

MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION - University student population changing rapidly in the Maritimes

May 13, 2013

For Immediate Release

Fredericton (NB) – Enrolment in Maritime universities reached 70,328 students in 2011-12, seven per cent higher than a decade ago. According to a report released today by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, the increase was accompanied by a change in the student profile.

“Most of the growth in enrolment has been at the graduate level.” says Commission CEO Mireille Duguay. “Ten years ago, one in nine students was enrolled in a Master’s or Ph.D. program. Today, that ratio is nearly one in seven.”

The number of students in graduate programs in Maritime universities reached 9,808 students in 2011-12. Over ten years, the number increased by 40% in the Maritimes: 51% in New Brunswick, 32% in Nova Scotia and 142% in Prince Edward Island.

“We have also seen a substantial shift in the province and country of origin of students.” says Ms. Duguay. “While the overall number of students is up, there are fewer and fewer Maritimers enrolled.”

In 2001-02, Maritimers represented 78% of all students in Maritime universities; today that figure is 68%. The drop in the number of students from the Maritimes has been at the undergraduate level. Since 2001-02, the number who are from New Brunswick dropped by 1,575 (a 9% decrease) and from Nova Scotia, 3,468 (a 14 % decrease). During the same period, the number of undergraduate students from Prince Edward Island increased by 422 students or 11 %.

International students are the top source of enrolment growth; their numbers increasing by 15% in just one year, and 120% over 10 years. China and Saudi Arabia remain the top two source countries for the second year in a row.

More and more students from other parts of Canada are also enrolling at Maritime universities, up 40% over 10 years. Over 13,000 Canadian students come from outside the Maritimes, mainly from Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, to study in the region.

The *Annual Digest: University Enrolment - 2011-2012* 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. Each summary table links to a table on the MPHEC website with a breakdown by university or other variable. The report and related tables are available from 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.

FOR BROADCAST NEWS:

According to a report released today (May 13) by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) enrolment in the region's universities topped 70,000 students in 2011-12, seven per cent higher than a decade ago.

Commission CEO Mireille Duguay says that the growth in university enrolment is first due to the increase in the number of students choosing to pursue a Master's or PhD, up 33 percent over 10 years; and second, due to the fact that there are more and more international students enrolling, up 15 percent in just one year, and 120 percent over 10 years.

Ms. Duguay says the university population in the Maritimes is changing, and that change is happening rapidly.

The report, Annual Digest: University Enrolment - 2011-2012 is available online at: www.mphec.ca.

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