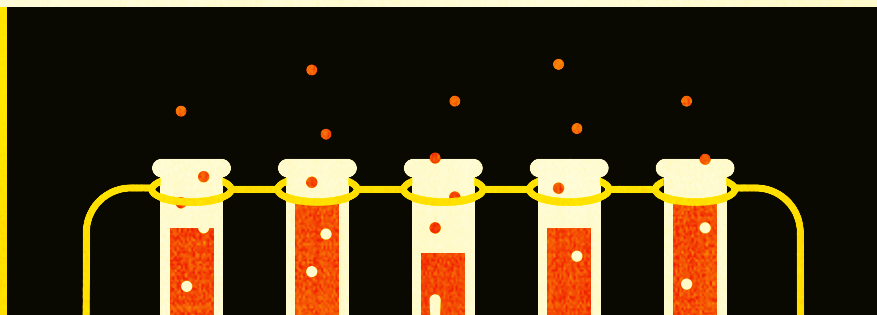
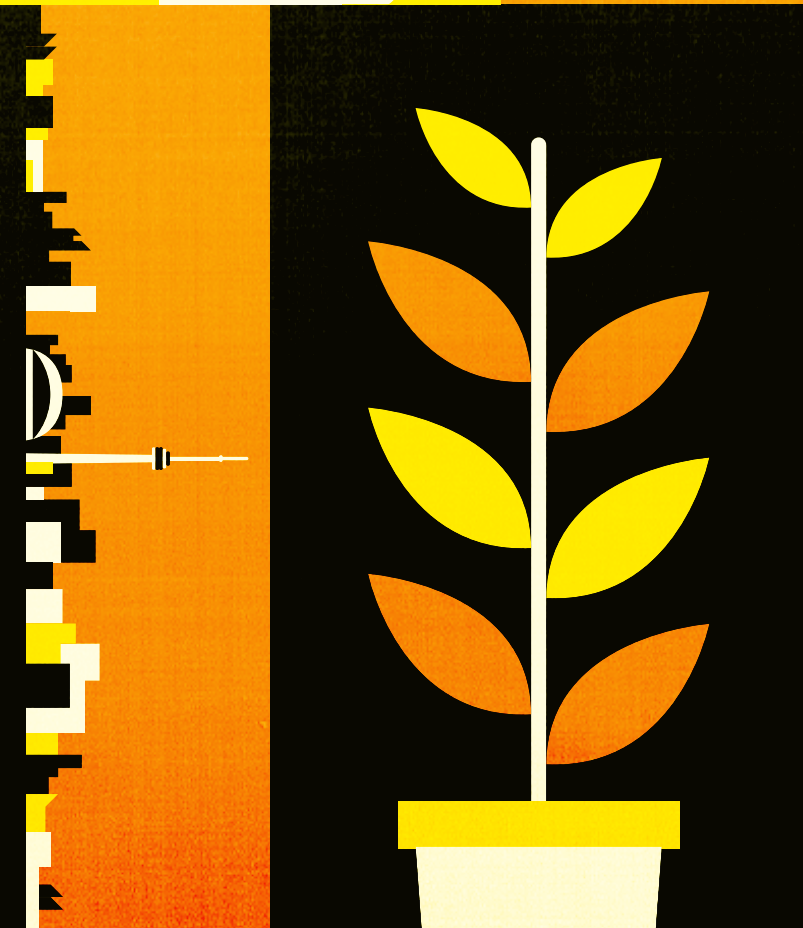




# Investment with Impact

Student recommendations for the 2017 Ontario budget

**cfis** fcée Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario





# 350,000 undergraduate, graduate, and college students united.

*The Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario is the oldest and largest student organization in the province, representing over 350,000 college, undergraduate and graduate students from Thunder Bay to Windsor.*

Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario  
225 Richmond Street West, Suite 302, Toronto ON M5V 1W2  
Phone: 416.925.3825 | fax: 416.925.6774  
cfsontario.ca | federation@cfsontario.ca

Ce document est disponible en français.

# Contents

Introduction .....	2
Summary of Recommendations .....	3
Universal Access to Post-Secondary Education.....	4
Strategic Student Success Fund .....	6
Sustainable Mental Health Supports .....	7
OHIP for International Students .....	8
Decolonizing our Colleges and Universities.....	11
Open Educational Resources Innovation Fund .....	12
Revenue and Savings Recommendations .....	14
Supporting Prosperity by Ending Austerity .....	15

# Introduction

Ontario's college and university system is set to change dramatically over the course of the next few years. New funding formulas will distribute how institutions receive public funding; a reformed system of financial aid, alongside the Ontario Student Grant, hopes to attract and support students from more marginalized communities to post-secondary education; longer tuition fee framework consultations will determine the future of how much we pay for post-secondary education – and who pays. Declarations of transformative change to the post-secondary sector from Queen's Park have been made time and time again, but it appears that now such change is truly on the horizon. Such shifts in our system of higher education pose a number of challenges and present new opportunities to increase access, improve affordability and strengthen the quality of post-secondary education in Ontario.

