

What's Happening with our High School Students?

Explanatory Notes

* Researchers were not able to track 621 graduates. In their survey report they concluded, "It is reasonably certain that none are attending Memorial University, the College of the North Atlantic, or the Marine Institute. While there is a low possibility these graduates are attending a Newfoundland private college or an out of province institution, it is more likely they are working, unemployed, or engaged in other activities." Given this conclusion, we felt a more realistic picture would be displayed by also showing the results with the 621 "not trackable graduates" included.

These figures are for high school graduates only. They do not take into account those students who dropped out of school, failed to meet provincial graduation requirements, or the 60 students who graduated later in the fall through upgraduating.

Something to Consider... A National Perspective

Youth In Transition Survey, 2002 found that by age 20, 85% of Canadian youth had graduated from high school...70% of those 20 year olds who graduated from high school had gone on to some form of post secondary education...33% - university, 50% - college, 17% - other.

If you take the 15% of twenty year old Canadian youth who did not graduate from high school and add the 30% of graduates who did not go on to any form of post secondary education, you get a total of 45% of all students who were in school obtaining a high school education or less !!!

Only 55% of all the students who were in high school went on to some form of post secondary education. Now consider the dropout rates at the post secondary level for those 55% of all high school students who participated in post secondary educational opportunities !!!

Something to Consider... A Provincial Perspective

The Youth in Transition Survey, 2002 also estimated our provincial dropout rate to be approximately 11%. The above provincial figures show that approximately 36.4% of our graduates did not go on to pursue post

	Provincial 2001 Graduates (Not trackable grads - not included)*		Provincial 2001 Graduates (Not trackable grads - included)	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Post Secondary Education				
Memorial University	2126	39.6	2126	35.5
College of the North Atlantic	931	17.3	931	15.5
Marine Institute	112	2.1	112	1.9
Private Colleges	229	4.3	229	3.8
Out of Province Institutions	410	7.6	410	6.8
Total	3808	70.9	3808	63.6
Non Post Secondary				
Working	898	16.7	898	15.0
Unemployed	416	7.7	416	6.9
Engaged in other activities	249	4.6	249	4.2
Not Trackable Graduates	not included	not included	621	10.4
Total	1563	29.1	2184	36.4
Grand Total	5371	100	5992	100

Source: Follow Up Report of High School Graduates, June 2001
(http://www.education.gov.nf.ca/sch_rep/2000/index.htm)

secondary educational opportunities. If you allow for 5% of students who remained in school but failed to meet graduation requirements then our provincial statistics also indicate that approximately 52.4% of all our students who were in school obtained a high school education or less.

Only 47.6% of all the students who were in our high schools went on to some form of post secondary education. There is an abundance of evidence that indicates that these students are experiencing significant difficulties in making the transition to post secondary educational programs.

A Call to Action

One can always find fault with statistics and these are no different. They do however indicate a need to examine more closely what these kind of numbers mean for the future well being of our young people, our communities, our province, and our country. They also indicate a need for us to collaborate on developing an action orientated approach to more effectively support our young people on their career development journeys.