

# Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators

**Accessibility, Participation and Value**

**2017-18**



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## Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators: Accessibility, Participation and Value

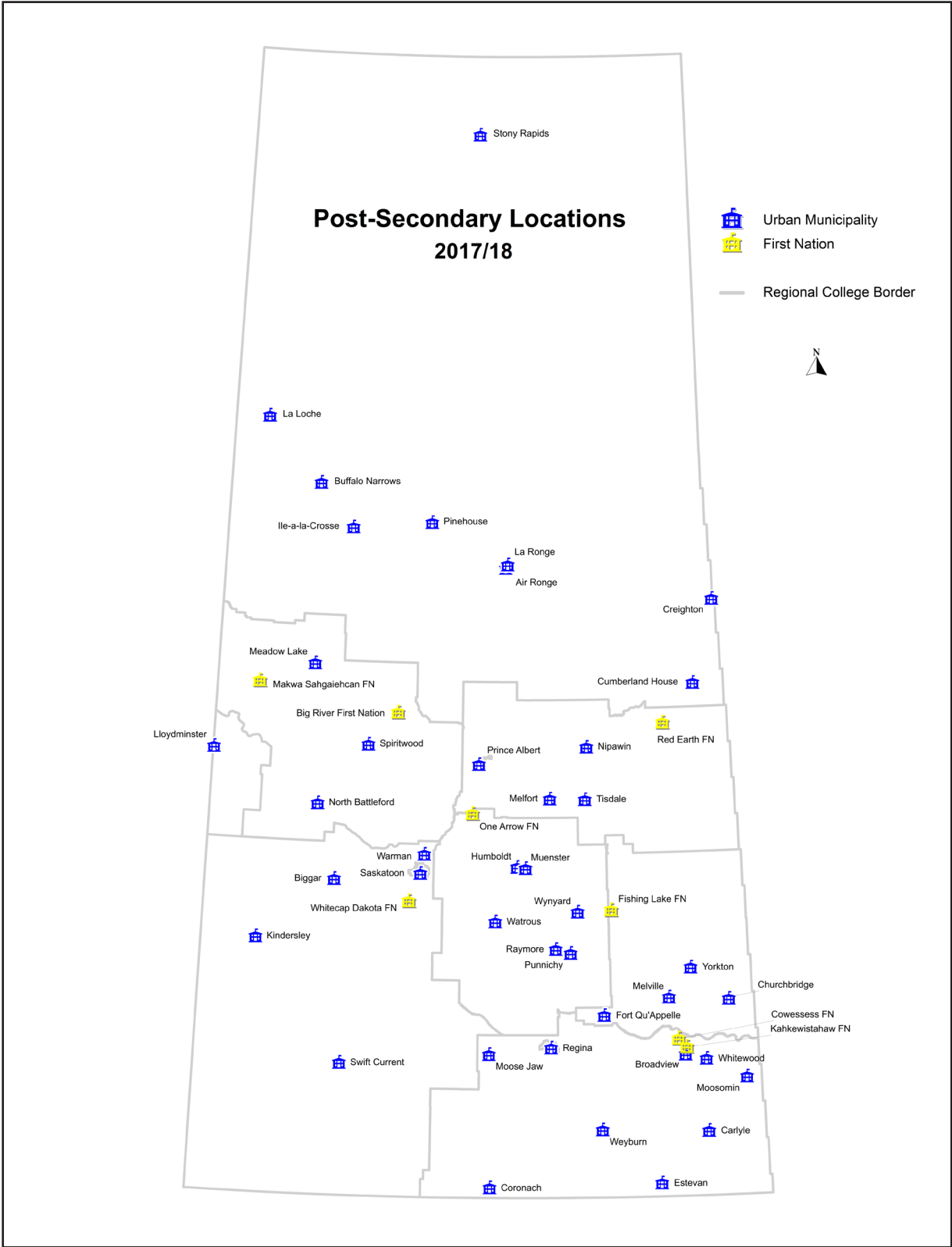
Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions and the Ministry of Advanced Education continue to work together to further develop the Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project. The Project is currently in a pilot phase that includes the province's three largest institutions – Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. The project relies on data from multiple sources that have been collected over different time frames, and is currently limited to students enrolled in credentialed programming (i.e. degree, diploma or certificate programs) through the pilot institutions unless otherwise indicated. This second report focuses on the accessibility of credentialed post-secondary education, participation in the sector and the value of such an education for residents of the province.

