



## **MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION – Fifteen-year trend shows steady retention rate of Maritime university graduates.**

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**Fredericton (NB)** — Drawing on survey data from five university graduating Classes over fifteen years, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission today released a study exploring retention rates of graduates two years after completing their first degree.

Results from the Class of 2014 survey show that New Brunswick retained 57%, Nova Scotia 54% and Prince Edward Island 59%, of their university graduates after two years. Over the last fifteen years, these rates have remained steady, that is, within the margins of error for these statistics, for both New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Over the same time period, however, Nova Scotia saw a drop of seven percentage points.

This study is important because it exposes the complexity of migration patterns among the region's graduates. It demonstrates that a graduate's province of origin is a strong determinant of the province of residence two years following graduation.

"The provinces retain much higher percentages of graduates who were living in that same province prior to enrolling, than those who came to study in the province from outside the region", said Catherine Stewart, Interim CEO of the Commission.

And the drop in the overall retention rate for Nova Scotia? "It's not that the rates of retention are changing significantly among the different groups of graduates, though we do see some small shifts over the fifteen years, rather, the composition of the graduating classes has changed in the intervening years. For Nova Scotia in particular, the proportion of the graduating Class who came to study in that province from outside the region has doubled from 18% to 36% since 1999", said Ms. Stewart. "And that change in graduate profile impacted the overall retention rate."

The infographic can be found on the Commission's website: [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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