

News Release

For immediate release
September 15, 2003

Canadian distance education leader honored by top awards

September 15, 2003 – Dominique Abrioux, president of Canada’s largest distance education university, was recognized internationally for the second time this year for his leadership in the field of online and distance learning.

Last week, The Open University in the United Kingdom conferred its prestigious honorary degree of Doctor of The Open University on Abrioux for his role as a “pioneer in open and distance learning.”

Dr Abrioux has been with Athabasca University for 25 years and was appointed its President in 1995. Athabasca University is Canada’s fastest growing on-line and distance education university. Under his leadership, the university more than doubled its enrolment to 26,000 adult learners in 65 countries.

Earlier this year, Dr. Abrioux and Athabasca University were each recognized by the Commonwealth of Learning for “significant achievements in the innovative and effective application of appropriate learning technologies to reach students who might otherwise not have participated in the learning or training experience.”

Abrioux received an Honorary Fellow of Commonwealth of Learning Award for “his pioneering and innovative spirit, as further demonstrated by his conception and launch in 2000 of Canadian Virtual University, an organization over which he continues to preside as founding President.” Canadian Virtual University is a consortium of 10 Canadian universities offering 2000 online and distance courses, all searchable via a single website (cvu-uvc.ca).

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Canadian Virtual University Partners: Leaders in Distance Education

University College of Cape Breton

Cape Breton offers 40 distance courses in the areas of Educational and Environmental Technology, Community Studies, Public Administration, and Environmental Health. It plans to develop web-based courses in Manufacturing and Microelectronics, Community Economic Development, and Teacher Education.

Télé-université

Télé-université du Québec delivers more than 200 distance courses in the French language in Administration, Communications, Computer Science, Health, Distance Education, and Languages.

Université de Moncton

Université de Moncton offers 12 complete programs in the French language in the areas of Education, Business, Management, Accounting, and Gerontology.

Athabasca University

Athabasca University offers 500 Individualized Study and Grouped Study courses and 63 programs at the bachelors and masters degrees level, as well as university certificates and diplomas. Athabasca offers a number of unique programs such as Master of Arts – Integrated Studies and a University Diploma in Inclusive Education.

British Columbia Open University

British Columbia Open University offers hundreds of distance courses and over 20 degree programs with a focus on Arts, Business, Health, and Science. BCOU's Bachelor of Business in Real Estate, Design, and Music (Jazz Studies) are amongst some of the niche programs available.

Laurentian University

Laurentian University's distance program offers over 100 courses and 23 bachelor and certificate programs in French and English in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Sciences, and Professional Schools.

Royal Roads University

Royal Roads University's 21 programs focus on the needs of mid-career learners. Programs include a Bachelor of Commerce in e-Business, Master of Science in Environment and Management, Graduate Diploma in Project Management, Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution, and Master of Business Administration in Public Relations.

University of Manitoba

University of Manitoba offers a distance Bachelor of Arts programs in Canadian Studies, Geography, History, Political Studies, Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work, and a Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Education.