

**Maritime Provinces Higher Education** – While Maritime universities grant fewer undergraduate degrees, the popularity of Master’s degrees is on the rise.

**June 10, 2013**

**For immediate Release**

Fredericton (NB) - According to a report released today by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, the number of undergraduate degrees granted by universities in the region decreased by 7% between 2006 and 2011.

“That decrease reflects a dip in enrolment that occurred four to five years earlier”, says Commission CEO Mireille Duguay.

Ms. Duguay also points out that: “At the graduate level, the trend is different. Over the same period, the number of Master’s degrees granted increased by 14% and the number of PhDs has remained stable at around 160 per year.”

“Given that we have seen an increase in the number of students in recent years, we can project that there will be an increase in the number of university graduates at all levels in the coming years.” says Ms. Duguay

The trends in the number of degrees granted vary by province and discipline:

- In New Brunswick there were 4,265 degrees granted in 2011, a decrease of 12% since 2006. The decrease impacted all disciplines.
- Nova Scotia universities granted 9,026 degrees in 2011, a 3% decrease since 2006. The number of degrees granted in the Humanities Arts and Social Sciences decreased by 19%, but the number of degrees granted in Commerce and Administration increased by 21%.
- In Prince Edward Island 843 degrees were granted in 2011, a 20% increase since 2006. The numbers of degrees granted increased in all disciplines except for the Physical and Life Sciences and Mathematics.

The [Annual Digest: Credentials Granted - 2011](#) presents a series of summary tables and charts of provincial-level statistics for publicly-funded Maritime universities, showing trends over one, five and 10 year intervals. Additional tables with a breakdown by university are available from the MPHEC website ([www.mphec.ca](http://www.mphec.ca)).

The MPHEC was established in 1974 to assist institutions and governments in enhancing the post-secondary learning environment. The Commission's 20 members are drawn from the Maritime provinces, and represent higher education institutions, provincial governments and the general public. 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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FOR BROADCAST NEWS:

According to a report released today (June 10<sup>th</sup>) by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, the number of undergraduate degrees granted by universities in the region in 2011 was down seven per cent from 2006.

Commission CEO Mireille Duguay says that the decrease reflects a dip in enrolment that occurred four to five years earlier. Ms. Duguay points out that, given the recent increase in the number of students, we can project that there will be an increase in the number of university graduates in the coming years.

Ms. Duguay adds that the number of Master's degrees granted by Maritime universities in 2011 was at an all-time high.

The report Annual Digest: Credentials Granted – 2011 is available online at: [www.mphec.ca](http://www.mphec.ca)

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