

**NBCC MIRAMICHI
SUBMISSION TO
COMMISSION ON POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION
Monday April 30, 2007**

Introduction

NBCC Miramichi is a modern high tech college delivering training in three locations, the Main Building, the St. Michael Annex and the Forest Training Center. Our budget for 2006-2007 was \$9.5 million. In September 2007 we had 542 regular program students, 1420 enrolled contract training students, 120 full-time employees along with 38 casual employees.

Our campus offers a wide array of programs and services. The students, faculty and staff have access to all the resources that support quality learning such as a library, a student learning centre, media resource centre, labs, book store and gymnasium. As we continue to compete for students, we recognize that we also need to develop learning tools to better inform students of their selected career choice such as virtual work place experience and job shadowing.

With respect to the course curriculum, we need to design more programs in collaboration with partners and provide multiple entry and exit points and laddering opportunities for students. A continuous curriculum renewal process will enable additional certifications

or credentials from other educational institutions and accreditation bodies such as universities, associations and the international community.

We also recognize the importance of integrating more technology in our delivery to achieve innovative, creative and stimulating learning experiences such as working more with WebCT.

We recommend that E-learning should become a provincial initiative. The Business plan would require a provincial unit with specialists who would develop courses and online curriculum for all E-learning products required from post secondary institutions. This would draw on the expertise available at the various institutions.

Educational Programs offered at NBCC-Miramichi:

Applied Arts

- Animation and Graphics Technology
- Art Fundamentals
- Electronic Game - 3D Graphics
- Electronic Game Design

Business

- Business Administration – General
- Business Admin- Sales and Marketing
- Business Admin - Accounting
- Office Administration
- Graphic Design

Academic & Language

- Academic Studies
- French as a Second Language

Health & Human Services

- Practical Nurse
- Human Services
- Early Childhood Education

- Correctional Techniques
- Criminal Justice
- Youth Care Worker
- Police Foundations

Natural Resources /Mechanical

- Heavy Equipment Service Technician (Pre-Employment and Apprenticeship)
Industrial Mechanics (Apprenticeship & Pre-Employment)
- Transport Refrigeration Service Technician (Apprenticeship & Pre-Employment)
- Welding (Pre-employment)
- Environmental Technology
- Forestry Operations Technician
- Carpentry
- Fire Services Training (Provincial mandate)

Contract Training

- Mechanized Forest Operations (Provincial mandate)
- Heavy Equipment Operations (partnership with industry)
- Conventional Forestry Training
- Equipment Repair and Maintenance Training
- Customized training as per private sector and industry requests
- Night School
- Distance Learning

In our mix of programs we are especially proud of our Animation and Gaming Programs which are the best in Atlantic Canada, and similar to the nationally recognized Sheridan College. After ten successful years, we continue to have talented, recognized animators and gamers on staff graduating industry ready candidates. These programs are developing an industry for Miramichi and for the Province. An example of our success is the partnership between our campus and the Department of National Defence (DND). We have recently signed an agreement with DND that will enable our best animators and gamers to work at Camp Gagetown developing educational training tools for a one year period.

We recommend that there be more of these agreements that offer new possibilities for our graduates and keep them in New Brunswick.

Integrated Services

Along with the necessary educational resources, the campus through strategic partnerships with the community and other government departments and agencies, has integrated additional services that further support our students, faculty, staff and our community.

Students from the Miramichi region who want to pursue their education through a University program are able to take first year and some second year courses at our Campus. These courses are offered by UNB, Saint Thomas, and Mount Allison. Many of these courses are taught by our faculty. Since its beginning in 1994, over 1300 students have followed university studies at our campus.

The registration has grown from 65 students and 15 courses in our first year to an average of a 130 students and 35 courses per year over the past 3 years. The drop out rate has been less than 5 % per year and recent student surveys indicate a high degree of satisfaction with their Miramichi program experience. The Miramichi University program not only addresses drop outs which is very frequent in the first year of University, but also provides accessibility to education to students who are challenged financially and also those living in rural areas.

We have hosted this initiative at no cost to the Universities since its beginning while still ensuring all necessary educational and facility resources are made available.

We believe that the University programs are a priority for our community if we are to address the literacy problem in our region. The Miramichi university program is truly an exemplary existing partnership that should be explored in other regions.

However, we recommend that the University Program be integrated as part of NBCC Miramichi's business plan with additional funding to the campus' main budget. The University program on the Miramichi needs to integrate students in an educational environment which includes non-academic support services such as counseling, support for learning disabilities, testing services and student life which are so important to their overall success.

Being part of an educational institution, such as NBCC Miramichi, will allow these students to be truly integrated in a learning environment and hopefully they will continue on their learning journey.

Also available at our Campus is the Chatham Day Care Center, located in our Main Building. The daycare staff of 13 is fully certified in Early Childhood Education. This service is offered to our students at a discounted rate making daycare accessible and affordable.

As a lack of daycare availability paired with financial difficulties often plays an important role in the decision to pursue education we recommend that daycare services be explored in other educational facilities.

Changing Profile of Students

The profile of our students has changed drastically in recent years. We are now required to support more students who are intellectually and physically challenged along with many who have life skill and family related issues. We need to address these realities. Therefore it is important that Faculty participate in relevant Professional Development initiatives to deal with these new challenges.

Our campus has recently established a Resource Center which is in its infancy in the scope of services offered. We need to have resources on site and / or online support not only for these clients' needs but also to support the Faculty's need in working with clients who have learning disabilities.

Also, the amount of bureaucracy and paperwork that has to be completed in order for a person with disabilities to first get assessed and then get the support they need requires too many steps which eventually can cause despair, and discouragement prompting a student to drop out.

We recommend that a Provincial plan be developed and supported to ensure Professional Development for Faculty, This plan should be a joint post secondary initiative as all universities and colleges in our Province have to address these challenges. This will result in the sharing of resources, both human and financial.

Our college is also working very closely with other government departments and agencies. For example, we host an Adult Literacy class at our college. We believe that students should be immersed in the college environment experience to encourage them to pursue their education after attaining a GED Certificate or High School Diploma.

We recommend that more post secondary institutions open their doors to these learners to promote the possibilities of a post experience as part of their reality.

This year we are also working with the Department of Family and Community Services by supporting an outreach sexual health clinic and a clinic for women dealing with abuse and violence. The presence of these clinics at our campus provides easy access for our clients.

The campus is also negotiating with the aboriginal community to explore the presence of a part-time aboriginal elder or counselor at the campus to support our aboriginal clients.

We believe that the accessibility of additional support on our campus will add to creating a more successful environment for our students, faculty and staff.

We recommend that more joint partnerships with other government agencies be established to ensure that onsite resources are available to students in post secondary institutions. A coordinated effort between government departments and agencies in providing services to students will result in a more effective and efficient support system to our clients.

In conclusion, education at Miramichi Campus is a result of a dynamic and willing Faculty and Staff working together with other agencies and industry to provide the best possible learning environment for the educational and personal success of each student. As best said by Albert Einstein; “I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn”.

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