### **Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education: Accessibility**

Saskatchewan's population is widely dispersed, and features a low population density compared to other Canadian provinces. While the main campuses of Saskatchewan's universities and Saskatchewan Polytechnic are located in the cities of Saskatoon, Regina, Moose Jaw and Prince Albert, the Saskatchewan post-secondary education sector is committed to being geographically accessible to residents across the province.

Towards that goal, in the 2017-18 school year, credentialed post-secondary classes were offered in 49 cities, towns and First Nations in Saskatchewan (identified on the map below), as well as in eight communities in Nunavut, and in one location each in Alberta, Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories. In Saskatchewan these credentialed classes are offered in partnership with Saskatchewan's federated, affiliated and regional colleges, Dumont Technical Institute and First Nations communities, while a number of programs are offered in Canada's far north through partnerships with Yukon College, Aurora College (Northwest Territories) and Nunavut Arctic College.

# Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Locations



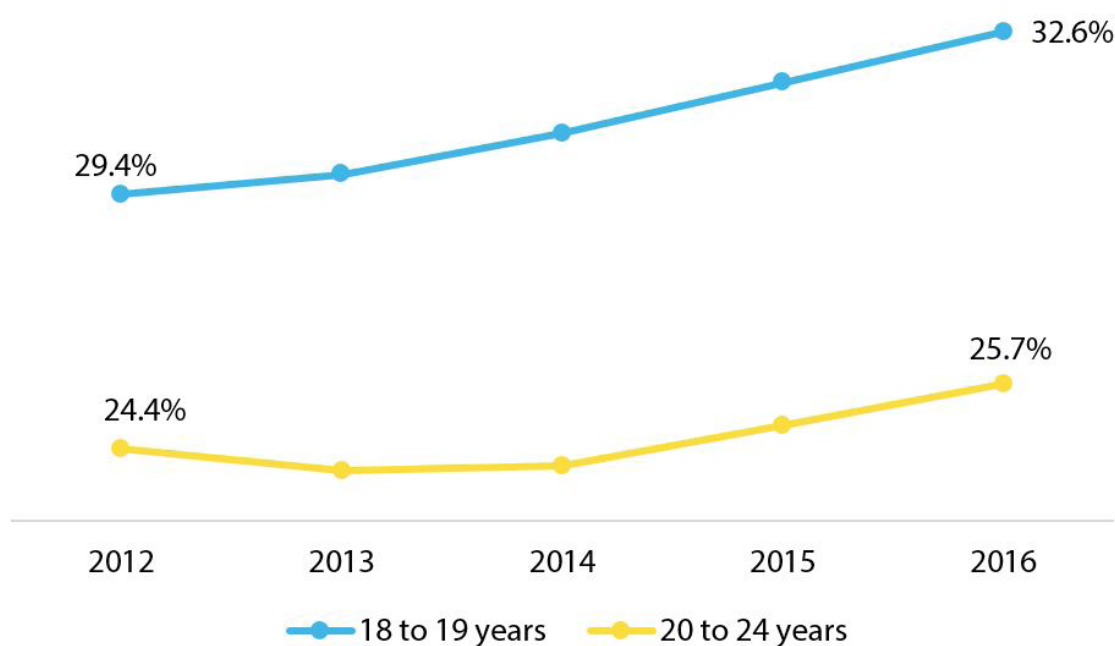
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## Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education: Participation

Engagement with the post-secondary sector among young people is strong throughout the province. In 2016, nearly 30 per cent of Saskatchewan residents aged 18-24 were enrolled in credentialed education through one of the universities or Saskatchewan Polytechnic, with many attending in small communities across the province.

Participation in post-secondary education is on the rise, especially among Saskatchewan's youngest adults. Between 2012 and 2016, enrolment in post-secondary education among 18- and 19-year-olds increased from 29.4 per cent of the population in 2012 to 32.6 per cent in 2016. The participation rate of 20 to 24 year olds has also increased, from 24.4 per cent to 25.7 per cent of the population, while only 9.5 per cent of 25 to 29 year olds are enrolled in post secondary, unchanged over the same five-year period.