To this end, students have developed a series of thoughtful, practical and reasonable recommendations for the provincial budget aimed at building upon the strengths of our current system and leveraging the new opportunities yielded by programs such as the Ontario Student Grant. On everything from social spending to honouring our commitments to Indigenous education, there has been a dearth of leadership from the federal government. We strongly believe that Ontario can step in to fill this void with innovative thinking and bold new ideas.

We can broaden access to post-secondary education by eliminating tuition fees for all students. We can deliver top quality education by investing in academic support services. We can make sustainable investments to improve and support the mental health and wellbeing of students. We can be a leader in international education by reintegrating international students into public health insurance. We can take proactive steps towards Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous communities by training institution faculty, staff and decision-makers in the histories and realities of colonization. We can be the global epicenter for innovative teaching and learning by supporting open access materials, programs and textbooks.

We can do all of this – but only if we have the courage to say yes.

This document and the recommendations contained within it is designed to provide decision-makers at Queen's Park with the arguments, evidence and tools to make the leap towards socially just transformative change in Ontario's post-secondary education sector.

“

WE CAN DO  
ALL OF THIS—

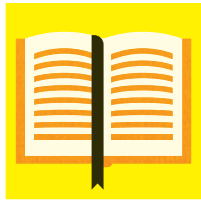
BUT ONLY IF  
WE HAVE THE

**COURAGE**

TO SAY

**YES**

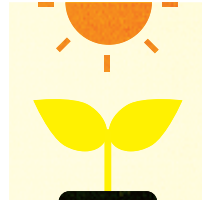
# Summary of Recommendations



## Universal Access to Post-Secondary Education

*Cost: \$951.35 million per year*

Guarantee access to post-secondary education for all students through the elimination of tuition fees based on a cost-sharing agreement between the provincial and federal levels of government.



## Strategic Student Success Fund

*Cost: \$6 million over four years*

Develop a four-year Strategic Student Success Fund where sector stakeholders can apply for funding on a project-by-project basis to provide services geared towards academic student support.



## Sustainable Mental Health Supports

*Cost: \$56 million*

1. Introduce earmarked funding within funding formulas for colleges and universities to support the maintenance and expansion of mental health services on campus.
2. Create a Mental Wellness division overseen by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care dedicated to streamlining frontline services between all levels of education, developing best practices for on-campus service providers and building relationships between mental health services available on and off campuses.



## OHIP for International Students

*Cost: \$8-10 million annual investment, with the possibility of offsetting costs by charging reasonable premiums*

Immediately re-integrate international students into public health insurance through the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP).



## Decolonize our Colleges and Universities

*Cost: \$300 million over four years*

Implement culturally appropriate and trauma-informed training on Indigenous realities, experiences and histories to all faculty and staff at Ontario's colleges and universities.



## Open Educational Resources Innovation Fund

*Cost: \$40 million over four years.*

Develop an Open Educational Resources Innovation Fund to spur the research for and development of open access textbooks, resources and programs, such as Zero-Cost-Textbook programs at Ontario colleges and universities.

# Universal Access to Post-Secondary Education

*Build upon our commitment to affordability and access by eliminating tuition fees for all students through a federal-provincial cost-sharing model.*

Access to education is a fundamental human right for all. But for many students within Ontario, this is a right for which they are prevented from accessing. Over the past seven years, Ontario was ranked as the most expensive province in Canada in which to pursue a post-secondary education.

In 2015-2016 undergraduate students in Ontario paid the highest average tuition fees in Canada (\$7,868), followed by students in Saskatchewan (\$6,885) and Nova Scotia (\$6,817).<sup>1</sup> Graduate students in Ontario also paid the highest average tuition fees in Canada (\$9,175) followed by Nova Scotia (\$8,439) and British Columbia (\$8,262).<sup>2</sup>

Barriers to accessing post-secondary education take multiple forms beyond tuition fees. Other barriers include lack of information and support, difficulties enrolling, a lack of services in rural areas, additional costs beyond tuition fees such as food, rent, textbooks and a failure of institutions to provide supports required by students.

The Ontario government justifies increases in tuition fees by creating financial assistance options such as student loans, targeted grant programs,

scholarships and bursaries. These programs are framed as solutions to support low-income students, yet in reality, they sometimes end up disproportionately benefitting students from higher income brackets and not all eligible students who wish to pursue post-secondary education.

