

JUNE 19TH - 22ND

CONFERENCE REPORT



SUBMITTED BY:

BRANDI JEAN LIND
VICE PRESIDENT PROMOTIONS

COLTON BURKE
VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE & OPERATIONS

ASSEMBLY OF PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS (APO)



A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE APO

The Campus Trust held the APO in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island from June 19th to June 22nd. This conference was an

opportunity for participating schools to come together, network, participate in valuable workshops, attend board meetings, and discuss what the domestic (Canadian) health and dental plan looks like at our schools, along with any concerns. The total 11 member schools that attended included ourselves, from CBUSU, HCSU, MASU, MSVUSU, NWPSA, Saitsa, NBCCDSA, SAMHC, SGA, STUSU, and UPEISU.

The APO is an annual conference run by the Campus Trust that is designed to educate you on the general healthcare environment while providing us with an opportunity to provide our ideas with fellow student unions and associations.

DAY 1: Monday, June 19th, 2023

We left the Students' Union Building in the Students' Union van around 8:30 am arriving at the beautiful Victorian style, Rodd Charlottetown Hotel at 3:30pm where we were greeted by PBAS and participating member schools.

Upon arrival, we attended a tour of downtown Charlottetown hosted by the SU from HCSU ending at Holland College for a Culinary Bootcamp and then the PonyBoat Social Club which gave us the opportunity to get to know one another and decompress after long days of travel.

OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Learn as much about Campus Trust as possible.
2. Network with other member schools.
3. Find ways to improve our Students' Union.
4. Have Colton become a Trustee.
5. Have Colton Join the Finance Committee
6. Have Brandi Jean join the Communication Committee

We are happy to say that we have met all of our goal and objectives.



DAY 2: Tuesday, June 20th, 2023

The conference's main sessions began on Tuesday with a strong focus on education and training. We learned about the history of the Campus Trust, what responsibilities come with being a trustee, their activities over the past year, heard updates from all participating organizations about their benefit plans and campuses including presenting our own information about CBUSU, information about the Trust's standing committees, and the structure of the Board of Trustees.

After the education session, we were required to complete a 40 question test showing our knowledge of what it means to be a participating organization and a trustee. Both of us passed this test. We can confidently say that we understand how the Trust model operates and how this differs from a traditional insurance plan.

Next, we covered Committee Education and Board of Trustee Structure. PBAS reviewed the three committees on the Board: Communications, Finance, and Governance and went in depth to describe the tasks of each and what they have accomplished to this point. On the Board, there are five management and five student trustees that have a vote. Dawn currently sits as a management trustee on the Board and Colton sits as a student trustee.

Management terms are three years, and the schools rotate with Dawn's turn ending in 2024. The student members are elected annually at the APO.



DAY 3: Wednesday, June 21st, 2023

We started each morning at 8:30 am with the group in our designated conference room where a hardy breakfast was provided for us.

At 9:00am, we traveled to UPEI where we had a tour and then participated in a roundtable discussion, the Student Trustee elections, and a Board of Trustees meeting. We stayed on campus for a potato bar lunch before we headed out to Brackley Beach for a special team building game of Survivor.

During our sessions, we did a test review so that we could learn from any mistakes made during the testing and better our understanding.





DAY 4: Thursday, June 22nd, 2023

We attended presentations in the morning about PBAS's new system, a platform for online mental health specialists, a mental health workshop, and an online pharmacy service.

The mental health workshop talked about managing stress in the workplace and how to reduce stigma. This was of high importance because we learned that mental illness was the leading cause of disability to date.

Mednow, the online pharmacy service shared the importance of students getting their medications on time and how quick and easy their delivery service is, however for the time being, it does not seem to be available as a preferred pharmacy in Cape Breton.

In the evening PBAS finished the conference by taking us all out for dinner and a show: Lobster on the Wharf and Anne & Gilbert!

DAY 5:

Friday, June 23nd, 2023



TRAVELED BACK TO CAPE BRETON

We left at 6:15am and returned to Cape Breton University at noon and caught up on some work and emails that we had missed while away at the conference.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Networked with other SU/SA's executives, their full-time staff as well as representatives from PBAS. Beneficial as there is potential for exchange of information, support on legislation, new ideas, support in augmentation of our student's plan/support, and advice.
- Learned about the medical and dental plan offered by our SU and how our money is spent as well as how much actually is allocated to be used to directly benefit our students.
- Colton became a trustee on the Board of Trustees, CBU now has 2 of 10 seats on the board due to this giving a larger voice and more bargaining power
- Brandi joined the Communication Committee and Colton joined the Finance Committee
- The tour of UPEI and Holland College and talking with other organizations provided us with potential ideas when looking at improving or augmenting our services