



## **MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION (MPHEC) – Maritime universities see fewer local students enrolling**

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February 8, 2017

**Fredericton (NB)** — In 2015-16, 66,850 students were enrolled in Maritime universities, down 2.3% from the previous year. According to a report released today by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC), enrolment declines were observed in all three provinces, but the underlying trends vary province to province.

- **New Brunswick** saw a 3.6% enrolment drop, down to 19,394 students. The largest decline (5.5%) was observed among international students, whereas enrolment of New Brunswick residents decreased 4.4%, and other Maritimers decreased 0.7%. Enrolment of Canadian students from outside the region increased 1.1%.
- In **Nova Scotia**, total enrolment decreased 1.7%, down to 43,268 students. The largest decrease (5.6 %) was observed among students coming to study in the province from elsewhere in the Maritimes. Enrolment of Nova Scotia residents decreased 3.0%, and enrolment of Canadian students from outside the region decreased 1.1%. International enrolment increased 2.6%.
- **Prince Edward Island** saw a total enrolment drop of 2.0%, to 4,188 students. The largest enrolment decrease was among PEI residents at 8.0%. Enrolment of other Maritimers decreased 0.7%, while the enrolment of non-Maritime Canadians and international students increased by 10.0% and 15.6%, respectively.

Across the Maritimes, demographic changes and participation rate shifts have both impacted recent trends in local enrolment. Over the previous year, the population of 18-24 year olds in the region shrank 2.2%. The university participation rate of Maritime residents, which currently stands at 21.8%, decreased 0.1 percentage points over the previous year.

“As we have noted in previous years, the decreases in enrolments are largely the result of fewer Maritime residents choosing to enrol in the region’s universities. It is true that the population of potential students in the region is declining, but we have also been seeing smaller percentages of that population enrolling,” says Jean-François Richard, Commission Chair.

The *Annual Digest: University Enrolment 2015-2016* is available on the MPHEC website 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.



**MPHEC**  
Maritime Provinces  
Higher Education  
Commission

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

Media contact:  
Dawn Gordon  
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission  
506-453-2844  
e-mail: [mphec@mphec.ca](mailto:mphec@mphec.ca)

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