**Figure 1: Percentage of Saskatchewan residents enrolled in post-secondary education**



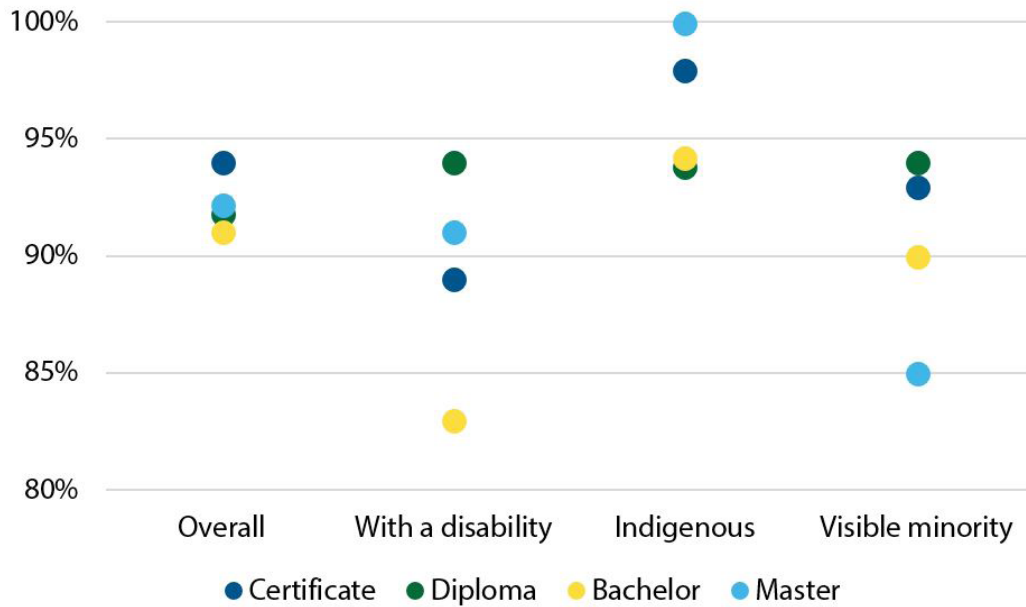
## Value of a Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education

Graduates of Saskatchewan's credentialed post-secondary education programs are overwhelmingly satisfied with the education they have received. In a 2016/17 survey of 2014 graduates<sup>1</sup>, 92 per cent were either satisfied or very satisfied with the overall quality of their educational experience. Satisfaction rates are even higher among indigenous students, though slightly lower among visible minorities and students with disabilities.

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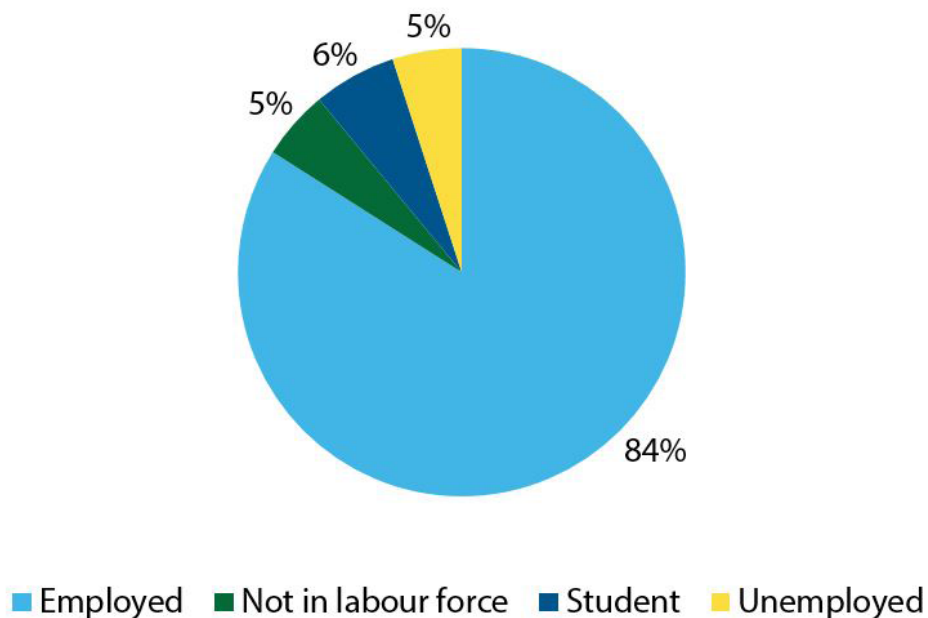
<sup>1</sup> In addition to the pilot institutions of Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan, the survey also included graduates of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and Saskatchewan's private vocational schools.

