

began as a consortium consisting of two community colleges and two universities, with representation from public schools, and involving northern communities and other organisations. TeleEducation NB serves residents in the province of New Brunswick. Another network, Alberta-North, is in place in northern Alberta.

Recently, industry Canada's Notemakers pilot project has encouraged Technology-mediated learning (TML) development consortia. One outcome has been the consortium centred at the University of New Brunswick among six universities in Atlantic Canada for the online delivery of first year university courses (<http://www.unb.ca/coned/notemakers/>). The Toronto-based Telecommunications Learning Institute ([http://www. Tlilearn.com/](http://www.Tlilearn.com/)) is a private sector consortium of telecommunications and banking companies that offers courses and programs to members online.

Contact South is a consortium of Ontario colleges for the delivery of online courses. Members share development and expenses related to the delivery of TML [<http://www.contactsouth.org>]. Consortia such as Contact South are attractive options for Canadian community colleges and institutes. Their smaller size relative to the universities and the logic of scale often leads these institutions to participate in provincial or regional TML coalitions such as Contact South or TeleEducation NB. Nationally, the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) is pooling resources and expertise for the purpose of institutional support and joint marketing of services.

4.5.11 Other Canadian Initiatives

Canada is an acknowledged world-leader in distance education, led by such organisations as the TeleLearning Network of Centres of Excellence (TL*NCE). Unique in the world, the TL*NCE is a \$12 million national collaboration of Canadian researchers, private sector organisations and members of the public in the development, application and evaluation of TML with a focus on collaborative learning and knowledge building. Hosted at Simon Fraser University, the network plays an important role in researching and developing advanced networked learning environments for all levels of the education system and the workplace. Two of its "beacon technologies" include the Virtual-U, is an integrated distributed learning environment and WebCSILE (Computer Supported Intentional Learning Environments) developed at the Ontario institute for Studies in Education (OISE). Network researchers