



MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION – University enrolment remains stable despite COVID-19

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Fredericton (NB) – The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission today released a report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on 2020-2021 university enrolment in the region. Compared to the previous year, enrolment in Maritime universities saw a small increase of 0.5%.

“In recent years, a lot of the enrolment growth in the region was due to an increase in the number of international students,” said Commission CEO Catherine Stewart. “This year Maritime universities saw fewer international students, but an increase in the number of Canadian students offset the decrease in the number of international students.”

In 2020-2021, the number of international students decreased by 3.8% compared to 2019-2020, while the number of students from the Atlantic provinces increased by 1.1% and the number of Canadians from the rest of Canada increased by 3.9%.

Undergraduate enrolment was up 0.7% and graduate enrolment was down 0.9%.

Maritimers were more likely to study close to home in 2020-2021. All three provinces showed an increase in their home province university participation rate.

The Commission conducted a special collection of 2020-2021 preliminary enrolment statistics from Maritime universities in December 2020 to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on trends by student origin.

“While this preliminary data collection gives us a big picture of enrolment trends in the region, the Commission will be conducting a more detailed data collection from universities at the end of the academic year to further explore the impact of the pandemic on student enrolment, persistence and course load,” added Ms. Stewart.

The report *Trends in Maritime Higher Education: University enrolment during the COVID-19 pandemic* and accompanying statistical tables are available from the Commission’s website at www.mphec.ca

Established in 1974, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission is an arm’s-length organization accountable to the Ministers responsible for post-secondary education in the Maritimes. The Commission Board is made up of 20 members representing universities, the public-at-large (including students), and the three Maritime provincial governments. The Commission’s mission is to assist institutions and governments in enhancing the post-secondary learning environment. It achieves this by providing assurances that university programs in the region meet established standards of quality and by conducting research on post-secondary education.



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des Provinces maritimes

Media contact:
Lisa O'Connell
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission
506-453-2844
e-mail: mphec@mphec.ca