

BSG

ORIENTATION

2011



September 4, 2011-September 11, 2011

President's Welcome

Welcome to the College of the North Atlantic! We are delighted that you have chosen to attend College of the Atlantic (CNA) and join our College family.

Whether you are returning to school after being out in the workforce, transferring from another post-secondary institution, or graduating from high school, our faculty and staff are here to help you achieve your full potential and provide you with the knowledge and skills you will need to succeed in your chosen field.

College of the North Atlantic prides itself on continuously moving forward by offering a broad range of programming that meets the highest demands of industry; transferability opportunities; research; and international partnerships. We also continue to have the lowest tuition fees of any post-secondary institution in Atlantic Canada.

On behalf of the College of board of Governors, administration, faculty and staff, I wish you the very best in your studies at College of the North Atlantic.

Bruce Hollett
President

College of the North Atlantic's Commitment to Learners

Dear Learner,

You are the most important person on campus.

Without you, there would be no need for our college.

You are not a cold enrolment statistic,

but flesh and blood human being with feelings and emotions like our own.

You are not some thing to be tolerated so that we can do our thing.

You are our thing.

You are not dependent on us.

Rather we are dependent on you.

You are not an interruption of our work, but the purpose of it.

We are not doing you a favour by serving you.

You are doing us a favour by giving us the opportunity to do so.

New Students and Families

What is Orientation Week?

Seven days of activities designed to introduce new students to the academic, social and cultural life of College of the North Atlantic, BSG Campus, while welcoming returning students for another year of learning opportunities and building their career goals and aspirations!

When is Orientation Week?

The week begins on Sunday September 4, 2011 to Sunday September 11, 2011.

What happens at Orientation?

There are a variety of activities that take place during the week. Some of the activities will introduce you to the academic system at the College. For example, the registration process will be the very first thing you will have to do to ensure your seat availability in the program you will be attending. Other activities will provide you with an opportunity to meet staff, faculty and other students. Some are just plain fun!!!

Do I have to attend Orientation?

We strongly recommend that all activities be considered as mandatory as each function has been planned with you in mind. We want your experiences here at Bay St. George to be positive, lasting, and educational. We also want these experiences to last a lifetime—so brush off the summer sand and get ready to have a **BLAST!!!**

New Students and Families

Mandatory Sessions:

Mandatory Meetings for Residence Students
Program Orientation
Academic Readiness— Schedules Provided at Registration
First Classes

When do I register?

The Admissions Department would have mailed you a copy of your registration schedule. However, we have included copies at the end of this information kit. Pay close attention to the location of your programs as some of our programs are offered at various buildings between Stephenville and Stephenville Crossing. If you have courses at the Martin Gallant Building in Stephenville Crossing, you will have to find your own transportation to this location. Orientation activities are a great time for meeting new people and for finding out about other students who will be car-pooling as well.

Is there a cost affiliated with Orientation?

If there is a cost, it will be minimal. Most, if not all activities during Orientation week are provided free of charge—so take advantage of a great opportunity!!!

Can I bring my children along?

Over the past number of years, more and more mature students are attending college. This often means there are children who will also become a part of mom and/or dad's educational experience. College of the North Atlantic understands this and we appreciate it when parents take advantage of every opportunity. This often means bringing their child/children along. For the Orientation week activities, we encourage parents to ensure their children are in their care at all times, but they certainly can come to the various functions as well.

New Students and Families

Do I need to bring anything during the activities?

Depending on the activity or event of which you will be attending, you will have to be aware of any items you need to bring along. For example, when you have your photo ID taken, you will have to bring any forms necessary.

Plan for each day. Check your daily events schedule—if your events are outside that day, remember to apply and bring along sunscreen, a hat, and appropriate shoes/sneakers.

Carry your guide with you as you go from activity to event. You'll be glad you did when you almost miss another fun activity because you forgot about where it was being held!

If you think you might become hungry between activities, either bring along a snack or ensure that you have money with you to purchase some items. Located next door to the DSB Fowlow building in “The Stephenville Manor” is a store, as well as a “Needs” store behind the DSB Fowlow building. (just follow the path!) We do not encourage that you carry large sums of money with you, however. It's not likely you'll need it and we don't want you to start your school year off with empty pockets!

It is important that you dress comfortably for the occasion. All the events and activities are meant to be fun and educational, so we want students to be able to transition easily from the classroom to outside where events will be taking place.

Are there age restrictions on any of the activities?

No. All activities and events during Orientation Week are open to students of all ages. We do not endorse activities that encourage consumption of alcohol and our premises are all smoke-free. At College of the North Atlantic—Bay St. George Campus, we believe that students can have a lot of “free fun” which includes “alcohol free”. While we recognize students are likely to drink socially on occasion, it is our intention that all students make memories that will last a lifetime within a sober and fun-filled environment.

New Students and Families

What happens if I miss the first day of activities?

