

MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION--University Enrolment,
Credential Statistics Released

NOTE: Following this release is a number of key statistical findings from 2008-09 enrolment and credentials granted numbers.

The student population in Maritime universities is becoming increasingly diverse, according to statistics released today, Oct. 29th, by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

The Commission has released 2008-09 university enrolment and credentials granted data for all public Maritime universities.

While the number of undergraduate students from the Maritimes has declined 13 per cent over the last five years, the number from outside the region has increased by eight per cent during the same period. In 2008-09, students from outside the Maritimes accounted for 29 per cent of students enrolled in Maritime universities, up from 25 per cent five years ago.

The change is mainly from international students, whose numbers have increased by 14 per cent over five years. Students enrolled at Maritime universities come from 164 different countries, but the majority of international students are from China, United States, Bahamas, Bermuda, and India.

The number of undergraduate Canadian students from outside the region has hovered around 10,000 for the last five years, after a large increase of Ontario students in 2003. Enrolments from Ontario still represent more than half of Canadian students from outside the Maritimes.

Ten statistical tables and three databases are available for download from the Commission's website www.mphec.ca.

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission was established in 1974. The 20 members are drawn from the Maritime provinces and represent higher education institutions, provincial governments and the general public. Its mission is to assist institutions and governments to enhance the post-secondary learning environment.

The Commission collects and maintains data about post-secondary education in the Maritimes and conducts research on the Maritime postsecondary sector. The enrolment and credentials-granted data are obtained from the MPHEC postsecondary student information system (PSIS), which contains detailed information on student demographics, programs and courses for all students enrolled in public Maritime universities. Reports and research articles are

available at www.mphec.ca free of charge.

FOR BROADCAST USE:

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The number of international students has increased by 14 per cent over five years. The number of undergraduate Canadian students from outside the region has hovered around 10,000 with enrolments from Ontario still representing more than half of those students.

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Following are key statistics for 2008-09:

-- Total enrolments: Maritimes 68,623 (-0.7% over 1 year), New Brunswick: 23,182 (-1.5%), Nova Scotia 41,310 (-0.9%), Prince Edward Island 4,131 (+5.4%)

-- Total Undergraduate enrolments: Maritimes 59,471 (-1.2% over one year), New Brunswick 20,877 (-1.6%), Nova Scotia 34,749 (-1.5%), Prince Edward Island 3,845 (+4.8%)

-- Total Graduate enrolments: Maritimes 9,152 (+2.1% over one year), New Brunswick 2,305 (+0.9%), Nova Scotia 6,561 (+2.7%), Prince Edward Island 286 (13.5%)

-- Change in undergraduate enrolment over five years by region of origin: Maritimes down 6,491 students (-13%), Canadian students from outside the region down 119 (-1.2%), International students up 684 (+14%)

-- Change in graduate enrolment over five years by region of origin: Maritimes up 628 students (+13%), Canadian, outside the region, up 242 (+12%), International students, up 51 (+4%)

-- Undergraduate enrolments decreased in every major field of study over the last five years, except for health professions (+8.7%) and education (+12%)

-- International students make up 9.9% of all enrolments in Maritime universities. New Brunswick: 11.4%, Nova Scotia: 9.3%, Prince Edward Island: 8%

-- A total of 15,969 certificates, diplomas and degrees were granted in 2008 (-3.1% over one year). New Brunswick 5,409 (+3.3%), Nova Scotia 9,730 (-6.9%), Prince Edward Island 830 (+4.3%). The number of credentials awarded in Nova Scotia had peaked in 2007, after the majority of Ontario students from the 2003 double cohort completed degrees that year

-- Bachelor's or first professional degrees granted: 12,210 (61% women), master's degrees: 2,525 (63% women), doctoral degrees: 145 (45% women)