

MARTIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Today, June 25 2008, we are releasing an update of selected tables and figures from *Surveying the Enrolment Landscape: Factors and Trends in Maritime University Enrolment* (published June 2007).

The document is available for download from the Commission's website, <http://www.mphec.ca/>

Below is a summary of key trends.

Highlights

- In 2007, preliminary numbers indicated that total undergraduate enrolment in Maritime universities dropped 3.2%, from 2006. By province, the change in total undergraduate enrolments from 2006 was: New Brunswick -3.5%, Nova Scotia -3.1% and Prince Edward Island -1.9%.
- The number of undergraduate students in the ≤ 19 age cohort originally from the Maritimes was 5% lower in 2006-2007 than in 2000-2001 and 4% lower compared to 2005-2006. By province, the change in the number of these students from 2005-2006 to 2006-2007 was: New Brunswick -6%, Nova-Scotia -4% and Prince Edward Island -1%.
- Based on validated enrolment data, the number of undergraduate students from outside the region declined in 2006-2007, mainly due to fewer students from Newfoundland and Labrador (54% drop between 2000-2001 and 2006-2007; -1316 students) and from outside Canada attending Maritime universities. After a steady increase in the number of undergraduate students from outside the country (+94% between 2000-2001 and 2005-2006), the numbers declined in 2006-2007 compared to the previous year (-3%; -169 students).
- The number of Maritimers attending universities outside the region has continued to increase (+12%, between 2005-2006 and 2006-2007). The largest change has been at the Memorial University of Newfoundland where the enrolment of Maritimers increased 15% in 2007-2008 over the previous year, and increased more than 10-fold in seven years (from 103 Maritimers in 1999-2000, to 1170 in 2007-2008).
- While university participation has increased for residents of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island between 2002-2003 and 2006-2007, the university participation rate of Nova Scotians in Canadian universities has declined by 1.5 percentage points over the same period.
- Community college enrolment continued to increase in Nova Scotia (+6% in 2007-2008 over the previous year, and 33% over the last 7 years), but has changed very little in

New Brunswick (+0.6% between 2000-2001 and 2006-2007) and has dropped in Prince Edward Island (-2% between 2000-2001 and 2006-2007).

- The Maritime 18-24 year old population continues to follow its predicted decline. Between 2005 and 2007, the actual change was a 2% decrease in that age group.

Contact: Shannon McKenna-Farrell
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission
(506) 453-2844
E-mail: mckenna-farrell@mphec.ca