

Student enrolment for the 2015 fall semester

According to the *Fédération des cégeps*, the overall level of enrolment in Quebec's public CEGEPs this year is on par with last year's, with a total of 178,131 students—78,785 of them new admissions and the majority female (57.7%)—enrolled across the province's 48 public institutions.

There has been a net rise in the student population in Laval, which registered 377 students this fall (+5.2%), with more moderate increases recorded at the CEGEPs in Côte-Nord (+2.4%), Montérégie (+2%) and Outaouais (+1%).

On the flip side, enrolment is down in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, which admitted 434 fewer students this fall than last (-5.2%), as well as in Gaspésie and Îles-de-la-Madeleine (-4.5%), Abitibi-Témiscamingue (-4.4%), Mauricie (-2.3%), Centre-du-Québec (-2.1%), Estrie (-1.5%) and Québec City (-1%).

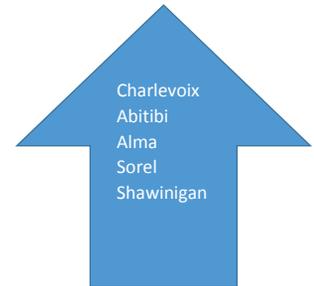
SLIGHTLY DOWN



In all other regions, including Montréal, Laurentides, Lanaudière, Chaudière-Appalaches and Bas-Saint-Laurent, student enrolment remains virtually unchanged from 2014 levels, a stability that refutes ministerial projections to the contrary.

CEGEP students are enrolled in equal proportion in the technical (46.9%) and pre-university (46.5%) sectors, with 6.6% registered in *Tremplin DEC*.

SLIGHTLY UP



The most popular technical programs are Nursing (11,121 students) and Business Management (5,146), whereas Social Sciences and Natural Sciences draw the highest enrolment in the pre-university stream, with 43,654 and 21,792 students, respectively. ■

Advisory report from the *Conseil supérieur de l'éducation*

New college diplomas on the horizon?

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The *Conseil supérieur de l'éducation* (CSE) recently published a study on college education entitled *Retracer les frontières des formations collégiales: entre l'héritage et les possibles - Réflexions sur de nouveaux diplômes collégiaux d'un niveau supérieur à celui du DEC technique*.

While it is heartening to see the importance this CSE report places on college training and the key role CEGEPs play in delivering higher education across Quebec, for FNEEQ, maintaining the provincial qualifying diploma is essential to the future of the CEGEP system.

In a release, FNEEQ expressed its support for the creation of a college diploma in specialized studies (DCES) and of an advanced technical diploma, both of which answer a definite need brought up by many college community stakeholders. The idea of a new combined college-university bachelor's degree also seems promising, although FNEEQ has certain concerns about how it would be coordinated between the two education levels and the potential impact it could have on the qualifying DEC.

The CSE is recommending that the *Ministère de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche* establish a college-university joint committee to further study the introduction of such a baccalaureate at the college level, which will necessarily require consultation with the key players in education and labour, including, of course, FNEEQ!

What the Quebec government decides to do with this CSE recommendation remains to be seen... ■