

Economic Assessment Reaffirms Value of University and Students to Island Economy

Recent assessment quantifies economic spinoffs of UPEI



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The University of Prince Edward Island Economic Impact Assessment, prepared by Jupia Consultants Incorporated, and released on Monday, reaffirms the value of both the University and its students to the province.

"The assessment demonstrates, in quantifiable way, just how valuable UPEI students and the University are to the Island economy," said UPEI SU President Lucas MacArthur. "In fact, UPEI's contribution to the provincial economy is among the top in the country, per capita."

In 2013, UPEI boosted the province's GDP by over \$150 million dollars. That same year, UPEI topped up federal, provincial, and municipal treasuries by a collective \$35.4 million. \$19.5 million of that went directly to the province, which provides an operating grant to the institution each year.

The assessment also quantifies the value of out-of-province students to the Island economy. Students who come to UPEI from outside Prince Edward Island and live off-campus contribute almost \$5.5 million to Island GDP. The report does not take into account those living on-campus, or students from Prince Edward Island.

"According to the report, PEI ranks low compared to other provinces with respect to University credential attainment. This fact, compared with the clear benefits of the University and its students to the economy, reminds us that continued and increased funding for post-secondary education is the best investment government can make," noted MacArthur.

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