

Post secondary Education in New Brunswick

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Introduction

With an ever more ageing population there is a growing strain on the younger generation to sustain New Brunswick's economy. Very soon there will be a large social imbalance of elderly and young, the socially dependent and the social contributors. It is the responsibility of the province of New Brunswick to prepare the future workers of new for their impending burden. There are many problems that must be addressed in order to increase the productivity of current resources but in the end an overall increase in support from the provincial government will be required. The two major problems are the centralization of capital resources in Fredericton, and the massive costs associated with getting an education in this province.

The Centralization of Capital resources in Fredericton

There are many problems with the centralization of institutional capital in one city.

- Students are forced to go to Fredericton when their respective cities do not provide for their chosen degree programs. Students who wish to do a full engineering degree must go to Fredericton despite the fact that Moncton is the largest city in the province and Saint John is the most heavily industrialized city in the province. This movement is an added burden on the student which may serve to impede their decision to pursue that degree at all.

- The regular influx of students to the Fredericton area each year adds an extra 10,000+ people to the housing market with more people and the same number of houses the cost of housing in the area is thereby raised. The raised cost of housing in Fredericton is transferred directly to the student raising the real cost of university. For the students who must go to Fredericton in order to get their chosen degree this is an unavoidable cost.

- With in the current system the Poverty stricken are discriminated against. People who are already in the grips of Poverty are much less likely to take on the risk of a massive student loan. Unfortunately, it is only through a massive student loan that such a person would be able to both go to university and relocate to another city to do so.

- There are many in New Brunswick who simply can not leave home. These students could be restricted by a multitude of social situations. These situations, however, do not change the fact that these citizens do not give up their right to an equal chance at life because of imperfect mobility.

The creation of a more disseminated University system in New Brunswick would be beneficial to its population. This could mean either the moving of institutions or a reorganization of funding priorities in order to insure an equitable distribution of opportunities through out the province.

Costs Associated with University Education in New Brunswick

There are many costs associated with going to university. Tuition, though it is the one that often gets the most attention, is far from the only cost of a Post Secondary Education. Other associated costs are housing, food, clothing, and transportation. The overall cost creates problems for both the students and the province as a whole.

- The students of New Brunswick are hit with large costs that are, for the most part, accumulated over the course of the degree program; these costs are realized after the degree has been finished. Although this may be attractive to young kids it becomes a different story when they see people struggling on the brink of destitution attempting to pay back loans incurred earlier in their lives; and this picture is painted all too well by graduates from our provincial system.

-Students with dependants, such as single parents, are discriminated against under the current system. People with dependents are given larger student loans because they require more money to take care of their dependents. In the end they have massive student loans and this is not fair. It is a ceiling that directly supports a culture of social dependence.

- The Province of New Brunswick is hurt by the barrier that the incredible cost of university creates. If the cost of university is greater than the perceived reward than the potential students will not attend university. The cost is larger than it has ever been growing well in excess of inflation. This is unacceptable if the province ever wishes to make its goal of Self-sufficiency.

The most efficient way to decrease the over all cost of university is to directly and drastically decrease the price of tuition in this province. It is only then that the participation rate will rise, and this province can pull its self out of its dependence on federal handouts.