

ALBERTA COUNCIL ON ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFER

FALL 2007 NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS

I am honoured to have been appointed as Chair of ACAT, and I look forward to supporting the facilitation of admissions and transfer for students. I have had some opportunity to learn about the excellent work that ACAT has done over the years, and I am keen to learn much more about the future possibilities for ACAT.



As a strong advocate for Campus Alberta, I believe that learners are the core focus of all we do. ACAT contains representation from across the advanced education system which uniquely positions us to work cooperatively to ensure learners have smooth transitions into and within the post-secondary system.

The current Alberta Advanced Education and Technology "Roles and Mandates" project provides ACAT with a great opportunity to contribute to the success of this important initiative. ACAT seeks to play a strong role in the implementation of many of the strategies arising from this initiative, and we are poised to enhance our leadership role within the system.

ACAT has been and will continue to be a "jewel in the crown" of Alberta's advanced education system, and will play a key role in helping Campus Alberta become the best in the world.

I am excited to lead the next part of the ACAT journey.

Ron Woodward, Chair

A FOND FAREWELL

Six years ago, full of apprehension and excitement, I began an incredible journey.

First, I want to thank the member institutions, Council members, Contact Persons and their assistants. The commitment you have consistently exhibited is the foundation for ACAT's success. Thank you to the Ministry for its constant support, and for respecting the "arms-length" nature of our work. To the members of the Secretariat, thank you for your unfailing excellence and dedication.

As I have traveled the province and the country, I consistently heard that transfer in Alberta is solidly entrenched, and that ACAT consistently succeeds in eliminating barriers.

I am very proud of ACAT's many significant accomplishments since 2001, which include increasing ACAT's membership, advancing its leadership role across Canada, and streamlining operations.

ACAT was identified at the Minister's consultation in February as a "jewel in the crown of Alberta's post-secondary system". Thank you to each of you who has helped to make it so. I will follow the work of ACAT with great interest. I have been fortunate in working with a group of such dedicated professionals. I wish Ron every success and as much fulfillment as I have experienced over these past six years.



Lucille Walter, Outgoing Chair

THIS ISSUE...

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- Council Member Expansion
- ACAT Consultation Day Update
- ACAT's Principles, Policies and Procedures Update
- Articulation Committees
- Transfer Guide
- Council/Contact Person's Meeting

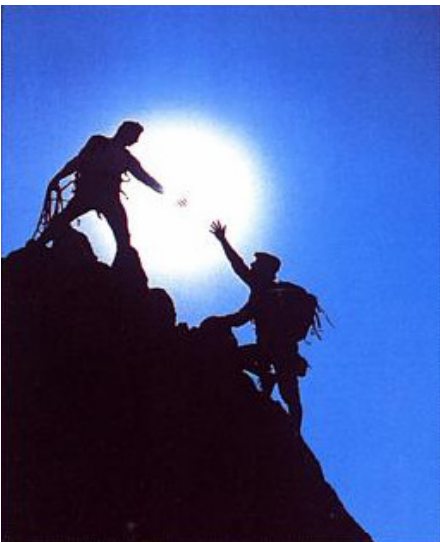
- ACAT Website Update
- PLAR Info Update
- Goodbye and Hello from ACAT Secretariat Staff
- New Transfer System Institution
- Did You Know...



Great planning leads to great futures – www.acat.gov.ab.ca

COUNCIL EXPANDS MEMBERSHIP

At its May 8-9, 2007 meeting, ACAT approved a recommendation to expand Council membership from 15 to 16 seats, to include a representative from an Aboriginal college. Minister Horner approved this addition on August 7, and the First Nations Adult & Higher Education Consortium (FNAHEC) was asked for a nomination to be selected from one of the four Aboriginal ACAT member institutions. We welcome Vincent Steinhauer, Instructor at Blue Quills First Nations College, as our newest Council member.



ACAT CONSULTATION DAY

On March 29, 2007, representatives of the member institutions of ACAT met to discuss the post-secondary transfer system in Alberta and ACAT's role. The purpose of the session was to identify what is working well in the transfer system, what are the challenges, and what might be possible solutions. Participants were also asked to look specifically at Council and its role in the transfer system. Approximately 35 participants attended the session, including vice presidents (academic), or their designates, and ACAT Council members. The feedback from the session is reflected in a "What We Heard" document and will allow ACAT to plan its future priorities and activities and ensure it is best meeting the needs of the transfer system. The document can be viewed at www.acat.gov.ab.ca under ACAT Information.

JOINT COUNCIL & CONTACT PERSONS MEETING

The fall meetings took place October 15-17 at SAIT. It was the second time Council has come together with the Contact Persons (CP's) and the first meeting for our newly appointed Chair.

Council Meeting Highlights

- Minister of Advanced Education and Technology Doug Horner discussed ACAT's involvement and recommendations for the Roles and Mandates Framework working groups.
- A subcommittee to discuss possible changes to the future role of ACAT was established and will report to Council in February.
- A strategic communications plan was presented, and Council decided to proceed with developing a formal implementation plan for key communications activities.

Contact Persons Meeting Highlights

- Maintaining the Block Transfer charts in the Guide continues to be a high priority thus there were discussions regarding institutional processes with regard to making changes to their courses.
- A number of proposed enhancements that will make the system more responsive to users needs were considered.
- Several System Best Practices were discussed to assist user in having a common understanding of the system.

