

MPHEC Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission

MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION – Survey of Class of 2018 university graduates now underway

September 16, 2020

Fredericton (NB) — Today, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) launched a survey of graduates who obtained a bachelor's degree from a Maritime university in 2018. The purpose of the survey is to gather information on graduates' experiences during their time in university and the two years following their graduation.

Graduates who complete the survey will have an opportunity to enter their name in a random draw to win one grand prize of \$1,500 or one of nine prizes of \$500 each.

"I encourage graduates to share their experiences and opinions. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, this can be a challenging time for recent university graduates. Their responses will help us understand their challenges and successes and will inform universities and governments as they develop policies and programs to assist students and graduates", said Catherine Stewart, CEO of the Commission.

Graduates will be contacted by email or telephone over the coming weeks. 2018 Bachelor graduates who do not receive direct contact can do the survey by entering their information on the survey website: <u>https://pra.ca/current_research/mphecgradsurvey/</u>.

The survey collects information on employment, financing education, including debt and repayment experiences, the pursuit of further studies, and migration patterns. The Commission expects to release a series of reports with the findings beginning in 2021.

Ms. Stewart added that the information will also be of interest to student groups and the graduates themselves, allowing them to compare their experiences to that of their peers.

The survey is conducted by PRA, Inc., on behalf of the Commission in both French and English. The project is funded by the governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and made possible through the collaboration of the participating Maritime universities. More information about the MPHEC survey program may be found at www.mphec.ca.

The MPHEC was established in 1974. The MPHEC is an arm's length organization accountable to the ministers responsible for post-secondary education in the Maritimes. The Commission comprises 20 members representing universities, the public-at-large (including students), and the three Maritime governments. The Commission's mandate is to give first consideration to improving and maintaining the best possible service to students as lifelong learners.

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