**Figure 2: Graduate satisfaction by graduate and credential type**



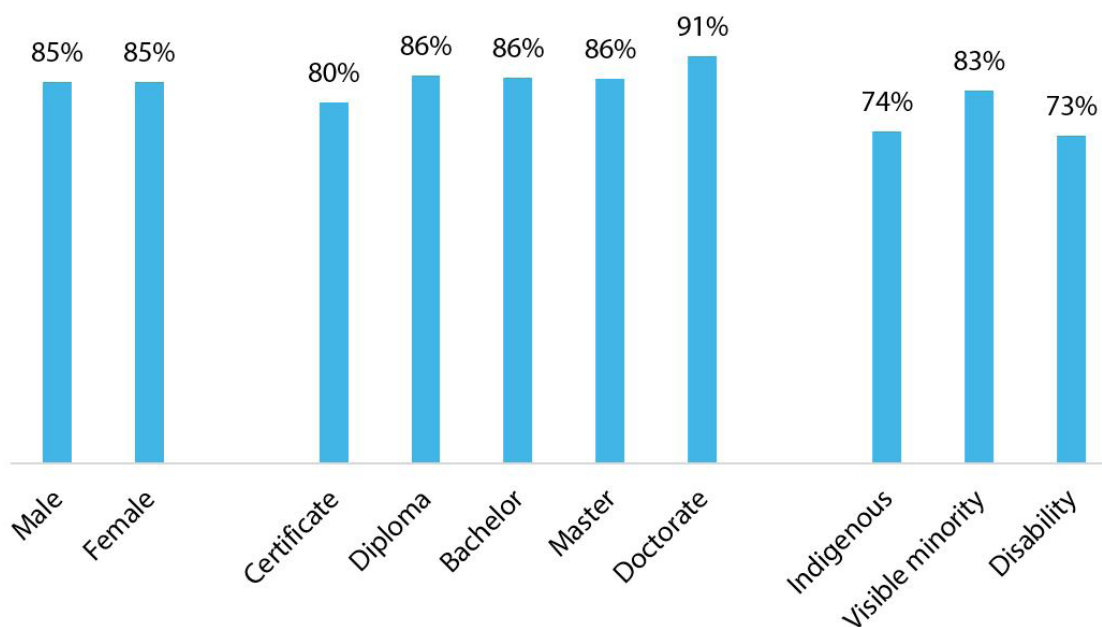
Saskatchewan's post-secondary graduates enjoy high employment rates. Among the same 2014 graduates, 84 per cent were employed two years after graduation, 6 per cent were students taking further education and only 10 per cent were unemployed or not in the labour force (neither working nor looking for work).

**Figure 3: Employment outcomes of 2014 Saskatchewan post-secondary graduates**



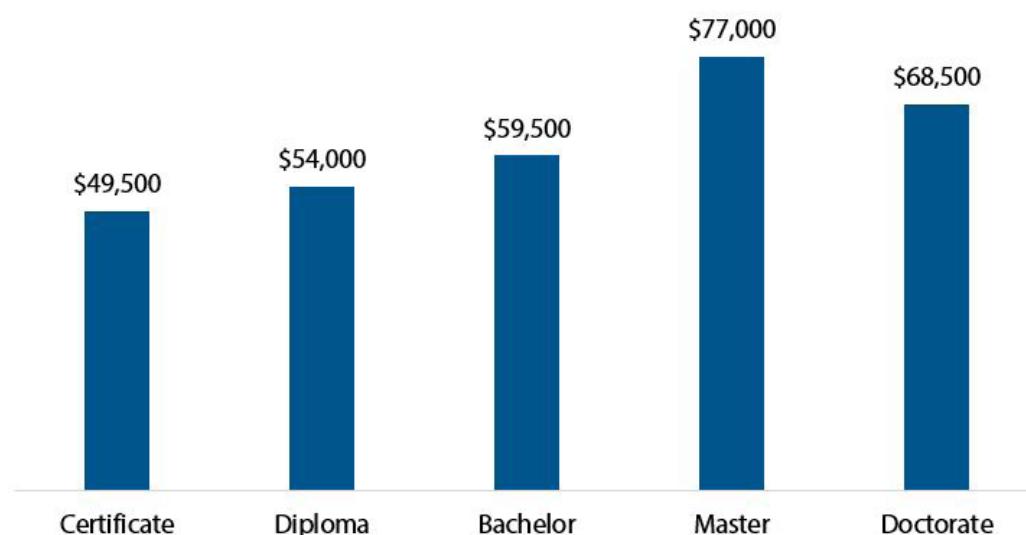
Despite high employment rates across all credential types, the rates for indigenous graduates and graduates with disabilities lag behind the average