NEW INSTITUTION JOINS TRANSFER SYSTEM

Council recently adopted a new process for admitting post-secondary institutions to ACAT and the transfer system. Information on the process is available on the ACAT website at www.acat.gov.ab.ca and in the Council's Principles, Policies and Procedures. The first institution to submit an application through this new process was Red Crow Community College located in southern Alberta. Red Crow's application was reviewed and was accepted for admission. Please join us in welcoming Red Crow Community College to the transfer system! We hope that this admission will lead to greater transfer opportunities for Red Crow's students.

PRINCIPLES, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES UPDATED

We have updated our Principles, Policies and Procedures document and it can be found on our website at www.acat.gov.ab.ca under ACAT Information.

Enhancements to this section include:

- Definitions regarding institutional roles
- Addition of a policy of requirements to be eligible for membership
- Procedures for applying for membership
- Criteria to remain a member in good standing

PAN-CANADIAN CONSORTIUM ON ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFER (PCCAT)

PCCAT, established in June 2006, consists of a group of transfer credit professionals from 5 provinces and 1 territory. The purpose of the Consortium is to facilitate the implementation of policies and practices that support student mobility both within and among Provinces and Territories, and granting of transfer credit in order to improve access to post-secondary education in Canada.

Members most recently convened in Prince Edward Island this past June to discuss future collaborative activities.

The members maintain regular communication through a *listserve* and you are welcome to visit the website at www.pccat.ca for more information on the Terms of Reference, membership, objectives and future meetings.

What's Next

As a national leader in transfer credit, ACAT will continue to be an active voice in PCCAT and to encourage Alberta post-secondary institutions to sign on to the PCCAT *listserve* and attend the annual meeting. The next PCCAT meeting will be held in Toronto from June 16-18, 2008.

LET'S TALK ABOUT PLAR (PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT & RECOGNITION)

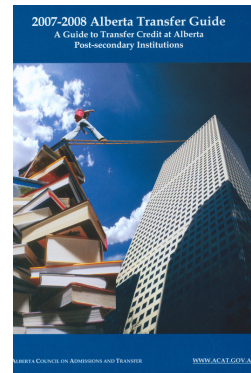
ACAT hosted a workshop for PLAR practitioners and champions on May 16, 2007 in Edmonton. We had keynote addresses from the following individuals: Dianne Conrad, Deb Blower, Elaine Schow, Shirley Meyer and Douglas Myers. There were also facilitated sessions with representatives from Advanced Education & Technology seeking input on the development of a PLAR Policy Framework for the advanced education system. A summary of information received from participants during the facilitated sessions can be found on our website at www.acat.gov.ab.ca under the PLAR tab.

PLAR Policy Framework: Advanced Education and Technology is undertaking the development of a PLAR Policy Framework for the advanced education system. ACAT first advocated for such a Framework last year and is pleased to be advising the Ministry as a key stakeholder throughout the development phase.

ARTICULATION COMMITTEES

ACAT is currently involved in several articulation committees, all in different stages. The Secondary to Post-Secondary committees include Mathematics, Social Studies and Second Languages. The Post-Secondary to Post-Secondary committees are Computing Science, Cree, Biological Sciences, Engineering and Education.

We would like to thank all who have been involved in the various committees for your effort and time. Moving forward would not be possible without your contributions and input.



ALBERTA TRANSFER GUIDE

A superb job was done making this year's full-colour Guide our best ever! Our print numbers went down this year with a mail out totaling 2916 copies—that is down 659 copies from last year! Thank you all for your help in cutting costs and saving trees!

FALL 2007

ANOTHER FAREWELL

After more than 6 years of spreading the word about transfer credit and planning and preparing for post-secondary studies, Kyra decided to heed her own advice and return to full-time studies at MacEwan College, in the Bachelor of Applied Communications in Professional Writing program (and, yes, she did receive lots of transfer credit). Her last day was Friday, August 10.

“One of the best parts of the job has been the opportunity to work with so many great people from all over the province. I’ll miss you!” Kyra



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MANAGER



Please join ACAT in welcoming Anne Ryton as the new Manager of Post-Secondary Transitions, replacing Kyra Kubrak. She will be providing leadership and support to ACAT and the various activities undertaken by the ACAT Secretariat. Anne joins us from the Learner Services branch of Adult Learning where she was a Senior Consultant involved in training stakeholders on student finance issues. Anne has a Bachelor of Education degree with a specialization in secondary education and has also previously worked for the Bredin Institute Centre for Learning. With her wealth of knowledge and experience with learner needs and advanced education policy she will make a great addition to our team.

“I’m excited to be part of the ACAT team, and I look forward to working with you in the near future!” Anne

WEBSITE UPDATES

Check out our website as we continue to make improvements to service and the accessing of information. The improvements include:

- Newly restructured layout;
- Information updated to mirror printed Guide;
- Search tabs re-named;
- A portal for PLAR Information;
- Business Plan posted; and
- Web Survey coming soon!

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER...

Do you have questions about admissions and transfer in Alberta?

Check out: www.acat.gov.ab.ca

E-mail: acat@gov.ab.ca

Phone: 780.422-9021

Toll free in Alberta, dial 310.0000, then 780.422.9021

Deaf or hearing impaired individuals with TDD/TTY units call 427-9999 in Edmonton. Other locations call 1.800.232.7215

DID YOU KNOW...

*The largest lake entirely in Alberta is Lake Clair, at 1436 square km.

*The province of Alberta was named after Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, the fourth daughter of Queen Victoria.

*Alberta was the first province in Canada to elect a woman to the Provincial Legislature. Louise McKinney represented Claresholm in 1917.

*The Bull Trout has been the official fish of Alberta since May 2, 1995.

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