While pursuing a post-secondary education in Canada, international students face unprecedented increases in tuition fees. International students have experienced increases of up to 50 per cent over the last decade. Institutions have been aggressively recruiting international students to make up for lost revenue as government funding diminishes. In 2014-2015 national enrollments increased by 11.4 per cent, with a majority of students attending institutions in Ontario.<sup>3</sup> In 2015-2016 undergraduate international students in Ontario paid \$27,627 per year with an estimated increase in 2016-2017 to \$29,761.<sup>4</sup>

Ontario should strive to attract international students based on merit and not on who can afford increasingly high tuition. International students provide significant economic benefit to the country far beyond making up for lost institutional revenue. In 2010 global affairs Canada estimated that international students contributed approximately \$8.0 billion in total expenditure, almost \$4.9 billion worth of contribution to GDP, \$455 million to government tax revenue and \$336 million per year in tourism.<sup>5</sup>

The unprecedented rise in tuition fees among all students has been a decade-long trend under

successive provincial governments and has put extreme financial strain on the backs of students. High tuition fees along with other associated costs of pursuing a post-secondary education have created record levels of debt. Students who take on loans to attend college or university graduate with an average of \$27,000 in debt.<sup>6</sup> High levels of debt prevent students from making important life decision such as buying a home or vehicle, opening a business, starting a family, pursuing higher or alternative education and contributing to the overall economy. Figure 1 demonstrates the impact of debt on plans as experienced by undergraduate students in Canada.

To fund universal post-secondary education within Canada cost-sharing between the federal and provincial government is proposed. Figure 2 outlines the total cost of free tuition to provinces, territories and the federal government. The cost of free tuition was calculated at the 1995-1996 levels before the government significantly cut funding to post-secondary institutions. Adjustments were included to incorporate inflation, enrollment and provincial/territorial investments in post-secondary education. The Ontario government should invest half of the \$1.9027 billion to eliminate tuition fees within the province. Therefore, the Ontario government would assume the cost of \$951.35 million per year.

**Figure 1: Average debt by impact of debt on future plans**

**\$463**

*"I have no debt"*

**\$14,458**

*"It does not affect my decision"*

**\$22,042**

*"It discourages me from taking further education"*

**\$30,157**

*"It prevents me from taking further education"*

**\$28,506**

*"I need more education to earn enough to repay it"*

\*Source: Canadian University Survey Consortium 2015 Graduating Students' Survey

**Figure 2: Cost of free tuition to provinces, territories and the federal government**

Jurisdiction	College Voc. School Tuition	University Tuition	2017 PSE Contribution (Includes Adjustments*)
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$5.5	\$35.7	\$43.1
Prince Edward Island	\$7.9	\$10.6	\$25.1
Nova Scotia	\$13.7	\$134.4	\$166.4
New Brunswick	\$16.7	\$62.5	\$92.4
Québec	\$75.4	\$283.5	\$374.6
Ontario	\$374.7	\$1,086.2	\$1,902.7
Manitoba	\$22.6	\$78.9	\$82.6
Saskatchewan	\$18.1	\$75.2	\$89.8
Alberta	\$181.4	\$213.9	\$317.6
British Columbia	\$105.3	\$238.1	\$491.8
Yukon	\$0.52	n/a	\$1.1
Northwest Territories	\$1.1	n/a	\$1.9
Nunavut	\$0.62	n/a	\$0.9
Government of Canada	n/a	n/a	\$3,590
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$823.5</b>	<b>\$2,219</b>	<b>\$7,180</b>

\*Sources: CANSIM 477-0058, 477-0060, 477-0019, 326-0021. Growth after 2014 is set at 1.2%.

## Recommendation:

Guarantee access to post-secondary education to all students through the elimination of tuition fees based on a cost-sharing agreement between the provincial and federal levels of government.

Cost: \$951.35 million per year.

# Strategic Student Success Fund

## *Ensuring high-quality education by investing in underfunded and overcrowded academic support services.*

The ability to access to post-secondary education is a fundamental component of achieving a higher quality of life. Students who can pursue post-secondary education have better access to health care, greater economic mobility and can expand their knowledge and skills in understanding the world and their community.

The issue of affordability has deterred many young people from pursuing post-secondary education. In 2016 the Ontario government announced the 2017 roll out of the Ontario Student Grant program (OSG). The goal of the OSG is to provide students with non-repayable financial aid to seek post-secondary education based on their abilities, potential and not their family's income.

The future roll-out of the OSG has left students worried about the lack of appropriate academic support services available to those who are most at risk.

With the government's estimated increase of more than 150,000 students from low-and middle- income families, underserved students who already have less access to institutional, financial, and program information will enter a post-secondary system that will disproportionately underserve them.

