



North American Collaboration between colleges

Is it worth the effort?

A Canadian perspective...

Paul Brennan, CONAHEC Conference, Calgary, 2002





Who are we?

- 150 colleges, institutes of technology, Cégeps and university colleges
- Very diverse models: 1 to 4 year progs.
- 900+ communities served
- 500,000 full-time & 1.5 million part-time
- Urban/rural/northern realities
- French/English/Aboriginal languages





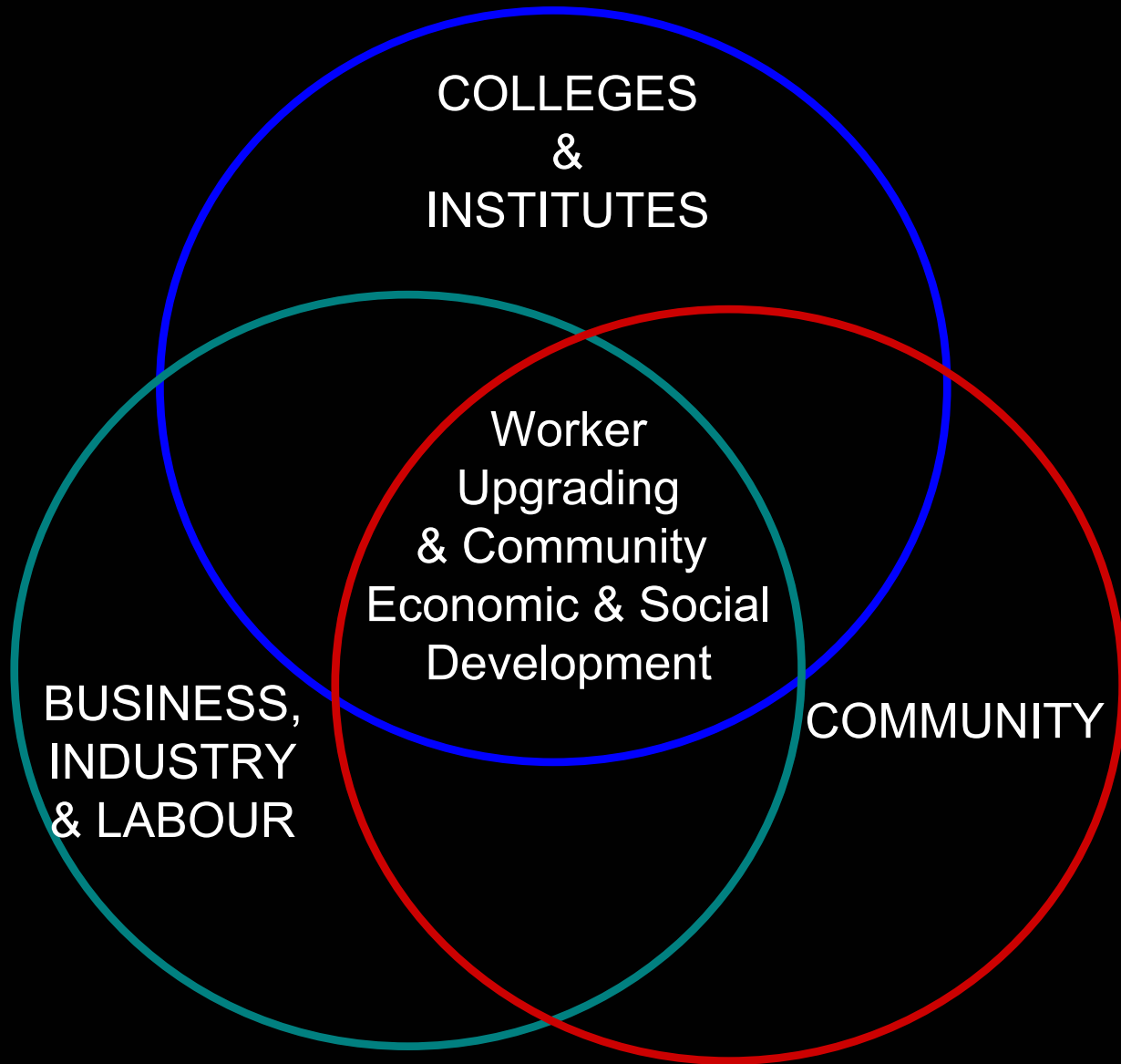
Common values of our network of colleges

- Community-based and focused
- Accessible to all learners
- Learner or student focused
- Responsive to employer needs
- Recognition & Transferability
- Open to the world





The Canadian College/Institute Model





The College - Business / Industry Economic Partnership

Business /
Industry /
Labour

- Professional Standards
- Curriculum Input
- Staff Updating/upgrading
- Co-op Education
- Advisory Committees
- Apprenticeship
- Technology Transfer
- Equipment contributions

Colleges/
Institutes



ACCC National Secretariat

- 55 professional staff in Ottawa
- Mandates of Forum, Advocacy, Partnerships and Marketing
- Entrepreneurial as only 20% of budget comes from membership fees
- First Educ. Assoc. to be ISO accredited
- Host of 1st World Forum of Colleges and Polys and VP of new World Feder.





Interest in North America

- 83% of our trade is with N.A.
- We take our holidays in the USA, Mexico and the Caribbean
- Our students and workers are more and more mobile, especially within N.A.
- We want to internationalize our colleges
- Spanish is easy to learn after French
- NAFTA should also be about people





Hurdles to collaboration?

