



# CANADIAN PESC USER GROUP



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**AN OPEN, COLLABORATIVE GROUP  
OF CANADIAN STAKEHOLDERS THAT ENSURES  
PESC'S MISSION AND ALL PESC DELIVERABLES, INCLUDING  
THE DEVELOPMENT AND RELEASE OF PESC APPROVED STANDARDS,  
SUPPORTS AND INCORPORATES THE NEEDS AND INTERESTS  
OF CANADIAN STUDENTS, INSTITUTIONS AND  
CANADIAN-BASED STAKEHOLDERS**

# CANADIAN PESC USER GROUP

***The Canadian PESC User Group is the authoritative group within PESC to represent Canadian interests.***

*The Canadian PESC User Group (CanPESC) operates as an open, collaborative and permanent committee of volunteers within PESC. Participation in Group meetings is encouraged and open to representatives of PESC Member organizations and representatives of all Canadian stakeholders.*

➤ ***User Group Co-Chairs***

**Doug Holmes**, Programmer Analyst III, Ontario Universities' Application Centre

**Cathy van Soest**, Manager, EducationPlannerBC Transcript Services, EducationPlannerBC

➤ ***User Group Participant Organizations***

Alberta Post-Secondary Application System  
Brandon University  
Campus Manitoba  
Canadore College  
Conestoga College  
Council of Ministers of Education  
Dalhousie University  
EducationPlannerBC  
Ellucian  
Maplewood Computing  
McGill University  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
Nova Scotia Council on Admission & Transfer  
Ontario College Application Service  
Ontario Universities' Application Centre  
Parchment

Royal Roads University  
Saskatchewan Ministry of Education  
SRB Education Solutions Inc.  
Trevlac Computer Services  
Université de Moncton  
University of British Columbia  
University of Calgary  
University of Manitoba  
University of Prince Edward Island  
University of Regina  
University of Saskatchewan  
University of Toronto  
University of Waterloo  
WES  
Wilfrid Laurier University  
York University



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## OVERVIEW

The Canadian presence and influence within PESC has existed since the very formation of PESC. As Canadian students cross provincial and international borders to attain their education, the need for institutions, software providers and systems vendors that support Canadian and international markets to ensure mobility and interoperability has never been greater.

The formation of CanPESC in 2011 solidified the importance of Canada's role within PESC and drew together many Canadians from across the country to work towards a common goal. Its main mission is twofold:

- To serve as a clearinghouse for discussion and new ideas, a coordinator to help support electronic initiatives with several liaison roles established, and as a unifier in the mission toward digitalization of educational records.
- To focus on interoperability, enhanced service and delivery, reduced cost, and improved data quality using PESC Approved Standards. CanPESC communicates these benefits for Canada's students, institutions and Canadian-based educational stakeholders by raising awareness of the importance of standardization and interoperability.

As the voice and official committee representing Canadian interests, CanPESC has participation throughout almost every province and territory in Canada from provincial application centres, leading universities and colleges, and service providers.

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## BENEFITS

True benefits of interoperability are enhanced service and delivery, reduced cost, and improved data quality. CanPESC ensures these benefits for Canada's students and institutions by:

- Raising awareness of the importance of standardization and interoperability
- Promoting PESC standards nationally in order to achieve global interoperability
- Participating in other PESC User Groups to remain informed of ongoing initiatives and how they affect Canadian interests
- Ensuring that PESC standards represent Canadian interests and usage
- Coordinating communications and sharing ideas across provinces and territories
- Actively encouraging and supporting interprovincial partnerships
- Ensuring a direct Canadian voice and solid representation in global initiatives as a result of its relationships with PESC and ARUCC, both of which are Groningen Declaration Network signatories

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## HISTORY

The Canadian influence and perspective has been a major part of PESC since its founding and continues to be.

