



MPHEC
Maritime Provinces
Higher Education
Commission

CESPM
Commission de
l'enseignement supérieur
des Provinces maritimes

MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION – Number of university graduates stabilizing in Maritimes

May 12 2014

Fredericton (NB) – Maritime universities granted over 15,000 degrees, diplomas and certificates in 2012. According to a report released today by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission the number of university credentials granted, which had been decreasing since its peak five years ago, is now stabilizing.

“With the increase in the number of international students in the last few years, we are just starting to see the downward trend reverse”, says Commission CEO Mireille Duguay. “One in eight degrees granted was awarded to an international student in 2012, and that proportion is expected to grow in the coming years.”

The decrease in the total number of credentials granted is entirely attributable to a drop in the number of undergraduate degrees granted over the last five years, down 11% since 2007.

The number of Master’s degrees granted increased by 22% and the number of PhDs granted increased by 1% over the same period.

“The growth in the number of Master’s degrees granted is most important in applied and professional programs such as Education, Health Professions, Engineering and Business” says Ms. Duguay.

The three Maritime provinces show different trends over the last five years:

- New Brunswick universities granted 4,299 degrees in 2012. Since 2007, the number of undergraduate degrees granted dropped by 13% to 3,546, and the number of graduate degrees granted increased by 37% to 753.
- Nova Scotia universities granted 9,155 degrees in 2012. Since 2007, the number of undergraduate degrees granted dropped by 11% to 7,056, and the number of graduate degrees granted increased by 15% to 2,099.
- In Prince Edward Island, 806 degrees were granted in 2012. Since 2007, the number of undergraduate degrees granted increased by 10% to 723, and the number of graduate degrees granted increased by 48% to 83.

The *Annual Digest – Credentials Granted 2012* presents a series of summary tables and charts of provincial-level statistics for 15 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 at www.mphec.ca.

About the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC): The MPHEC established in 1974 is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. The MPHEC is an arm’s length organization accountable to the Ministers responsible for post-secondary education in the Maritime provinces. The Commission assists

institutions and government 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.

FOR BROADCAST NEWS:

According to a report released today (May 12), by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, universities in the region granted over 15,000 degrees, diplomas and certificates in 2012. The report reveals that the number of credentials granted, which had been decreasing from its peak five years ago, is now stabilizing.

Commission CEO Mireille Duguay said that with the increasing number of international students in the last few years, we are just starting to see the downward trend reverse.

Ms. Duguay said that one in eight degrees granted was awarded to an international student in 2012, and that proportion is expected to grow in upcoming years.

The decrease in the total number of credentials granted is entirely attributable to a drop in the number of undergraduate degrees granted over the last five years, down 11% since 2007.

The report and detailed statistical tables are available on the Commission's website at www.mphec.ca.

-30-

Media contact:

Lisa O'Connell
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission
506-453-2844
e-mail: oconnelll@mphec.ca