



Declining Enrollment in New Brunswick Universities

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Fredericton, NB: Yesterday the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) published their most recent enrollment data. New Brunswick's enrollment is drastically behind that of other Maritime Provinces, having declined over 5% in the last year alone. Enrollment figures are broken down by comparing the total provincial enrollment in universities over the past year, five years, and ten years. New Brunswick has seen a significant decline in enrollment across all three timeframes. Nova Scotia has seen a minimal decrease, whereas PEI has seen an increase in enrollment.

"Ensuring adequate accessibility to a post-secondary education for all New Brunswickers should be a top priority for institutions and the province," says Katie Davey, President of the UNB Student Union.

"Currently there are surmounting economic barriers for students who wish to study at the university level."

For students with debt, New Brunswick students face the highest in the country. A direct link between the economic burden of students and the declining enrollment can be made.

"Students feel deterred from staying in the province and attending university due the growing financial burden, and we know that retaining and attracting students to study at New Brunswick institutions has a positive effect on the provincial economy," says Travis Daley, Vice-President External for the UNB Student Union.

The declining enrollment in New Brunswick universities is discouraging. If this issue is not addressed, the trend of fewer students choosing to study in the province will continue. Cooperation between all stakeholders needs to occur to ensure that a quality post-secondary education is attainable for all who wish to pursue it.

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