

MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION - Maritime university tuition fees increase 3 percent

September 4, 2014

Fredericton (NB) - According to figures released today by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, tuition fees for undergraduate Arts and Sciences programs in Maritime universities this fall range between \$5,520 and \$7,488, increasing on average 3 percent in nearly all universities. By comparison, in June 2014, inflation stood at 2.4 percent in Canada.

"Although nearly all universities have increased their tuition fees by the same proportion, there still remains quite a bit of variation in tuition fees from one institution to another" noted Mireille Duguay, Commission CEO, adding "Over the last 10 years however, the differences have narrowed between the tuition fees charged by Maritime universities. The difference from the lowest to the highest tuition fees this year is approximately \$1900 in Arts and Sciences, while a decade ago it was over \$3500."

Tuition fees are top-of-mind for students and their families in calculating the costs of education. "Although fee increases are not inconsequential for students, our data consistently tell us that getting a university education continues to be a very good investment," said Ms. Duguay.

To ensure that students and their families are able to make sound decisions about that investment, it is increasingly important to provide as much information as possible about costs, and the options and assistance available.

Ms. Duguay noted that "This year, for the first time, in addition to the data on tuition fees, the MPHEC website (mphec.ca) includes links to a number of assistance programs offered by governments."

Students also pay other mandatory fees such as student association, health services and athletic fees which vary considerably across universities, and in the Maritimes range between \$255 and \$1,173. Ms. Duguay noted that "Each type of fee is documented on the MPHEC's website." Compared to last year, these fees increased an average of 6 percent. Student association fees represent on average 47 percent of these fees.

In New Brunswick, universities were asked by government to limit tuition fee increases to 3 percent, an increase ranging from \$163 to \$357. St. Thomas University was allowed to raise its tuition by an additional \$170, above the 3 percent cap. Undergraduate tuition fees in Arts and Sciences in that province range between \$5,552 and \$7,464.

In Nova Scotia, undergraduate tuition fee in Arts and Sciences increases were capped by government at 3 percent, increasing between \$180 and \$218; fees now range between \$6,180 and \$7,488.

In Prince Edward Island, undergraduate tuition fees in Arts and Sciences will be \$5,520, up \$160, or 3 percent from the previous year.

These figures do not account for provincial tuition rebates or bursaries.

The tables are available 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.

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FOR BROADCAST USE

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These figures do not reflect provincial bursary or tuition rebate programs which can reduce the cost of tuition. They also do not account for other mandatory fees, such as student association, health services and athletic fees which vary considerably across universities, and in the Maritimes range between \$255 and \$1,173. Student association fees represent on average close to half of these fees.

The tables are available at www.mphec.ca.