We highly recommend that you make time to attend all the activities and events outlined on your Orientation schedule. Our experience tells us that students who miss the first day of activities often feel that they missed out on some important bonding time. If you cannot attend, however, we encourage you to pick up wherever you can and attend the next function listed in your schedule. If you find that you are feeling a little lost, don't panic—help is only a few footsteps away!!! Fortunately our college is very closely linked to all departments and programs. You simply have to stop by the Community and Student Services Booth in the lobby of the DSB Fowlow Building to get directions, or take a few more steps and you'll find the information booth, where students will be sitting to help students and parents find whatever they need.

What if I can't make the mandatory residence or off-campus meetings?

Important information is shared at these meetings, so be sure to find out that information after the fact. It will be a lot easier on you if you can make the sessions rather than having to try to find out who provided the sessions and then trying to locate these people.

However, if you find that you absolutely cannot attend, contact the Student Development Officer located at room 139 on the first floor of the DSB Fowlow Building. Realizing this is one of the busiest weeks of the school year, don't panic if you can't locate the SDO right away. There is a white board on the office door, so leave a message or call the SDO at 643-7822. Once you've set up your college email account, you can email the SDO as well.

Again, drop by the Community and Student Services Booth and see if they can help you. If you find you still need some help, be patient and continue to try to locate the SDO.

New Students and Families

What is the best way to meet people during Orientation Week?

With so many opportunities available to students during this week, it is the prime opportunity to meet up with other students and get to know your new College community.

Some students, however, find it very difficult making the first move and connecting with others. College of the North Atlantic– Bay St. George Campus prides itself on the ability to develop a sense of community while building partnerships and helping students become successful.

In order for us to do this, we rely strongly on the Learner Services Department. For example, students who have a disability may be feeling anxious about ensuring their needs are met—this is where our Disability Co-ordinator, Paula Gillis comes in. Her telephone number is 709-643-7793 and he is located in Room 127 at the DSB Fowlow Building.

If you are concerned about your course-load and perhaps you need information from the Admissions Department, Martina Swyers will assist you. All you have to do is call her at 709-643-7739, email her at martina.swyers@cna.nl.ca or drop by the Community and Student Services Booth on the first floor of the DSB Fowlow Building, where there are several people working to help you succeed.

We also have very capable and respected guidance counselors who will make themselves available to students by appointment, and will accept drop ins when available.

Nadine Humber-Brennan is located in Room 137 at the DSB Fowlow building and can be reached at 709-643-7793 or by emailing her at Nadine.humberbrennan@cna.nl.ca. Our second guidance counselor can be reached at 709-643-7733.

New Students and Families

If you are living off campus...

Don't miss the various activities outlined in the Orientation Schedule. You'll find out all about what's been planned for the week, have a chance to meet other new students who will be living off campus and connect with experienced second-year students and staff resource people. It's a great opportunity to connect with others who will be participating in Orientation Week activities.

Consider submitting your name to the SDO to volunteer for various activities and events and ensure that you ask about student employment opportunities and committees which might be of interest to you.

If you are living in residence...

Be sure to attend the mandatory meeting for your floor. This meeting is imperative for providing you with an opportunity to learn about the expectations required of you while living on your floor as well as getting a chance to meet those living in your area and to get the scoop on what's been planned for Orientation Week. There may be events your RA (Resident Assistant) is planning specifically for your floor, so you won't want to miss out on it!!!

Speaking of RA's—your Resident Assistant has been carefully chosen to ensure students have someone who is responsible and able to provide new and returning students with information and general help throughout the school year. If you need help with studying tips, your RA will have information about this and will be able to provide you with direction on where to go to get the answers you are looking for. You may also find that you and your RA become great friends and develop a lasting friendship that will go with you for years to come!

Also, drop by the SDO office and consider signing up for volunteering, peer tutoring, committee membership...perhaps you would like to start an organizational function or participate in a community effort but don't know where to start...the best place to start is with your SDO—Student Development Officer—who is responsible for helping students with all non-academic requirements throughout the year. This includes working with student council, peer tutoring, student employment opportunities, providing direction to the council during planning of the annual events, such as winter carnival, evening graduation ceremonies, etc.

New Students and Families

Who are the RA's

This year's Resident Assistants are:

Jamie Brace
James Churchill
Alexander Courtney
Lynn Daley
Zack Green
Meghan Harris

Say "hello" to our security staff:

Peter Gabriel Brad White Brian Russell

Catherine Green Mike Cormier Todd Fillatre

Cecilia Flemming

The Security Staff at Bay St. George Campus are very well equipped to help you with security issues and concerns. However, they are also wonderful people to get to know. Drop by and share a joke with Brian, or have a chat with Brad.

During the weekend and evenings, make sure you stop by and see how Mike, Catherine, Todd and Cecilia are doing.

Once you stop by you'll understand very quickly that our staff are friendly, responsible and eager to help our students succeed.