

MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION - Tuition fees at Maritime universities increase, students have choice when it comes to price

October 9, 2012

For immediate release

According to figures released today, tuition fees paid by undergraduate arts and science students in Maritime universities in 2012-2013 range between \$4,945 and \$7,257. "With fees varying by more than \$2,000 among Maritime universities, it means that students considering costs as part of their decision-making do have a few options," said Mireille Duguay, CEO of the MPHEC.

"For many students, the price of tuition is a key factor in making choices about enrolling and in deciding how to finance their education. An increase is a challenge. The tables released today by the Commission are a useful tool for students and their parents in working out some basic costs." said Ms. Duguay.

Compared to last year, tuition fees have risen between 2.5 and 4 per cent.

Students also pay ancillary fees - additional mandatory fees other than tuition - which include fees such as student association, health services and athletic fees. These fees vary considerably across universities, and in the Maritimes range between \$228 - \$1,064.

In New Brunswick, institutions were asked to limit tuition fee increases to \$175, resulting in increases of 2.5 - 3.7 percent. Tuition in that province ranges between \$4,945 and \$7,095.

In Nova Scotia, undergraduate tuition fee increases were capped by government at three percent, and fees range between \$5,830 and \$7,257. Those numbers do not include the annual provincial tuition rebate worth \$1,283 available to Nova Scotia students studying full-time; or the \$261 available to out-of-province students.

In Prince Edward Island, tuition costs \$5,150, up \$200, or four percent from the previous year. Students from Prince Edward Island studying in the province receive the \$2,000 George Coles Bursary in their first year of studies and the Island Student Award over the next three years, for a total of \$3,600 in tuition support over four years. Graduating students are awarded an additional \$1,400 George Coles Graduate Scholarship.

International students, who now represent more than one in ten students in Maritime universities, pay approximately double the fees compared to domestic students. Their tuition fees for undergraduate arts and science range from \$8,290 to \$15,219. "The extra fees paid by international students help offset the costs of providing services to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse group of students," said Ms. Duguay.

Students and graduates in the region may be eligible for additional government programs designed to reduce the burden of financing their education.

The tables are available at 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.

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FOR BROADCAST USE:

According to a report released today (October 9, 2012) by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, tuition fees paid by undergraduate arts students in Maritime universities in 2012-2013 range between \$4,945 and \$7,257.

Compared to last year, tuition fees have risen between 2.5 and 4 per cent, which is above the rate of inflation.

Commission CEO, Mireille Duguay said that with fees varying by more than \$2,000 among Maritime universities, it means that students considering costs as part of their decision-making do have a few options.

Ms. Duguay added that the increase would however present a challenge to students making choices about enrolling and in deciding how to finance their education.

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In Prince Edward Island, tuition costs \$5,150, up \$200, or four percent from the previous year.

The numbers do not include any provincial tuition rebates or bursaries.