



MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION – A university degree pays off.

June 18, 2019

Fredericton (NB) – The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission has released employment outcome figures for the Class of 2012 bachelor's degree recipients, six years after graduation. The information comes from a survey of graduates of the universities in the Maritime Provinces conducted in fall 2018.

Excluding those who were not looking for work, 96 percent of graduates reported being employed. Of those employed, 88 percent are working full-time and just over two-thirds (67%) are working in an occupation that requires a university level education or is in a management position.

“This report details good news for graduates of Maritime universities. At six-years-out, most of these graduates have completed their transition to the workforce and are experiencing the benefit of having a postsecondary education.” said Catherine Stewart, Interim CEO of the Commission.

This class was also surveyed two years after graduation in fall 2014. Compared with two-years-out, at six-years-out employment rate is 7 percentage points (p.p.) higher, full-time employment rate is 12 p.p. higher, and the proportion of graduates who are working in jobs requiring university education is 13 p.p. higher.

Six years after graduation, Class of 2012 graduates are earning a median annual income of \$58,000, while those working full-time are earning \$60,000. Compared in constant dollars, these earnings are higher than what was reported by this class at two-years after graduation (\$48,039), and higher than that of the general Canadian population (\$51,321).

“Within 6 years of completing a first university degree, graduates are earning 17% more than the general population, which includes all Canadians of working age,” added Ms. Stewart “while the median age of graduates when they were surveyed was only 29 years old.”

The Commission's report provides these statistics for graduates' province of graduation, and their province of employment at the time they were surveyed (in 2014 and 2018). It is available for download from mphec.ca.

The total sample of 2,630 respondents represents 25% of the total Class of 2012 bachelor's graduate population of the 14 universities in the region. The report focuses on 1,901 first degree holders and results have a margin of error of $\pm 2.2\%$, 19 times out of 20. All statistics presented have been generated from weighted data; data were weighted on the basis of the university of graduation and gender.

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



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

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