Lack of adequate academic support from institutions has left students questioning their degree or diploma, their choice of institution and what employment opportunities they will receive upon graduation. The information gap between schools and students has affected students who are the most at risk. These groups include, among others:

- Students who identify as disabled, Indigenous or racialized
- Mature students
- Low-income students
- Students from single-parent households
- Families with no college or university experience
- Students who work more than 15 hours per week

With the estimated 150,000 students benefiting from the OSG along with the likely increase in enrollment into the post-secondary education system, there must be appropriate financial support from the government to institutions, and academic support from institutions to students. It is important that institutions create academic support services that focus on the following:

### **Promoting early planning**

- Discussing with students what additional programs and career options are available upon graduation. Ensuring that students are informed on what to expect from the program, while also determining what the goals of the student are.

### **Increasing student knowledge**

- Informing students on what skills they will learn throughout the program while forming professional relationships and social connections among faculty, staff and students that are both formal and informal.

### **Providing ongoing targeted support and feedback**

- Throughout the program students should meet with advisors or counselors to ensure that the institution is meeting the needs of students. Students should receive effective exit counseling, job counseling, placement opportunities and training programs.

Tuition fees are only one out of many barriers to entering and completing post-secondary education. Students who are entering the post-secondary system must be given the necessary support and resources throughout their studies.

### **Recommendation:**

Set up a four-year Strategic Student Success Fund where all sector stakeholders will apply for funding on a project-by-project basis to provide services geared towards academic student support.

*Cost: \$6 million*



# Sustainable Mental Health Supports

## *Support student mental wellness through a well-funded and coordinated approach.*

What was once regarded as the reality of pursuing post-secondary education is being discussed for what it actually is: a mental health crisis. The transition into early adulthood for many people serves as the onset for mental health issues. A survey of 25,000 college and university students conducted by the Ontario University and College Health Association (OUCCHA) reported a thirteen per cent increase in students experiencing anxiety and a sixteen per cent increase in students experiencing depression between 2013 and 2016.

As mental health and addictions have become an increasingly prevalent part of public discourse, college and university administrations, students' unions and policy-makers have grappled with the challenge of providing comprehensive and responsive services within post-secondary education. Institutions have developed mental health support services such as peer support, academic support, health and wellness programs and therapy. These services have seen demand far outpace the institutions ability to deliver them. The Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) reported a 320 per cent increase in students using accessibility services on campuses between 1992-2007, noting specifically an increase in access to mental health services. While more students are accessing mental health support services, these programs are often underfunded and understaffed.

It is not uncommon for students to wait several weeks or months before receiving support.

The Government of Ontario has already recognized the importance of supporting student mental health through college and university. In 2012, the government announced the creation of the Mental Health Innovation Fund that allocated \$6 million annually to fund several mental health projects within the post-secondary sector. This fund was renewed for another two-years in 2014. While the efforts to fund mental health supports are greatly appreciated, service-providers, college and university administrations and students have consistently called for long-term sustainable funding that would support the maintenance and expansion of mental health services within post-secondary institutions. This funding could be earmarked within the college and university funding formula to account for increases in demand.

In addition to offering sustainable funding sources, the government can also play a substantial role in ensuring that the services offered throughout each stage in education are coordinated and responsive. The creation of a cross-ministry division would allow the government to streamline frontline services between all levels of education, develop best practices for on-campus service providers and build relationships between mental health services available on and off campuses. This division would be overseen by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

## **Recommendation:**

Introduce earmarked funding within funding formulas for colleges and university to support the maintenance and expansion of mental health services on campus.

*Cost: \$50 million*

## **Recommendation:**

Create a Mental Wellness division overseen by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care dedicated to streamlining frontline services between all levels of education, developing best practices for on-campus service providers and building relationships between mental health services available on and off campuses.

*Cost: \$6 million*

# OHIP For International Students

## *Moving towards public health care coverage for international students.*

International students were previously covered by public health insurance in the province and were removed from OHIP eligibility in 1994. Since then, international students studying at Ontario's colleges and universities must enroll themselves and any dependents in one of two privately administered medical insurance plans, depending on the type of study being pursued: the College Health Insurance Plan (C-HIP) or University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP). Both medical insurance plans are administered by Sun Life Financial. Aside from processing claims and payments, Sun Life Financial coordinates and equips a network of health care providers (clinics, hospitals, labs, dentists) throughout Ontario to accept C-HIP and UHIP insurance holders. It is important to note that the number of health care providers within the network varies by municipality and hospital emergency rooms are often utilized as a place to receive primary care services.

These private plans are prohibitively expensive, costing between \$500 and \$2000 annually depending on the size of the covered party. Beyond the financial burden, the largest complaint international students have about these plans are their limited coverage and bureaucratic red tape. Too often, international students find themselves unable to find a doctor, clinic or specialist that will accept their coverage. This problem persists in all Ontario communities, even large urban areas such

as Toronto and Ottawa, and becomes more acute in smaller, isolated municipalities.

