

## Minister of education says CBU will get its new bachelor of education program

By **DOUG MACKENZIE**

CAPE BRETON POST

**SYDNEY** — John Harker didn't believe in horoscopes until Thursday morning.

Cape Breton University's president and vice-chancellor picked up a newspaper en route to the Nova Scotia legislature for Education Minister Karen's Casey's announcement on changes to the province's teacher education system.

"I don't believe in horoscopes, but I was looking through the paper this morning trying to take my mind off where I was going," said Harker, a taurus. "I read it today and it said 'You have everything to look forward to and nothing to fear. Yes, it's really that good.'"

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## *Plan being prepared...* Cont. from page A1

Shortly after reading that bit of prognostication, Harker listened as Casey outlined changes to the teacher education system, changes that include a 40-seat bachelor of education program for CBU.

"I'm very happy it went the way of good public policy for all of Nova Scotia and that's very important to this university," Harker said.

A recent review on teacher education in Nova Scotia noted there is an oversupply of teachers in the system and made several recommendations to Casey, including not granting CBU its program; however, the department recognized there is significant demand for a bachelor of education degree and that there are shortages of teachers in some rural areas and in particular subject areas, such as math and French.

With that in mind, Casey supported a BEd degree program at CBU beginning in 2009-10, but only if certain conditions are met, including approval of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Council and a focus on areas of labour market need.

"I had to look at the geography of the province and where we have universities now that deliver BEd programs — they are all on the mainland — and also look at the number of students leaving Cape Breton," said Casey. "It was important to me that Nova Scotia students who want to get a BEd program in Nova Scotia would have that as an option and so I wanted to increase the numbers across the province and geographically I wanted Cape Breton to have some of those seats.

"I'm happy for Cape Breton and I'm happy for education all across the province because we have many, many

young people who want to be teachers and we want them to have a quality program and we need them in our schools," Casey said.

"We have to respond to the labour market demands and we know there are some disciplines where we don't have the supply we need. One of the ways we can make sure we can meet that is to put that on as an expectation."

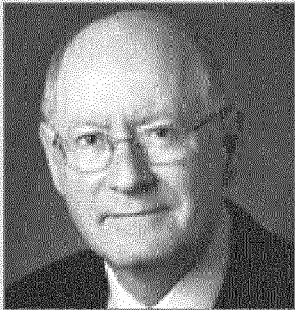
"We know when we have a new degree we have to get it approved by the MPHEC and that's a system we understand and we welcome," said Harker. "They want 70 per cent to focus on areas of need in the province and we'll be able to meet with that."

CBU will now prepare a proposal to submit to the minister, outlining its plan. This will reflect the current 16-month model. The university will be able to respond to demands of the island's Aboriginal communities.

"Today's announcement clearly recognizes what we have developed and delivered right here at Cape Breton University, in close partnership with school boards, local teachers, and the best of community resources — a very successful education model," said Jane Lewis, dean of education, health and wellness at CBU.

CBU's current partnership with Memorial University of Newfoundland will end after the current cohort of students graduates. The 16-month version, which starts this month, would overlap with the new CBU class. The 2009-10 year will see students entering as CBU education students and receiving their degrees from CBU. CBU will continue to offer the master of education (information technology) with Memorial.

dmackenzie@cbpost.com



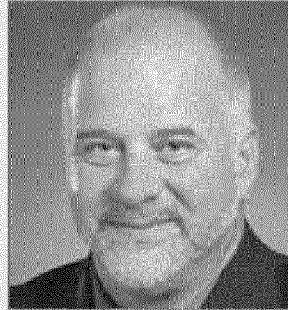
The voices of our university, of our community, were loud and clear and today we are moving forward in this exciting, new chapter of education and towards the great future of Cape Breton University.

**John Harker, CBU president and vice-chancellor**



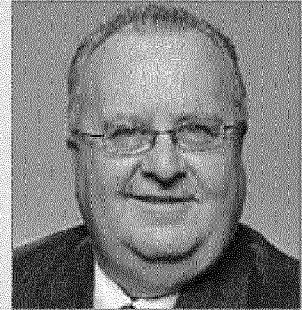
The university put together a very strong response, backed up with community support that was overwhelming and those spoke for themselves. However, at the end of the day it came to quality of the programs offered at CBU.