- In PESC's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Best Practices Competition in 1999, the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) won 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE for its submission, "Ontario Universities' Electronic Transcript System (OUETS): A Model of an Electronic Standardization Initiative."
- In PESC's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Best Practices Competition in 2012, the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) won 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE for its submission, "OCAS XML Transcript Initiative."
- For PESC's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, the Fall 2007 Data Summit was held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Montreal.
- At the Fall 2011 Data Summit held October 26, 2011 in San Francisco, PESC launched the Canadian PESC User Group.
- For PESC's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, the Fall 2012 Data Summit was held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Vancouver.
- Through establishment of CanPESC, PESC began discussions with ARUCC and in 2013, entered into a formal MOU with ARUCC, allowing ARUCC and PESC to attend each other's events without charge, thereby fostering a closer working relationship.
- OUAC staff have been recognized with PESC's Distinguished Service Award: Doug Holmes in 2013 and Leisa Wellsman in 2016.
- OCAS' William McKee served on the PESC Board of Directors from 2013-2015.

The first deliverable of the Canadian PESC User Group was to introduce PESC at the ARUCC Conference June 25-28, 2012 in Ottawa. PESC staff exhibited at ARUCC and several sessions were held on data standards and interoperability. Soon after, PESC and ARUCC formed a partnership, and in signing a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), combined forces to network across each other's organizations and to raise the level of awareness regarding standards, mobility and interoperability within the profession of higher education administration and management. Representatives of ARUCC also joined the Canadian PESC User Group.

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## GOVERNANCE

CanPESC is a permanent group within PESC, ultimately governed by the PESC Board of Directors. CanPESC encourages active participation and diverse membership across Canada. It is semi-autonomous, reporting directly to the PESC Board of Directors, and is responsible for its overall activities, communications, meetings, and outreach.

*CanPESC* Co-Chairs are from PESC Member organizations and appointed by the PESC Board of Directors.

*CanPESC* meetings occur via conference call monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at noon EST (9 am PST, 5 pm Greenwich) and communications are supported by a PESC list.

## AVAILABILITY & COST

*CanPESC* is a transparent and collaborative committee open to all Canadian stakeholders free of charge.

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## CURRENT STATUS

At this time, CanPESC is participating and cooperating in several initiatives through ARUCC and through PESC:

- ***Continuation of the work started by the ARUCC Groningen and Student Mobility Task Force*** – The ARUCC Groningen and Student Mobility Task Force was formed in 2014 to focus on advancing student mobility through data exchange. CanPESC members contributed to this work, which led directly to ARUCC's signing onto the Groningen Declaration Network as Canada's first signatory. Following the signing, the task force's last undertaking was to distribute a national survey, the results of which signaled widespread support for pursuing next steps toward a pan-Canadian transcript exchange network. That work is now underway, and CanPESC and PCCAT will provide expertise and insight to ARUCC during the research phase of this initiative.
- ***The ARUCC-PCCAT Transcript and Transfer Guide*** was launched in early 2016. CanPESC served as electronic data exchange advisors in the creation of this national, online tool. CanPESC has a seat on the ARUCC-PCCAT Transcript and Transfer Guide Working Group.
- ***National survey*** – CanPESC recently conducted a national survey of post-secondary institutions, application centres, and provincial ministries of education and advanced education. The goal of the survey was to obtain details on the code sets respondents use to identify high school and postsecondary institutions within their systems, which is crucial to successful national transcript exchange.
- ***PESC 20<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary at Fall 2017 Data Summit*** – In recognition of the influence and inspiration Canadian education has had throughout the world and prominently within PESC since its foundation, PESC's 20th Year Anniversary will be commemorated at the Fall 2017 Symposium & Data Summit October 18-20, 2017 at the Radisson Admiral Harbourfront Hotel in Toronto. A program committee is forming under CanPESC and outreach and discussions are already underway with AACRAO, ARUCC, Groningen Declaration Network, SPEEDE and leading CanPESC members.