Ontario is out of step with the majority of Canadian provinces when it comes to international student healthcare. Six out of ten provinces – British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador – all offer public health insurance to international students, provided they meet certain eligibility requirements, such as committing to stay in the province for a majority of any twelve-month period. Of these provinces, only British Columbia charges a premium to access these services and only Nova Scotia asks students to wait for a certain amount of time before receiving public coverage. Each of these provinces offers public healthcare in recognition of the tremendous contributions international students make to public and academic life.

While government policy over the last decade has explicitly encouraged enrolment growth in post-secondary education, it has also made a significant effort to attract international students to labs and lecture halls in Ontario's colleges and universities. The government has consistently set and exceeded enrolment goals for international students and has embarked on consultations to develop the province's international post-secondary education strategy.

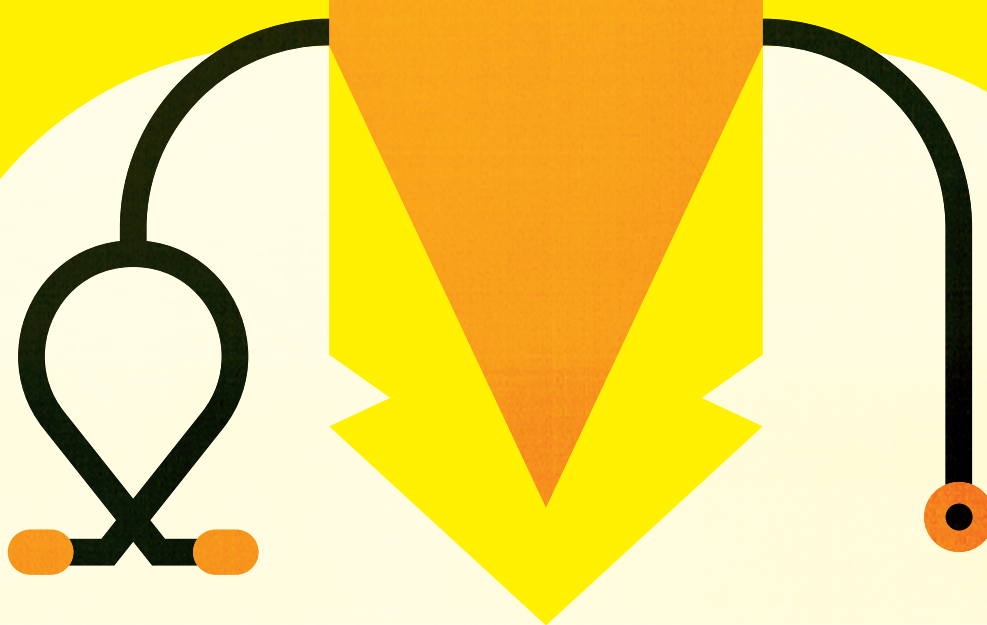
While international student enrolment growth can be attributed to government policy and institutional self-promotion overseas, it is also important

to note that Ontario is seen by international students as an attractive place to study because of other factors as well. Comprehensive education, high standards of living, diverse program offerings at a wide variety of institutions are just a few of the reasons international students choose Ontario for their post-secondary education and increasingly as a permanent home after they graduate.

Yet despite government and institutions touting the benefits of bringing international students to our province, they face significant bureaucratic, financial and social barriers to fully participating in broader society upon arrival.

International students pay differential tuition fees, which can be three to four times higher than domestic fees. They can find themselves tangled in endless red tape as they apply for study and work permits. But most alarmingly is that they arrive in Ontario with expensive and inadequate health insurance.

International students contribute \$3 billion annually to the Ontario economy through paying tuition fees, basic living expenses and consumer spending. Additionally, international students constituted 75 per cent of the Ontario provincial nominees immigration program in 2013. The province already recognizes international students as a target population for immigration growth, re-integrating them into public health insurance would make Ontario a more attractive destination to live, work and study.



The current health insurance system for international students in Ontario is failing the province and it is failing the students. Increasing costs, poor coverage and bureaucratic obstacles have made accessing high quality healthcare cumbersome for many international students. Given their massive contributions to the province economically, culturally and academically, extending public health insurance coverage to international students is a fair, logical and cost-effective step towards fairness for a demographic Ontario desperately seeks to attract and retain as students, residents and eventually citizens.

