

Dear colleague:

With the release in January 2011 of its *Two Years On: A Survey of Class of 2007 Maritime University Graduates* the Commission entered the fifteenth year of its graduate survey program, which began in 1996 with a pilot survey of the Class of 1995. The Commission is presently conducting a comprehensive review to ensure that the program continues to be relevant and delivers value to stakeholders.

The on-going funding of the program is also at stake. To date, the program has been funded by different government sources on an ad-hoc and per-project basis, with the most recent request having been denied. The Commission determined a few years ago that for this survey program to deliver its full value, a stable funding base must be available. And as you know, we are all operating in a context of significant financial challenges. Careful consideration must therefore be given to all the Commission's activities to establish the priorities that will ensure the optimal functioning of the organization as a whole, and that in the context of its legislated mandate, will best meet the needs of stakeholders. Simply put, the full spectrum of activities currently carried out by the Commission will not be sustainable in this new fiscal climate; thus the value and relevance of the survey program must be clearly evident if it is to continue, and possibly modified to align with available funding levels.

A crucial ingredient in the review process is consultation with our stakeholders; your input will help us prepare a plan for the program's future that will not only clearly demonstrate its continuing relevance and utility, but that will also secure its endurance. Where feasible, opportunities will be identified for collaboration and addressing emerging policy questions. Your input will also assist us in establishing what would be lost in the event the program was to be discontinued.

To begin the consultation process, we would like to first provide you some 'food for thought'. Attached is a discussion paper, *Shaping the Future of the Maritime University Graduate Survey Program*, which I would encourage you to review at your earliest convenience. It provides some interesting and previously unpublished observations about graduate outcomes spanning five graduating cohorts, background information about the survey program and its deliverables, as well as a series of questions about the general value of the survey program, its structure and key deliverables, for your consideration. We hope that you will discuss with your colleagues the questions, the observations, as well as the most recent findings contained in *Two years on: A survey of Class of 2007 Maritime University Graduates*. Electronic copies of both papers are available on our website: www.mphec.ca.

In the second stage of the consultation process, we would like to seek your feedback and input. There are a couple of options open to you for this: we invite you to call us, or to provide your input in writing, by mail, fax or email.

Alternatively, for those of you who are interested, we plan to convene a series of teleconference roundtables. These are designed to be small (no more than 5-6 participants per teleconference) comprised of participants from the same stakeholder group, and to last about an hour or two. MPHEC staff will chair the discussions and record reactions to the discussion paper, opinions, suggestions and ideas for the future of the survey program. We hope that this format will encourage further discussion on the topic. **If you are interested in participating in a teleconference roundtable, I would ask that you please reply by Friday, April 15, 2011 using the attached form which can be returned by email or fax.**

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DATE

Whatever means you choose to share your thoughts on the MPHEC's graduate survey program, we do strongly encourage you to do so. Your input is essential to the continued success of the survey program. Please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Mireille Duguay
Chief Executive Officer