

Career Development ...Vital Statistics

The following statistics demonstrate the need for us to work together to more effectively address the career development needs of youth, in-school and out-of-school, employed and unemployed, "at risk" and not "at risk."

Drop Out Rate... No High School Diploma

- A 2002 Youth in Transition Survey estimated our provincial drop out rate among 20-year olds in December 1999 was 11%...16% were males (627) and 6% were females (228).
- The 1996 Census showed that 38 % of 25-29 year olds in our Province did not have a high school diploma.
- In 2000-2001, there were 7,036 students eligible to graduate. "Eligible graduates" are students who attempted appropriate courses in the term to satisfy all outstanding graduation requirements; 990 of these eligible graduates, 14%, failed to meet the minimum provincial graduation requirements.

Post Secondary Destinations

A Look At Graduates...

- A Follow-Up Report on High School Graduates, June 2001 shows approximately 64% of the 2001 graduates went on to some form of post secondary education (36% Memorial University, 16% College of the North Atlantic, 2% Marine Institute, 4% Private Colleges, 7% Out of Province Institutions)...36% of the 2001 graduates did not go on, at time of survey completion, to any form of post secondary education (15% were working, 7% unemployed, 4% were involved in other activities, & 10% were not able to be tracked and according to the author of the report were "more likely...working, unemployed, or engaged in other activities.").

A Look At All Students...

- If you take 36% of graduates who do not go on to pursue post-secondary education, allow 11% for students who dropped out of high school and 5% for students who remained in school but failed to meet graduation requirements, you get approximately 52% of "all" students who were in our schools obtaining a high school education or less. Indications are that the 48% of "all" students who went on to post-secondary education are experiencing significant difficulties making the transition to post-secondary education programs.

Difficulty Making the Transition

- In the 2001-2002 school year there were 1,114 students registered for Level IV throughout the Province. These students had difficulties making the transition from high school and required an additional year of study.
- In a survey of 327 students registered for night school during the Fall 2001, 79% of respondents (247/327) could not identify one program, organization, or resource in the community where they could get help with making a career decision.
- In addition, 30% of these night school students indicated they had not received sufficient support to develop their future career plans while they were in high school.

Post Secondary Performance

- The 1996 Census showed that 49% of our province's population aged 25-54 have obtained a post secondary certificate, diploma, or degree.
- The 1996 Census also indicated that a significant number of people do not complete their university program...54% of people (36,200) who were employed in 1996 in our province and who began a university degree did not complete their program...46% (31,365) completed their degree program.
- Graduation rates for three year programs at the College of the North Atlantic over an eight year period, 1991-1999, ranged from 33% to 45% with the average being 40%.
- According to discussion data supplied for the University Forum 1999, the average percentage of new matriculates (Fall, 1992-Fall, 1997) who dropped out during or after their first year at Memorial University was 28%.
- One of the ways Memorial University calculates their graduation rate is to incorporate first-year students and results in a graduation rate for a complete cohort of students who began university in a given year. The percentage of new matriculates in the Fall of 1993 who graduated from Memorial as of the Fall 1999 was 39%.

- Memorial's graduation rate remains "...below the national average and below the level achieved by many other universities." (Youth Services and Post Secondary Education, 2002)

Social-Economic Challenges

- Adding to the challenges of personal and career development is the number of children who live in poverty in our Province. In 2000, 25,330 children (0-17 years) were living in families who were receiving social assistance.
- Our province's youth (15-24 years) unemployment rate averaged over twenty years (1981-2000) to be 28%. In June, 2002 it was 27%

Career Planning

- In a 2001 survey of 101 educators in our Province, 69% indicated they supported making a career planning course a compulsory credit for all Level I students. In 2001, only 28% of high school graduates (1611/6049) completed a career planning course.
- A 2002 Youth in Transition Survey showed that high school dropouts were less likely to have completed a career planning course.
- In a 2001 Vision Research Survey of 400 employers in the Northeast Avalon Region, 76% felt that the province will face a shortage of skilled workers in the next 3-5 years...72% of these employers believed that career development programs in the K-12 system would help to resolve these predicted skills shortages.

Work Experience

- In a 1999 Roper study, 95% of Canadian employers rated work experience during high school as valuable.
- A 1998 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Report indicated that only 17% of students in our Province were able to obtain work experience while in high school.
- In a 2001 survey of 101 educators in our Province, 74% felt that high school students should be required to complete a compulsory work experience and/or community service component as an integral part of their high school program of studies.

Cooperative Education

- In a 2001 survey of 101 educators in our Province, 92% indicated support for enhancing cooperative education programs as a means to help students make more effective transitions to employment and/or educational opportunities.
- In 2000-2001, only 19% (29/151) of schools offering high school courses were able to provide co-op programs for their students.
- In 2001, only 12% of high school graduates (748/6049) completed a cooperative education program.

- In a 2001 survey of 101 educators in our Province, 89% felt that sufficient resources were not available to address the career development needs of students in the k-12 system...93% of these educators felt that additional personnel needed to be allocated at the provincial, district, and school level to focus on the career development of students.