Given existing healthcare infrastructure, the transition from private to public health insurance coverage for international students in Ontario would be relatively seamless and cost-effective for the province. Using data from Statistics Canada and the Canadian Institute for Health Information,

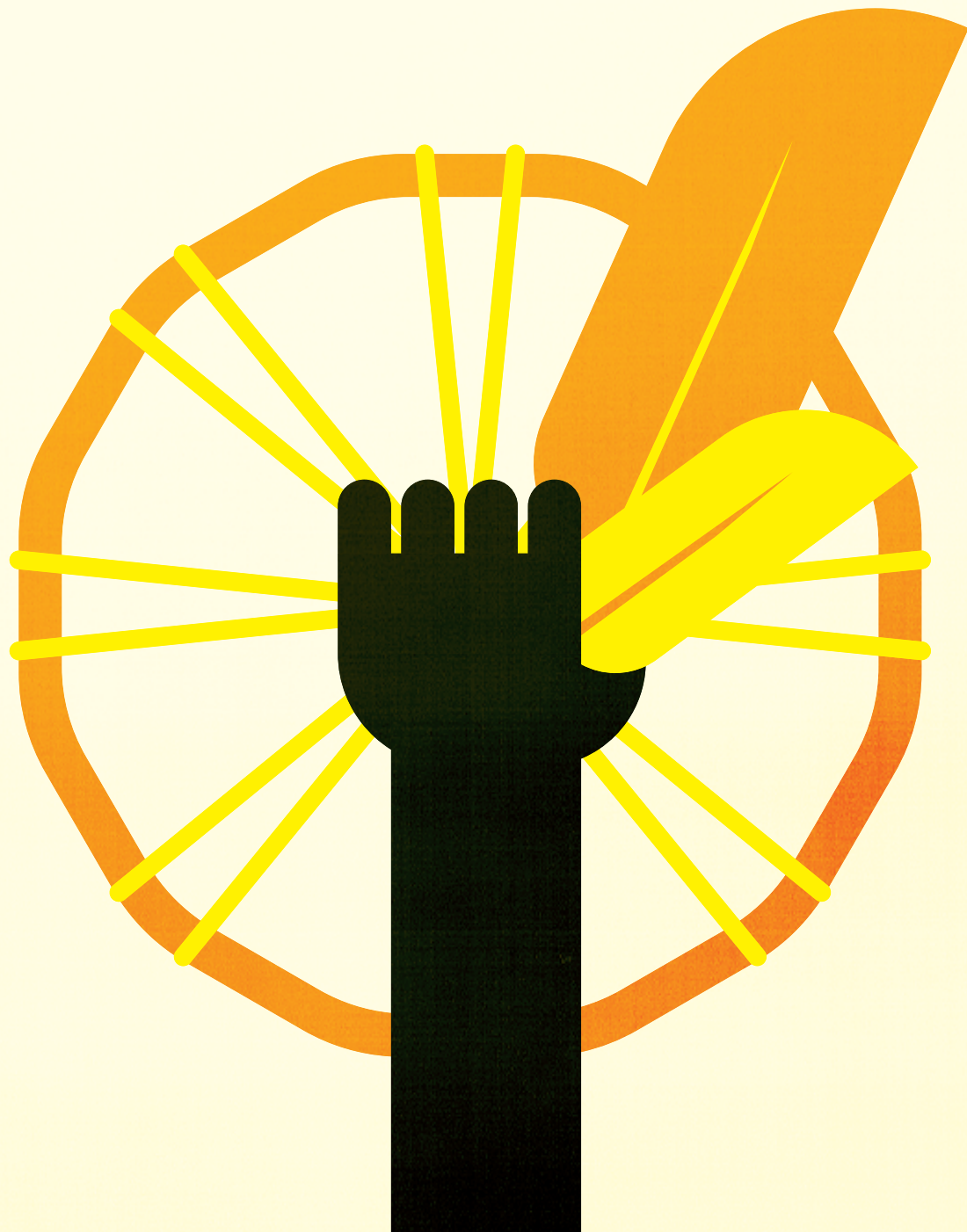
it is estimated that it would cost just over \$6 million annually to reintegrate international students into OHIP, including dependents such as spouses and children. Providing additional funding to cover logistical costs and other unexpected expenses would mean that the entire transition would cost roughly \$8-10 million annually – a minor financial commitment for a population with a huge economic, academic and cultural impact. The province could charge reasonable premiums of \$100 per international student per year and this would more than cover the expected costs while delivering reliable and affordable health coverage for all.

To become a more attractive destination for higher education and in the interest of justice and fairness for all, the province should move swiftly to re-integrate international students into the Ontario Health Insurance Plan.