- We don't know a lot about Mexican institutions (the UTs)
- Studying in the USA is expensive
- College students are job focussed
- Few trilateral transferability agreements
- Issues of attachments, professional norms and certifications





Benefits of working it out:

- Our students better prepared for a NA job market and later of the Americas;
- They acquire crucial intercultural skills
- Faculty learn about other examples for curriculum and other pedagogies;
- Employers gain flexible workforce;
- Innovation comes from diversity;
- NAFTA becomes about people moving more freely in our common zone.





How to go about it ?

- Can make better use of the NA Mobility Programs and push to expand them;
- But “ménage à 6” is complex and long if have to start at zero every time;
- We perhaps need to work on an overall transferability agreement or framework between our three college systems, a suggested core agreement & process?
- Facilitate finding appropriate partners.





Potential areas of collaboration

- Increase student and faculty exchanges
- Leverage our links with employers, involve them from the start in support to internships, practica, hiring;
- Develop sectoral initiatives in Tourism, IT & Telecom, Environmental protection, Transportation...bring in industry & focus our energies;
- Joint work on Essential Skills, PLAR...



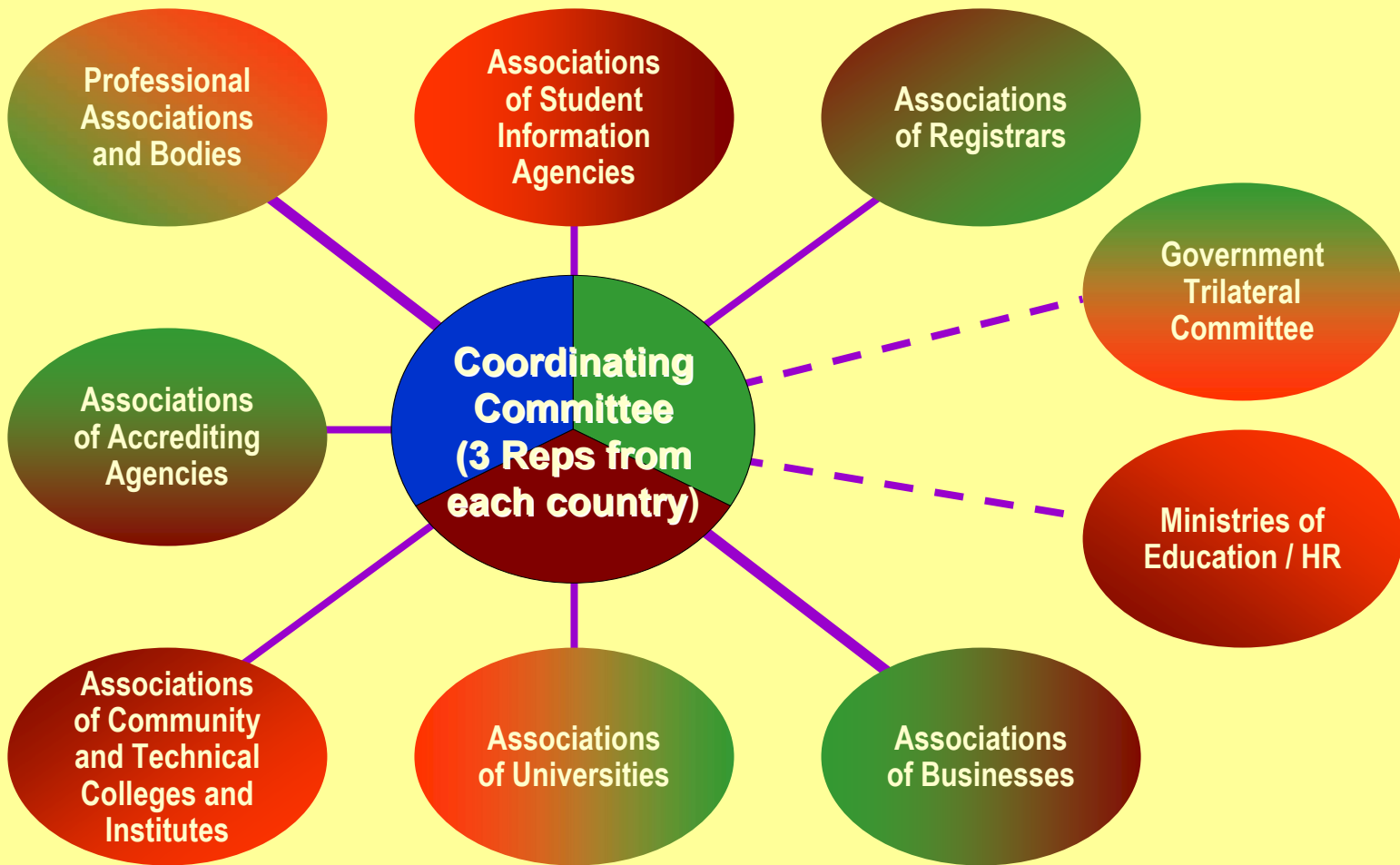


Mechanisms to make it happen

- MOA between ACCC, UT and AACCC networks with a CC to plan & review;
- One contact point for our 1,500 institutions seeking info & partners;
- CONAHEC and ICEED (colleges);
- Some mechanism to get better data
- Trilateral Working Group on Mobility and Quality Assurance



A MODEL FOR MOVING FORWARD AFTER EL PASO



CONAHEC - Acting as Secretariat





What say you ??

- What are the greatest impediments to trilateral exchanges and joint initiatives from your perspective or experience?
- What would be the best kind of support you could receive from your national associations?
- How can we work together to get greater support from employers, governments and the public?

