

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Study

The main objective of *Fast Forward: 5-Year Post-Secondary Graduate Follow-Up Study* is to provide current and detailed information about 1995 post-secondary graduates in Newfoundland and Labrador based on information provided by the graduates themselves. This report describes the current labour market situations of the graduates, the relationship of their education to their employment, their further education since graduating in 1995, the sources of funding used to finance their education and the status of loan repayment. The 1995 graduates were first surveyed in 1996-1997, approximately 18 months after graduation. This second follow-up study, completed five years after the initial study, provides a more complete picture of graduates' transition to the labour market. Students, parents, guidance counsellors, personnel from post-secondary institutions and federal and provincial government officials should find this information valuable.

Graduates of 1995 were defined as those who completed the requirements for a degree, diploma or certificate at any point between September 1, 1994 and August 31, 1995 from public and private institutions in Newfoundland and Labrador. They include graduates of:

- Memorial University's programs leading to bachelor's, master's, or specialized certificates or diplomas;
- the Marine Institute of Memorial University programs leading to diplomas, advanced diplomas, and certificates;
- public college one-year, two-year, and three-year diploma or certificate programs;
- private college one-year and two-year diploma or certificate programs; and,
- schools of nursing.

Post-secondary graduates excluded from this study consist of:

- graduates of Adult Basic Education (ABE) from public and private colleges;
- those in apprenticeship programs;
- those who completed "continuing education" courses that did not lead to a diploma or certificate; and,
- those who completed vocational programs of less than a three-month duration.

1.2 Methodology

Surveys of graduates of 1995 were conducted by Statistics Canada and the Department of Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education separately in 1996-1997 and a follow-up survey was conducted by both parties again in 2000-2001. This enabled comparison over time with respect to employment outcomes, wages, relationship of education to job, and any further educational endeavours. Statistics Canada surveyed graduates in universities and public college institutions across Canada in 1997 and subsequently contacted these same respondents in 2000. With the exception of nursing schools, the Department of Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education surveyed graduates from all post-secondary institutions in Newfoundland and Labrador in 1996. In 2001, due to the surveying efforts of Statistics Canada, the Department surveyed only the respondents from private training institutions.

The survey instrument used by the Department for the second study of private college graduates was designed to produce comparable results to the Statistics Canada survey. The survey conducted by the Department was done six years after graduation. Thus, private college graduates had one more year in the labour market to establish themselves prior to being surveyed.

Institutional sectors were defined in order to allow comparisons among college and university, public and private college and short and longer duration programs. Memorial University graduates were divided into two categories: undergraduate degrees and master's degrees. Graduates from doctoral programs were not included because their numbers were relatively small. Marine Institute graduates were included in the public college data initially and this was done again in 2001. To enable appropriate comparisons, college graduates were considered to be in one of four groups: public college one-year programs, public college two- and three-year programs, private college one-year programs and private college two-year programs. The public college two- and three-year programs also include nursing schools as they existed in 1995 while Bachelor of Nursing graduates are included with Memorial Undergraduates. (See Appendix A for list of institutions included.)

The overall response rate was 26% for graduates contacted in 2000-2001, however the response rate varied greatly by cohort. Almost one-quarter (24%) of Memorial University's undergraduates and just over half (51%) of the university's master's graduates completed the survey. For public college one-year program graduates and two- and three-year program graduates the response rates were 20% and 42%, respectively. The response rate for the private college one-year program graduates was 31% and 24% of private college two-year program graduates completed the survey.

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Table 1.2a shows the number of graduates and respondents for the surveys in 1997 and 2000 by Statistics Canada and Table 1.2b shows the number of graduates and respondents for the surveys in 1996 and 2001 by Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education.

Table 1.2a Number of Graduates and Number and Percentage of Respondents for the Surveys Conducted in 1997 and 2000 by Statistics Canada

	Graduates 1995	Sample of Graduates 1995	Respondents 1997		Respondents 2000		Respondents Overall
	#	#	#	% of 1995 Graduates	#	% of 1997 Respondents	% of 1995 Graduates
Memorial Undergraduate	2127	991	803	37.8	514	64.0	24.2
Memorial Master's	305	281	222	72.8	154	69.4	50.5
Public College 1 Year	3169	1604	941	29.7	640	68.0	20.2
Public College 2-3 Year	844	701	482	57.1	350	72.6	41.5
Private College 1 Year	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Private College 2 Year	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Total	6445	3577	2448	38.0	1658	67.7	25.7

(X denotes graduates not surveyed)

The Statistics Canada survey of university and public college graduates in Canada was developed and conducted solely by Statistics Canada. Statistics Canada collected contact information directly from the institutions for the survey in 1997 and initially drew a representative sample from each institutional sector. They used the contact information collected from that survey to attempt to contact the graduates again in 2000. Telephone directories, city directories, alumni lists, and contact information from professional associations and local taxation offices were also used if the contact information was not current. (The survey was conducted from May to July of 2000). Information on Newfoundland and Labrador graduates collected by Statistics Canada was shared with the Department of Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

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**Table 1.2b Number of Graduates and Number and Percentage of Respondents
for the Surveys Conducted in 1996 and 2001
by the Department of Youth Services & Post-Secondary Education**

	Graduates 1995	Respondents 1996		Respondents 2001		Respondents Overall
	#	#	% of 1995 Graduates	#	% of 1996 Respondents	% of 1995 Graduates
Memorial Undergraduate	2105	1482	70.4	X	X	X
Memorial Master's	278	159	57.2	X	X	X
Public College 1 Year	1380	780	56.5	X	X	X
Public College 2-3 Year	1157	755	65.3	X	X	X
Private College 1 Year	1199	720	60.1	376	52.2	31.4
Private College 2 Year	811	456	56.2	196	43.0	24.2
Total	6929	4352	62.8	572	48.6	28.5

(X denotes graduates not surveyed)

The Department of Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education developed and conducted the survey of private college graduates in 2001 in consultation with Statistics Canada in order to produce comparable results to the Statistics Canada survey. The interviewers attempted to contact all private college graduates who responded to the 1996 survey. Since the contact information was not recent in some cases, the use of telephone directories and online search techniques (Canada411.ca) were used to locate graduates. The survey was conducted from October to December of 2001 using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) technology.

Unless otherwise noted, all results presented are from the data collected in 2000 by Statistics Canada for the Memorial University undergraduates, Memorial University master's graduates, public college one-year program graduates, and public college two- and three-year program graduates, and from the data collected in 2001 by the Department for the private college one-year and two-year program graduates.