

All Out November 2nd 2016

The Canadian Federation of Students is Canada's largest student organization, uniting more than 650,000 students across Canada. The Federation and its predecessor organizations have represented Canada's full-time and part time students at the college, undergraduate and graduate levels since 1927.

Our student movement is taking cross-country, coordinated action to escalate our campaign and pressure decision-makers. On November 2nd, the Canadian Federation of Students will be holding rallies and demonstrations in communities across Canada demanding **universal access** to education, education **justice** and **public education** for the public good.

Universal Access to Education – Everyone should be able to access higher education and skills training without the barrier of cost or the fear of incurring debt. This means the outright elimination of tuition fees for all students and grants that cover other costs of attendance, such as housing, food, textbooks and transportation.

Education Justice – Everyone must be given an equal opportunity to access college and university education. Postsecondary education is becoming out of reach for students from low-income backgrounds who cannot afford the high upfront cost of tuition fees and students who are averse to assuming massive amounts of debts, who are often Indigenous students, racialized students, queer and trans students, students with disabilities and students raised in single-parent homes.

Public Education for the Public Good - Mass public education strengthens our economy, enriches society and reduces social and economic inequality. The cost of public postsecondary education must be shared by all of us through a progressive tax system, not a user-pay model of tuition fees. Our system postsecondary must be by the public, for the public – not tailored to private interests.

Students and Workers United

At the core of a just, equitable and fair society is a system of public postsecondary education that is accessible to everyone. By standing in solidarity with students, workers can help stop the attacks on our public services and protect accessible postsecondary education. The fight for public education in Canada is part of a global fight to maintain education as a basic right for all.

Around the world, governments are tabling austerity budgets that contain massive cuts to post-secondary education and other public services. In country after country, ordinary people are refusing to allow a crisis caused by the deregulation of international markets and corporate greed to threaten the public good. We know that the people, united, will never be defeated and students need the solidarity of our labour partners, civil society groups and social justice organizations to win this fight. We are stronger together.





Four Ways to Support Students

1. Be vocal! Send letters of support for our fight to newspapers or post messages of solidarity online with the hashtag #AllOutNov2.
2. Place an All Out Nov 2 poster in your office, window at home or on community billboards.
3. Propose to your local or community group to officially endorse the Canadian Federation of Students' Day of Action.
4. Join students on Wednesday November 2nd for the Student Day of Action in your community.

Tuition Fees

Dramatic tuition fee increases have been the direct result of cuts to public funding for postsecondary education by the federal and provincial governments. In the past 25 years, average tuition fees in Canada have increased by more than 137 percent in real terms. Our governments and institutions have attempted to reframe postsecondary education as an individual good that must be paid for by the individual who will benefit. Yet the high upfront cost of college and university is blocking low and middle-income families from accessing higher education and skills training entirely. Today, 60 per cent of Canada's postsecondary students come from the two highest income quintiles. Education is a right of us all not a privilege of a few.

Student Debt

Rising tuition fees and the prevalence of loan-based financial assistance have pushed student debt to historic levels. Today, students graduate with over \$28,000 of education-related after an undergraduate degree. The amount owed to the Canada Student Loan Program is increasing by nearly \$1 million per day. By fall 2016, students will owe the federal government over \$19 billion. Low and middle-income students who are forced to take out student loans end up paying more for their education because they must pay both tuition fees and the accumulated interest on their student loans.

With insurmountable levels of student debt, our provincial and federal governments are preventing an entire generation of Canadians from having a fair chance at a decent living.

Funding Cuts

Public funding currently accounts for less than 49% of university and college operating funds, down from 77% just twenty years ago. In recent decades, various governments have made the political choices to claw back public funding for postsecondary education and download costs onto students through tuition fees. This constitutes a strategic re-orientation of Canada's post-secondary education system away from a publicly funded model and towards a privatised user fee system. Public education is a public good that society benefits from as a whole and it must be funded as such.

Sample Resolution

Canadian Federation of Students' November 2 2016 National Day of Action

Whereas Canada's system of public postsecondary education is under threat, with less than 49% of university operating revenue coming from government funding; and

Whereas an erosion of public funding has led to colleges and universities slashing programming, pursuing more corporate partnerships, increasingly relying on precarious work, and pitting students against workers in response to budget constraints; and

Whereas budget cuts are not necessary, but are political decisions made by institutions' Board of Governors and result from a lack of priorities of the federal government; and

Whereas decades of chronic underfunding combined with a lack of a national post-secondary strategy has resulted in average tuition fees increasing by more than 137 percent in real terms in the past twenty five years; and

Whereas tuition fees are user fees and a form of privatization and loan reliance fosters a cycle of life-long debt; and

Whereas rising tuition fees are indebting a generation of Canada's students, who are faced with an average student debt of \$28,000 upon graduation; and

Whereas 60 per cent of Canada's postsecondary students today come from the two highest income quintiles as the high upfront cost is increasingly a barrier for middle and working class learners; and

Whereas thousands of Indigenous learners are denied support every year due to a funding shortfall of the Post-Secondary Student Support Program and the failure of successive governments in committing adequate funding; and

Whereas when workers stand in solidarity with students, we can help stop the attacks on our public services and protect accessible public postsecondary education; therefore

Be it resolved that xxx will endorse the Canadian Federation of Students' National Day of Action on November 2, 2016 calling high-quality, universally accessible public postsecondary for all students in Canada; and

Be it further resolved that xxx will organize its members to participate in campus/community coalitions and mobilize in communities from coast to coast to coast for the Day of Action; and

Be it further resolved that xxx will provide a contribution of \$xxx to support the Day of Action; and

Be it further resolved that xxx will promote the Day of Action, its objectives and the issues it highlights to the membership through its communication channels.