

Higher Education

Mandate for External Consultant:

The consultant will be mandated to develop policy options and advice with specific emphasis on higher education. Major tasks will be:

1. Environmental scan and forecast for higher education in the province, addressing:
 - a. Financial condition of universities
 - b. Fiscal capacities of province
 - c. Demographic trends
 - d. Enrollment trends
 - e. Market potential for recruitment of local, Canadian and foreign students
 - f. Current linkages to economic and social development processes (R&D, innovation, labour force development, community economic development, etc)
2. Identification of policy options and best practices in post-secondary education in other jurisdictions (nationally and internationally), addressing:
 - a. Governance models
 - b. Financing arrangements
 - c. Restructuring strategies
 - d. Linkages among institutions and between higher education and community and workplace based adult learning systems
 - e. Recognition of prior learning, credit transfer, foreign credential recognition and other innovations to enhance system integration and expand participation in higher education
 - f. Linkages to economic and social development processes
3. Consultations with major stakeholders inside and outside the higher education sector
4. Identification of policy options and presentation of policy and strategic recommendations to the Premier
5. Development of specific advice and guidance to inform and shape future funding arrangements and relationships.

Reports and Timeframe

The consultant will carry out this work over 5 months beginning February 2010.

A first report will be submitted to the Premier by May 2010 and will set out policy options for the development of a more integrated, effective and sustainable higher education system in Nova Scotia.

A second report will be presented by mid-June 2010 and will provide guidance on future funding arrangements.