**Cecil Clarke, Tory MLA for Cape Breton North**



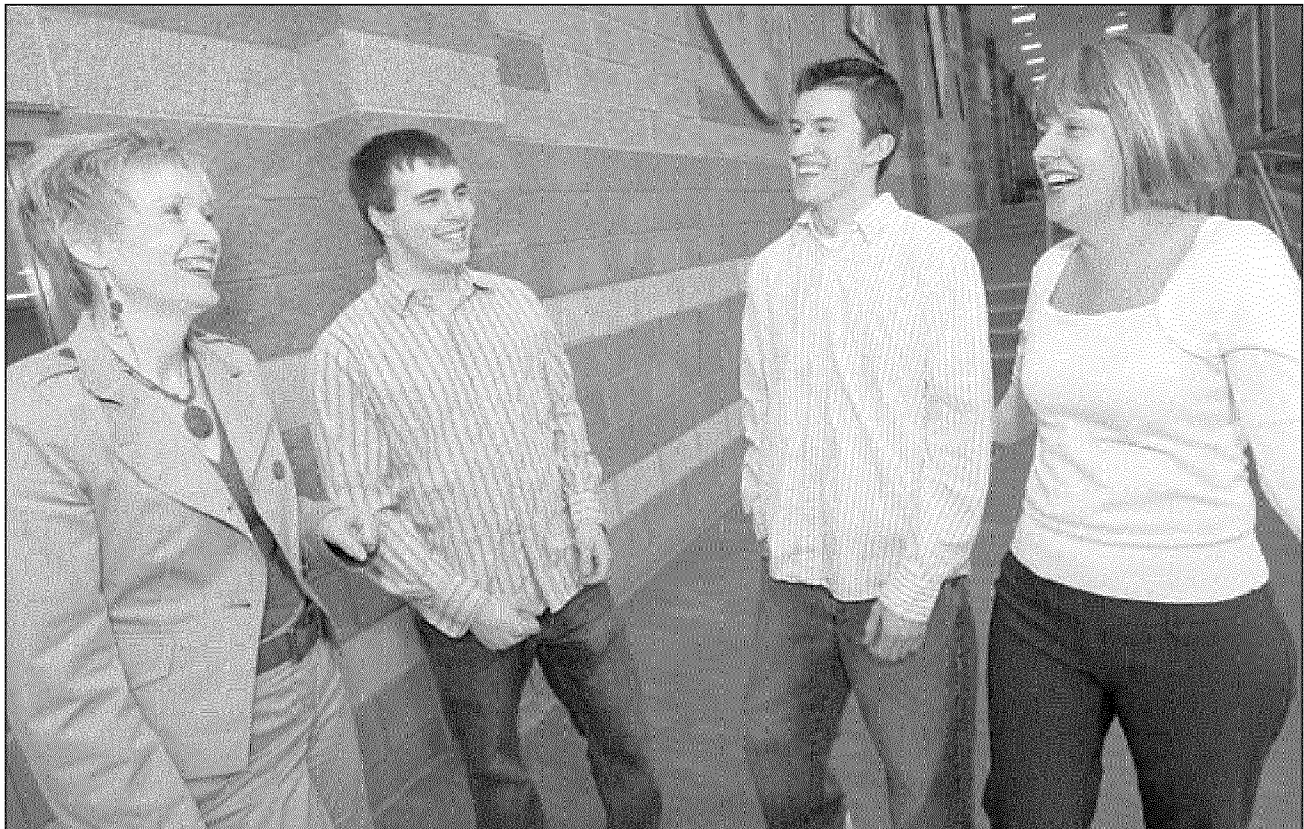
Thanks to the efforts of CBU and local students combined with consistent pressure from citizens of Cape Breton Island, the benefits of this decision for CBU will be felt in the community for years to come.

**Gordie Gosse, NDP MLA for Cape Breton Nova**



This announcement will not only provide a much-needed economic boost for the island but it means a lot to a community that's lost so much of its youth population.

**Dave Wilson, Liberal MLA for Glace Bay**



**Cape Breton University staff members Jane Lewis (left), dean of the school of education, health and wellness, and Coleen Moore-Hayes (right), director of education, were elated while speaking with university student union president Matt Stewart (second from left) and vice-president academic Ricky McCarthy about the announcement that CBU will be getting a bachelor of education program.**

Steve Wadden - Cape Breton Post

