



**MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION (MPHEC) – MPHEC releases new data on student progression and mobility in Maritime universities**

June 8, 2015

Fredericton (NB) — The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) today released the report *Student Progression in the Maritime University System*. The report provides persistence and graduation rates for more than 100,000 students who started their post-secondary studies at a Maritime university directly after high school between 2001 and 2011.

“A few years ago we released statistics on student graduation rates in their university of first entry,” said Commission CEO, Mireille Duguay. “We wondered what happened to students who did not complete a degree at the university where they first enrolled — did they transfer elsewhere? did they stop out? The statistics we released today show that another 7% of them had transferred to another university in the region, where most completed a degree.”

Previously released statistics (2010) were limited to students’ progress within the university they first entered after high school. The new data links the records of all Maritime universities, giving a more accurate picture of student progression. The report provides detailed statistics for the fall 2006 cohort; of the nearly 10,000 students who started their post-secondary studies at a Maritime university:

- 79% were still enrolled at their university of first entry after one year, and 4% were enrolled at another Maritime university.
- 58% completed a degree within 6 years at their university of first entry, and 5% completed a degree at another Maritime university.

“We also found that in the 2001 cohort, the only group we can follow for over 10 years, another 5% of students took 7 to 10 years to graduate,” Duguay added.

“Now that we have ability to follow student pathways across universities in the three provinces, we are developing a better picture of actual graduation rates and we can look at *how* students progress through to graduation,” said Duguay. “While many students follow what might be classified as the traditional path — four years of full-time study at the same institution culminating in the completion of a bachelor's degree — others take a less straightforward route to graduation, one that can mean periods of part-time study, changing programs, changing institutions or stopping out (taking a year or two off, but returning to study).”

Once fully analyzed, the new data will allow MPHEC’s stakeholders to better assist students with academic choices. It will also identify specific groups in greater need of assistance navigating their educational path.

The full report breaks down persistence and graduation rates by gender, discipline cluster and student origin and is available online at [www.mphec.ca](http://www.mphec.ca).

About the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC): The MPHEC was established in 1974. The MPHEC is an arm's length organization accountable to the ministers responsible for postsecondary education in the Maritimes. The Commission comprises 20 members representing universities, the public-at-large (including students), and the three Maritime governments. The Commission's primary orientation in carrying out its duties is to give first consideration to improving and maintaining the best possible service to students as lifelong learners.

---

FOR BROADCAST NEWS:

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission today released new data on student progression and mobility in Maritime universities. The statistics in the report provide persistence and graduation rates for more than 100,000 students who started their post-secondary studies at a Maritime university directly after high school between 2001 and 2011.

The new data links the records across all Maritime universities, giving a more accurate picture of student progression. Of the nearly 10,000 students who started their post-secondary studies at a Maritime university in the fall of 2006:

- 79% were still enrolled after one year at their university of first entry, and 4% at another Maritime university.
- 58% completed a degree within 6 years at their university of first entry, and 5% at another Maritime university.

Commission CEO, Mireille Duguay says that now that the Commission has the ability to follow student pathways across universities in the three provinces, it can look at *how* students progress through to graduation.

Once fully analyzed, the new data will allow MPHEC's stakeholders to better assist students with academic choices. It will also identify specific groups in greater need of assistance navigating their educational path.

The full report is available online at [www.mphec.ca](http://www.mphec.ca) .

-30-

Media contact:

Lisa O'Connell  
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission  
506-453-2844  
e-mail: [oconnelll@mphec.ca](mailto:oconnelll@mphec.ca)