



MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION – Three-quarters of Maritime university graduates have jobs linked to studies

June 14, 2017

Fredericton (NB) – The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission today released employment outcome figures for Class of 2014 bachelor's degree recipients. The results focus on those who had not completed any postsecondary credentials prior to the 2014 degree, a group otherwise known as first degree holders. The information is based on a survey of graduates of the region's universities in fall 2016, two years after graduation.

Excluding those who were not looking for work, 88 per cent of graduates were employed. Three-quarters (75%) said that their job is at least somewhat related to their degree and/or that they are using skills learned in their program. Just over half (52%) were working in an occupation that requires a university level education or is in management.

The Commission's report also includes comparable data for the Classes of 2007 and 2012. Compared to the Class of 2007, these employment outcome indicators have decreased three to six percentage points.

Class of 2014 graduates earned a median annual income of \$40,000, while those working full time earned \$45,000. Compared in constant dollars, median earnings for the Class of 2014 are lower than for the Classes of 2007 and 2012.

The report also shows that the average earnings of the Class of 2014 two years after graduation is either on par, or close to, that of the general population, which includes all Canadians of working age.

"The recession in 2008-2009 is likely a key factor explaining these trends. It is also important to remember that these are relatively recent graduates new to, or still in the midst of, their transition to the workforce," said Catherine Stewart, Commission Interim CEO.

The Commission's report provides these statistics for graduates' province of graduation, and province of residence in 2016. It is available for download from mphec.ca.

The total sample of 2,730 respondents represents 25% of the total Class of 2014 bachelor's graduate population in 14 Maritime universities. The report focuses on 2,010 first degree holders and results have a margin of error of $\pm 2.0\%$, 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.

The MPHEC was established in 1974. The MPHEC is an arm's length organization accountable to the ministers responsible for postsecondary education in the Maritimes. The Commission



MPHEC
Maritime Provinces
Higher Education
Commission

CESPM
Commission de
l'enseignement supérieur
des Provinces maritimes

comprises 20 members representing universities, the public-at-large (including students), and the three Maritime governments. The Commission's primary orientation in carrying out its duties is to give first consideration to improving and maintaining the best possible service to students as lifelong learners.

-30-

Media contact:
Dawn Gordon
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission
506-453-2844
e-mail: mphec@mphec.ca