### **Recommendation:**

Immediately re-integrate international students into public health insurance through the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP)

*Cost: \$8-10 million annual investment, with the possibility of offsetting costs by charging reasonable premiums.*



# Decolonize our Colleges and Universities

## *Meet our commitments to Truth & Reconciliation through the teaching and learning of Indigenous experiences and histories.*

In June of 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its “94 Calls to Action” to renew the relationships between First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities and the Government of Canada. Since then, the government of Ontario has indicated it intends to undertake a number of initiatives and programs to honour the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at a provincial level in response to federal action on the recommendations. Through initiatives such as the Indigenous Post-secondary Education and Training Strategy (IPSET) and the upcoming 2017 Indigenous Languages Symposium to create a revitalizing strategy for Indigenous languages in Ontario, the government is making moves to increase access to post-secondary education for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. This also includes looking at how to change and adjust programs and curriculums to better reflect Indigenous knowledge, language and culture.

Forty two per cent of the Indigenous population in Canada is under 24 years old,<sup>7</sup> meaning that if the province is successful in closing the education gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, campuses will see an increase in enrollment of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. With this intention to close the education gap,

there comes a responsibility to ensure that First Nations, Métis and Inuit students are arriving on campuses where they will feel supported throughout their academic lives and understood in their experiences.

One major area of concern for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students is the need for adequate, in depth and ongoing trainings for professors, faculty and administrative staff of college and university campuses. Indigenous students’ experiences on campuses in Ontario are riddled with incidents of racism and trauma, and Ontario institutions often lack the resources and education to properly support these students and address the systemic violence they face regularly.

Post-secondary institutions in Ontario need training for their staff that is trauma-informed, covering a wide range of issues from residential schools and their intergenerational impacts, to in-depth education on the treaties signed between different nations and the government, Indigenous languages and the diversity of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities across the country and their respective cultures and histories.

## **Recommendation:**

Implement culturally appropriate and trauma-informed trainings on Indigenous realities, experiences and histories to all faculty and staff at Ontario’s colleges and universities. The training could be delivered in phases to various types of campus workers and decision-makers, as suggested:

- Phase 1: Educators (professors, contract faculty, TAs, RAs)
- Phase 2: Frontline staff (faculty and administrative staff that deal with students regularly, counselors and support services staff)
- Phase 3: Upper Administration and campus decision-making bodies (Senates, Boards of Governors, Governing Councils)

*Cost: \$300 million over four years*

# Open Educational Resources Innovation Fund

*Drive innovation in teaching and learning through open access textbooks, programs and course materials.*

Access to post-secondary education isn't limited to the sticker shock of up-front tuition costs. Even with those bills paid, students remain on the hook for a variety of other related costs such as transportation, rent, groceries and course materials. Textbooks and other educational resources are a particularly large source of financial strain for Ontario college and university students. The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development advises students to budget at least \$1000 annually for books, resources and school supplies – warning those costs may be significantly higher in more specialized programs like engineering or architecture.<sup>8</sup>

One of the driving factors behind the ballooning costs of textbooks is the power held by large publishing houses over the content and price of countless course materials. Holding copyrights over thousands of publications and resources, these companies make billions of dollars annually through the sale of textbooks to college and university bookstores, who pass on that cost to students. Since 2008, the average cost of textbooks in Canada has increased over 2.5 times the

rate of inflation, with 'updated' editions costing significantly more than previous versions, even when changes to textbook content are minor.<sup>9</sup>

The financial burdens posed by educational materials are not merely restricted to students perusing the aisles of campus bookstores. An increasing share of post-secondary institution budgets are dedicated to covering the costs of educational resources, particularly licensing fees for access to online academic journals. The market for such licenses is dominated by just a handful of multinational academic publishing houses, which have a tremendous amount of power over access to and dissemination of research. For example, a 2015 study by information science researchers at the University of Montreal found that the top five academic publishers accounted for more than 50 per cent of all academic papers published in 2013. Such concentration generates an enormous amount of wealth in the hands of publishers, with total revenue exceeding \$9.4 billion USD in 2011.<sup>10</sup> Colossal profits are generated primarily through academic library licenses, which account for 68-75 per cent of total revenues for academic publishing houses.<sup>11</sup> Yet, as noted by the researchers at the University of Montreal, academic libraries are often constrained by institutional budgets, which frequently leave them with less and less annual funding. With few options available to them, academic libraries either cut the number of licenses they purchase every year



or pass the cost down to students in the form of higher tuition fees.<sup>12</sup> For-profit academic resource management and publishing not only imposes an exorbitant financial burden on students and academic libraries, but goes against the very principle that access to knowledge should be freely available to all.

