



UNIVERSITY FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT

Ontario ranks dead last among Canadian provinces in per-student funding for universities. In fact, Ontario universities now rely more on student tuition than on government funding to cover operating costs. It's no surprise, then, that Ontario university students pay the highest tuition fees in Canada.

These embarrassingly low funding levels affect more than just student tuition rates. A wide array of important services for students on university campuses, such as academic advising, counselling, academic and technical support, funding assistance and procurement, security, maintenance and much more, are constantly at risk when funding is too low to adequately meet the needs of students.

But the level of funding is only part of the problem at Ontario universities. There are also surprisingly few checks and balances in place to ensure universities spend public money wisely or in a way that benefits students. Universities' boards of governors often rubber-stamp administration plans for large capital expenditures or for new management or senior administrative positions, even when there is no evidence that these expenditures support student achievement or in any way enhance a student's post-secondary experience.

OSSTF/FEESO CALLS FOR SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN UNIVERSITY FUNDING, INCLUDING:

- A commitment to increase and maintain stable, dedicated funding for all universities to ensure that quality student services and supports are maintained year over year.
- A commitment that dedicated funding will be targeted to specific student needs at all universities.
- A commitment that increases in student enrolment will mean increased staffing levels to ensure that student needs are met.
- A commitment to examine and assess the oversight and transparency of university spending decisions, with an eye to ensuring that Ontario's universities serve the interests of both students and the broader community.