



Attention Ontario Government and Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities

Name: _____ My student debt: _____

College/University: _____ Programme: _____

I am greatly concerned with the dramatic rise in tuition fees faced by students across Ontario.

While Ontario's tuition fees remain the third highest in Canada, the McGuinty Government cancelled the tuition fee freeze after only two years and approved annual increases from 4% to 8%. In some programmes, tuition fees jumped by as much as 36% over 4 years.

Over the past 15 years, tuition fees in Ontario have increased by more than 4 times the rate of inflation, causing student debt loads to triple to nearly \$28,000 for a four-year post-secondary programme.

The path set out by Premier Dalton McGuinty's "Reaching Higher" plan has undermined access to post-secondary education, increased tuition and ancillary fees, limited student choices, and forced graduates to begin their working lives with excessive debt loads. Polling shows the majority of Ontarians feel that tuition fees are too high and support greater public funding for colleges and universities. Now that the Reaching Higher tuition fee framework has expired it's time for the government to create a framework that makes education accessible and affordable to all.

I am part of the over 80% majority of voters in this province who are opposed to tuition fee increases and I call on you to introduce a framework that:

- * Immediately reduce tuition fees to 2004 levels for all students and implement adequate funding to DROP FEES for post-secondary education
- * Reduces tuition and ancillary fees for all students
- * Increases per student public funding above the national average
- * Converts a portion of every student loan into a grant
- * Eliminate post-residency fees and regulate all international fees

and one more thing . . .

signed:

CUPE Ontario University Workers Coordinating Committee