Thankfully, a global movement towards Open Access is challenging the oligopoly of academic publishing houses. Peer-reviewed, no-cost academic resources, journals and textbooks have been gaining significant attention from post-secondary institutions, national and provincial governments and the public at large. There are over 5000 open access academic journals, representing about 20 per cent of the world's peer-reviewed journals. In the natural sciences in particular, platforms such as arXiv.org and PubMedCentral provide access to millions of medical and life sciences articles free of charge.<sup>13</sup>

“Zero Textbook Cost” programs in the United States have alleviated the financial burdens of post-secondary education by providing entire academic programs using only open source, peer-reviewed educational resources. While relatively new, the programs are gaining traction at colleges and universities across the country, and are already producing positive outcomes in student retention and success. British Columbia has recognized the value of exploring open

educational resources on a broader scale, with BCcampus agency funding the Open Textbook Project, which aims to fund, develop and make available Open Educational Resources to students, faculty and post-secondary institutions in the province.

Ontario has already recognized the value open educational resources, with eCampus Ontario – an initiative of the Ontario Online Learning Consortium – conducting research for and development of open access materials. Building upon the work already undertaken by eCampus Ontario, the government should commit to a fully funded, multi-year strategy to develop open educational resources such as open access textbooks, course materials and zero-textbook-cost programs. The government should make available \$40 million over four years through an Open Educational Resource Innovation Fund to assist sector stakeholders in researching, developing and distributing high-quality, peer-reviewed open access educational resources, projects and programs.

In a time when Ontario's colleges and universities are facing significant financial stress, providing funding for open access projects has the potential to relieve the pressure on academic libraries to make cuts to journal licenses and resources. Additionally, such projects would improve accessibility and affordability of post-secondary education for students, while improving retention and academic

success. Most importantly, open educational resources have the potential to act as a catalyst for how we understand teaching and learning, recommitting our colleges and universities – and by extension our province – to the idea that knowledge is not a private product, but a public gift.

### **Recommendation:**

Develop an Open Educational Resources Innovation Fund to spur the research for and development of open access textbooks, resources and programs, such as Zero-Cost-Textbook programs at Ontario colleges and universities.

*Cost: \$40 million over four years*



# Revenue and Savings Recommendations

## Sector Reform

### HEQCO

End funding for the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario and redirect savings to pay for additional Ontario Graduate Scholarships.

*Savings: \$5 million*

### Salary Cap

Implement a \$250,000 cap on university salaries and a \$200,000 cap on college salaries.

*Savings: \$17 million*

## Revenue Options

### Income Tax

Introduce a two per cent surtax on personal incomes over \$250,000.

*Revenue: \$1.3 billion per year*

### Corporate Taxes

Restore the corporate income tax rate back to 2009 levels from 11.5 per cent to 14 per cent and restore the capital tax for medium and large corporations to 0.3 per cent for general corporations and to 0.9 per cent for financial corporations.

*Revenue: \$3.9 billion per year*

### Halt the Sale of Hydro One

Immediately halt the privatization of Hydro One and keep the public utility in public hands. Revenues generated by the utility could be put towards spending on infrastructure and social programs, including many of the initiatives proposed in this submission.

*Revenue: Ongoing annual generation dependent on usage and rates*



# Supporting Prosperity by Ending Austerity

In addition to the recommendations laid out in this document, students support a variety of proposals put forward by labour, faith and community partners calling for an end to austerity, and investments in public programs and infrastructure to alleviate poverty and reduce inequality. To this end, students support the following demands put forward by community partners:

- Immediately raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour
- Improve and strengthen employment laws to protect workers, particularly those in precarious, part-time positions, and to make it easier to unionize
- Halt the sale of Hydro One and reinvest the revenue it generates into public services
- Increase social assistance rates for people on Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
- Increasing tax rates on corporations and high-income earners
- Investing in green jobs and infrastructure to fight climate change
- Investing in accessible and affordable public transportation across the province

# Sources

1. Statistics Canada, "University Tuition Fees 2015/2016", September 2015
2. Statistics Canada, "Weighted Average Graduate Tuition Fees for Canadian Full-Time Students, By Province", September 2016
3. Statistics Canada, "Canada Post-Secondary Enrolments and Graduates 2014/2015", November 2016
4. Statistics Canada, "Canadian and International Tuition Fees By Level Of Study" September 2016
5. Global Affairs Canada, "Economic Impact of International Education in Canada - An Update", May 2012
6. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-Ontario "Making Every Job a Good Job," October 2013
7. Statistics Canada, "2011 National Household Survey", May 2013
8. Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, "What It Will Cost", Web 2017
9. CBC News, "Back To School 2015: How Post-Secondary Students Can Fight 'Grim Reality' Of Rising Textbook Costs", September 2015
10. Ware M, Mabe M, "The STM Report; An overview of scientific and scholarly journal publishing", March 2015
11. Research Information Network, "Activities, costs and funding flows in the scholarly communications system in the UK", May 2008
12. Larivière V, Haustein S, Mongeon P, "The Oligopoly of Academic Publishers in the Digital Era", June 2015
13. Geist M, "Millions At Stake In Education Copyright Battle", September 2010



**cfs fcée**

Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario

