



**MPHEC**

Maritime Provinces  
Higher Education  
Commission

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Commission de  
l'enseignement supérieur  
des Provinces maritimes

## MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION – Graduates satisfied with first degrees: Arts degrees leading the way in meeting students' expectations

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Fredericton (NB) - When Maritime students finish their first degree, most of them look back with satisfaction on the investment of money and time they have made, according to a survey done by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC). The Commission has released an infographic presenting what first-degree graduates think, two years on from their times as undergrads.

“Two years after completing their first bachelor’s degree, Class of 2012 Maritime university graduates answered questions about satisfaction with their program and the value they attached to the investment of time and money they had made. Their answers are heartening and give us real food for thought,” said Commission CEO, Mireille Duguay.

The vast majority of graduates expressed satisfaction on aspects of teaching and overall educational quality in their first degree program, with 92% either satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of the teaching they received, and 95% happy with the class sizes. A similar number were satisfied with the availability of professors.

“Their level of satisfaction is consistent with Class of 2007 opinion, added Duguay. “So we are keeping pace with our students’ needs in terms of providing a quality education.”

Graduates who completed Arts degrees were more likely than graduates of other disciplines to say they were “very satisfied,” followed by those in Physical and Life Sciences. “Given the personally enriching experience education is supposed to be, and given the high expectations of Grade 12 graduates when they embark on the post-secondary journey, these are wonderful responses to be seeing from those who have completed the journey to a degree,” Duguay continued.

When the questions shifted to financial investment, the responses to the survey took on a slightly different cast. “Only 62% of all first-degree holders considered the financial investment they had made worthwhile,” said Duguay. “And the more money that graduates borrowed to finance their education, the less likely they were to report that the time and money they invested for their first degree was ‘well worth it.’ Just over half of those who borrowed \$30K+ considered that investment ‘worth it,’ and only a fifth of that group thought the investment ‘well worth it.’ This is certainly a stimulator for dialogue on what we are asking our young people to commit to, to get a quality education,” Duguay concluded.

Survey data collection was conducted by Advanis Inc. on behalf of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission. The survey was conducted between September 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. The total sample for first degree holders is 2,187, with a margin of error of  $\pm 2.1$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20. All statistics presented have been generated from weighted data; data were weighted on the basis of the Class of 2012 graduate’s university of graduation and gender.



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The infographic with highlights of the survey results is available on the Commission's web site at [www.mphec.ca](http://www.mphec.ca).

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.

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