**Figure 4: Employment rates of Saskatchewan post-secondary graduates by student and credential type**



In addition to enjoying high rates of employment, Saskatchewan's post-secondary graduates in the survey earned high wages. Among those who were employed, income ranged from an average of \$49,500 for graduates of certificate programs to \$77,000 for graduates of Master's degree programs.

**Figure 5: Average annual income of Saskatchewan post-secondary graduates by credential type**

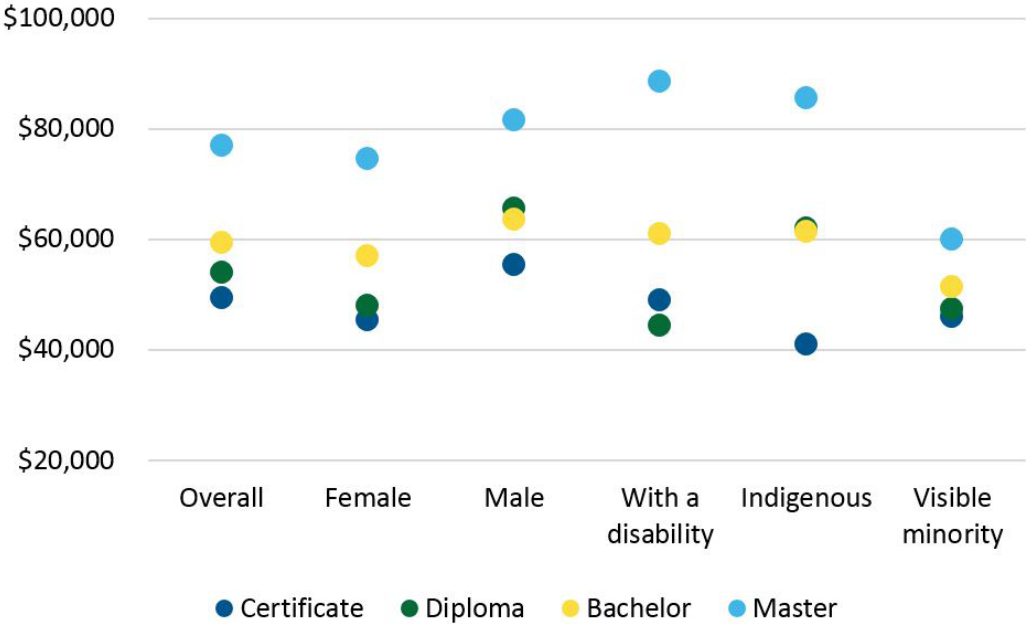




Consistent with national trends, on average, men made more money than women while indigenous graduates, visible minorities and those with disabilities often earned less than other Saskatchewan graduates. These differences between graduate groups varied considerably depending on the level of credential. The gaps tended to decrease with higher levels of education.

For example, at the diploma level, females earned only 73 per cent of what men earned, but at the bachelor’s and master’s levels, their incomes increased to 90 per cent and 91 per cent of their male counterparts. Indigenous graduates of certificate programs earned \$8,500 less than the overall average, but at the diploma, bachelor’s and master’s levels they earned more than other Saskatchewan graduates. Graduates with disabilities are among the lowest earners at the diploma level, but they were the highest average earners at the master’s degree level.

**Figure 6: Average income by graduate and credential type**



The next project report will be released in early 2019.

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