



## **MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION (MPHEC) – Graduate migration from the Maritime provinces more complex than expected**

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September 27, 2016

Fredericton (NB) — Maritime universities produce highly qualified and skilled graduates vital to the region's economy; there is therefore considerable interest in where our graduates choose to live and work. An infographic released today by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission reveals that six-in-ten graduates are still living in the Maritimes two years after they finish their degrees.

The infographic also provides important new information about what graduates are doing, concluding that whether they are still in the region or not, similar proportions are currently studying (33% of those who live in the Maritimes, and 32% of those who live outside the region). Put another way, those graduates who end up leaving the Maritimes are not moving solely for employment.

“The anecdotes about new graduates leaving the Maritimes for better employment opportunities just do not tell the whole story,” said Commission CEO Mireille Duguay. “The numbers show that many of our graduates are making informed choices to pursue further education in specialized areas. The good news is that because of the high quality of their first degrees from Maritime institutions, they participate in post-graduate programs both within the region and across the country.”

Perhaps the most interesting statistics surround the numbers of graduates who are working (and not also studying) two years after graduation. Statistical analysis shows that these numbers do not vary significantly *for graduates who leave or stay in* for each province of graduation:

- 70% of graduates of New Brunswick universities who stayed in the province were working two years after graduation compared to 61% of graduates who had left.
- 57% of graduates of Nova Scotia universities who stayed in the province were working, compared to the 60% of those who had left.
- 64% of Prince Edward Island graduates who stayed in the province were working, compared to 42% of those who had left.

“All in all, the study raises positive points about the options available to those who pursue higher education here at home. Both employers and post-grad programs, within and beyond our region, find our graduates attractive. We have a strong educational base on which to build the economy of the future,” 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 and December 1, 2014. The total sample for first degree holders is 2,187. The infographic is available for download at [mphec.ca](http://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



**MPHEC**  
Maritime Provinces  
Higher Education  
Commission

**CESPM**  
Commission de  
l'enseignement supérieur  
des Provinces maritimes

give first consideration to improving and maintaining the best possible service to students as lifelong learners.

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Media contact:

Dawn Gordon

Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission

506-453-2844

e-mail: [mphec@mphec.ca](mailto:mphec@mphec.ca)

For Broadcast News:

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