is vital in order to avoid the assimilation that results from the Francophone minority functioning in English.

One participant stated that inadequate funding for students could explain the high university dropout rate.

The issue of the commission's independence from the government was raised. The commissioners reassured the participants on this matter.

The importance of the Université de Moncton as a general university and its role within the Acadian and Francophone community was reiterated many times throughout the consultation.