



Do you or your children dream of going to college or university?

In order to compete successfully in the global market, it has become more important for young people in Canada to obtain a higher level of education. Over 70% of new jobs require it. But for many high school graduates, going to college or university is just a dream. Why?

Higher education has continuously been underfunded by the Province

- Massive cuts to federal transfer payments have resulted in colleges and universities hiking up their tuition fees to make up for lost revenue.
- Though it is up to the Province to step in to relieve the burden on students, recent investments have only provided emergency funds to a continuously underfunded sector.
- Ontario has the lowest per-student funding and the highest tuition fees in the country.

The cost of post-secondary education keeps climbing

- Tuition fees in Ontario have tripled since 1990. Ontario students, who make up 38% of undergraduates in Canada, pay the highest tuition fees in Canada, on average \$7,259 a year.
- Over 70% of high school graduates who didn't go to college or university said that the high cost of tuition was the reason. When youth miss out on employment opportunities in their early 20's, their chances of remaining low income earners increases.

Huge debt loads are bankrupting a generation

- Student debt has skyrocketed over the years, with the average undergraduate student debt being \$37,000. A \$37,000 loan paid back over 10 years could translate to one owing as much as \$49,500.
- The Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), which provides financial assistance to full-time students during their studies, puts a huge debt burden on students.
- Upon graduation, students are given a grace period of 6 months before accumulating interest on their debt. As a result of the government's emphasis on repayable loans through OSAP rather than non-repayable needs-based grants, many students cannot help but rack up mortgage-sized debt loads.
- This debt penalizes lower-income people and those entering a job market when prospects of securing well paid, entry-level positions upon graduation are few. These graduates spend decades working to pay it off.

Ask your candidates:

- How will your party help students avoid getting into deep debt from pursuing higher education?
- Will your party take action to reduce student debt loads?
- Will your party advocate for more government investment in post-secondary education to help stop tuition fee increases and steep expenses for students?

Resources:

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: www.policyalternatives.ca

Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario: www.cfsontario.ca

Canadian Association of University Teachers: www.caut.ca



Community Development Halton
860 Harrington Court
Burlington, ON L7N 3N4
Tel: (905) 632-1975
www.cdhalton.ca
office@cdhalton.ca

How, where, when & why to vote:
Elections Ontario
www.wemakevotingeasy.ca

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