TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary 1

1.1 Introduction 5

1.2 Survey Methodology 6

1.3 Profile of June 2001 High School Graduates: School District Breakout 10

1.4 Status of June 2001 High School Graduates 11
By Gender 13
By Urban/Rural Split 14
By Highest Level of Parental Education 15
By School District 16
By Dependent Children 17
By Living Arrangements 18

2.0 The Post-Secondary Cohort 19

2.1 Introduction 19

2.2 Research Questions on Post-Secondary Institutions 19

2.2.1 Did gender, geography or parental education have any influence on where graduates pursued their post-secondary studies? 19

2.2.2 Why do graduates choose to study in out-of-province post-secondary institutions? . . . 23

2.2.3 How did graduates first learn about the post-secondary institution they are currently attending? 24

2.2.4 Why did graduates choose the post-secondary institution they are currently attending?...25

2.2.5 Did graduates research other post-secondary institutions prior to enrolling in their current institution? 26

2.2.6 How successful were graduates in gaining entrance to their post-secondary institution of first choice? 27

2.2.7 How satisfied are graduates with the post-secondary institution they are currently attending? 29

2.2.8 Did graduates feel that high school had adequately prepared them for the transition to a post-secondary education and, if not, why? 30

2.3 Research Questions on Programs of Study 31

2.3.1 What programs are graduates enrolled in? 31

2.3.2 How did graduates first learn about their current program? 33

2.3.3 Did graduates research other programs before enrolling in their current program? 33

2.3.4 How successful were graduates in gaining entrance to their post-secondary program of first choice? 34

2.3.5 If this was not the program of first choice, why did graduates choose their current program? 35

2.3.6 How satisfied are graduates with the post-secondary program they are currently enrolled in? 36

2.3.7 If graduates could make different choices regarding their post-secondary education, what would they be? 37

2.4 Research Questions on Graduate Influences and Post-Secondary Finances 38

2.4.1 What influenced graduates to pursue post-secondary education? 38

2.4.2 How far do graduates plan to go with their education? 39

2.4.3 What did graduates estimate was the yearly cost for a post-secondary education? 42

2.4.4 How are graduates paying for their post-secondary education? 42

3.0 The Non-Post-Secondary Cohort 49

3.1 Introduction 49

3.2 Research Questions on the Activities of Non-Post-Secondary High School Graduates 50

3.2.1 What are non-post-secondary high school graduates currently doing? 50

3.2.2 In what sectors are non-post-secondary high school graduates working? 53

3.2.3 What hourly wage are non-post-secondary high school graduates, employed either part-time or full-time, receiving? 56

3.2.4 Why did non-post-secondary high school graduates choose to seek employment rather than pursue post-secondary studies immediately after graduation? 58

3.3 Research Questions on Why Graduates Did not Pursue a Post-Secondary Education 59

3.3.1 Did any non-post-secondary high school graduates attend a post-secondary institution after high school and subsequently discontinue their studies and, if so, why? 59

3.3.2 What factors influenced non-post-secondary high school graduates in their decision not to pursue a post-secondaryeducation immediately after graduation from high school? . . . 60

3.3.3 What were the factors influencing the decision of non-post-secondary high school graduates not to attend a post-secondary institution after graduation from high school?..61

Financial Issues 62

Career Path Issues 62

Entrance Requirement Issues 63

Lack of Interest 64

Personal or Family Issues 65

Waitlists for Program Placement 65

3.4 Research Questions on Future Goals of Non-Post-Secondary Cohort 66

3.4.1 Are non-post-secondary high school graduates planning on attending a post-secondary institution sometime in the future? 66

3.4.2 What are current non-post-secondary high school graduates planning to study in the future? 67

3.4.3 How will current non-post-secondary high school graduates pay for their future post-secondary studies? 67

4.0 The High School Experience 69

4.1 Research Questions on Graduate Awareness of Student Financial Services 69

4.1.1 Were graduates aware of where to get information on government student loans? 69

4.1.2 Did graduates apply for a government student loan? 70

4.1.3 Who helped graduates complete their application for a government student loan? 71

4.2 Research Questions on Career Goals 71

4.2.1 Have graduates made a decision on their future careers? 71

4.2.2 When did graduates decide on a career path? 72

4.2.3 Where did graduates seek advice relating to post-secondary and career-related information? 73

4.2.4 Were graduates aware of the career counselling services available to them in high school and, if so, did they use them? 76

4.2.5 What prevented some graduates from deciding on a career path? 78

4.2.6 Did high school adequately prepare graduates for a career and, if not, why? 78

4.2.7 Did specific high school courses influence the decisions of graduates with respect to their post-secondary options? 79

4.2.8 Would graduates be willing to move to advance their careers or to obtain employment? 82

4.2.9 Did graduates take the Enterprise Education Course in high school and, if so, have they ever considered starting their own business? 82

4.3 Research Questions on Graduate Activities During High School 84

4.3.1 Were graduates involved in extracurricular activities during high school? 84

4.3.2 Did graduates work during high school and, if so, why did they work? 85

4.3.3 What types of jobs did graduates work at during high school and how many hours did they work per week? 86

5.0 The June 1996 High School Graduate versus the June 2001 High School Graduate 89

5.1 Post Graduation Status 89

5.2 Reasons for Not Attending a Post-Secondary Institution Directly out of High School 91

5.3 Plans of Graduates Not Pursuing a Post-Secondary Education 92

5.4 Summary Comparison of 1996 and 2001 High School Graduates 92

Conclusion 95

Appendices 97

Appendix A: Map of College of North Atlantic Campuses 99

Appendix B: Figures and Tables 101

Appendix C: Survey of June 2001 High School Graduates 107

References 129