



Title: Response to the Government of Ontario tuition freeze for domestic students and the Blue-Ribbon Panel announcement

Monday, March 6, 2023

TORONTO, ON - While we welcome any financial relief for students, College Student Alliance is disappointed to learn of the continuation of a domestic student tuition freeze. We believe that such a freeze harms a large population of college students and institutions alike.

It is no secret that Ontario colleges are the lowest funded in the country, and rather than increase this much needed assistance, the Ontario government has made the decision to freeze domestic tuition creating an environment where institutions will be forced to make up those funds by increasing out of province domestic tuition (by up to 5%) and international tuition fees.

We have seen record food bank usage by post-secondary students, specifically international ones and are currently living in a cost-of-living crisis. In our 2022 Affordability survey we found that 'Ontario college students are worried about their financial situation. Almost 3 in 4 respondents said they were slightly worried (18%), worried (22%), or strongly worried (34%) about their finances. The stress may be warranted as the average respondent spent \$1,260 more per month than s/he earns'. By placing the burden of funding more and more on students, Ontario colleges will undoubtedly become unaffordable, less appealing and lose their competitive edge.

We are however hopeful that a recently announced panel, the Blue-Ribbon panel, can provide recommendations that will truly aid students and institutions living through the financial crunch. Our hope is that moving forward this panel will have a large student voice representation and that they will begin including both provincial and federal advocacy groups along with the many great student associations that exist at all 24 of our colleges.

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About College Student Alliance:

College Student Alliance (CSA) advocates on behalf of Ontario college students in partnership with student leaders. Through our member student associations, CSA represents the collective voice of Ontario's college students.

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