



MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION – Despite Pandemic Class of 2018 Maritime University Graduates Are Doing Well.

May 26, 2021

Fredericton (NB) – The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission today released employment outcome figures for the Class of 2018 bachelor's degree recipients. The results are based on a survey of graduates from Maritime universities in fall 2020, two years after graduation.

Excluding those who were not looking for work, 86 percent of the Class of 2018 were employed in fall 2020, down 5 percentage points from the Class of 2014 surveyed in 2016, four years earlier.

“The decrease is not surprising if we take into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment across the country,” said Commission CEO Catherine Stewart. “Our results indicate that graduates who were employed part-time were more likely to be impacted by the pandemic. Other measures show that employed graduates were doing better than previous classes”.

Of employed graduates, 80 percent were working full-time, and 60 percent were working in an occupation that requires a university education or is in a management position.

Two years after graduation, Class of 2018 graduates were earning a median annual income of \$45,760, while those working full-time were earning \$50,000. Compared in constant dollars, these full-time earnings are higher than those from previous graduating classes surveyed two years out (Class of 2012 \$49,490 and Class of 2014 \$49,102).

“Recent graduates, just two years after completing a first degree, are already earning a higher income than the general population in their province,” added Ms. Stewart.

The report on the *Class of 2018 Maritime University Graduates' Employment Profile* provides statistics for graduates' province of graduation, and their province of employment at the time they were surveyed (2014, 2016, and 2020), and can be found on the Commission's website at: www.mphec.ca

The total sample of 3,339 respondents represents 31.8% of the total Class of 2018 bachelor's graduate population of the 14 universities in the Maritime provinces that offer undergraduate degrees. The report focuses on 2,437 first degree holders and results have a margin of error of ± 2.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. All statistics presented have been generated from weighted data; data were weighted on the basis of the university of graduation and gender.

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