TO: Christopher Girodat, Executive Director

CC: Josh Thomas, Director, Policy & Campaigns

From: Jaismine Kaur, Campaigns Assistant

Date: February 14, 2025

**RE: International Tuition (Survey) Analysis**

# Purpose

**For the upcoming Board of Governors meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, the following quantitative and qualitative analysis is done on the International Tuition Increase survey of 473 Capilano University Students. Additional analyses follow.**

# Quantitative Analysis

In a survey of 473 Capilano University students (33% of whom are domestic students), over 92% of respondents opposed the proposed international tuition increase. The domestic student population is standing in solidarity with international students: over 75% of domestic student respondents specifically oppose the 5% international tuition increase.

84% of our survey’s respondents—81% of international students and **90% of domestic students**—support the idea that increased government funding is needed to fix the system.

# Sentiment Analysis

Following are the major recurring themes and sentiments from the comment section of the survey of 448 students:

1. “Unfair/ Unjust”

* A 5% International tuition increasing in contrast with only 2% increase in domestic tuition
* Especially considering the existing [480%] disparity between the domestic and international tuition (209)

**~46.7%**

1. This move is putting additional financial stress. Additionally, students have no means to cope with it, altering their future plans to stay (fewer hours allowed to work, not as many financial aids available to international students) (138)

**~31%**

1. This move is making education inaccessible/unaffordable for the masses (18)

**~4%**

1. Should improve facilities/quality of education/services in exchange for the increase of tuition (16/448)

**~3.6%**

1. Budget should be met through alternate means (government funding, lesser facilities available at CapU) (14)

**~3.1%**

1. Unfair because no prior information/knowledge given to returning students (10)

**~2.2%**

**Other Sources**

Our [Spring 2024 Student Experience Survey](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1g33uRevmkDeegJuIFtsOBPhWThmCWvDsshECQL3PXTY/edit?tab=t.0) confirms that rising costs are a top concern, with **74%** of students prioritizing tuition fee reductions and **61%** citing financial issues as a major barrier to completing their degrees. Increasing international tuition would only worsen these challenges, making post-secondary education even less accessible.

Statistics Canada data shows that since 2001, government funding for BC post-secondary institutions has declined from **64% to 52%**, forcing universities to compensate by dramatically increasing international tuition—by over **110%** since 2006.

The reality is that most international students are already struggling to afford their education on a tight budget, even while working the maximum allowable hours. [Our research and calculations show that](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1C_cSm5IumEc23STf0mPOftzBs-XMzZbJEPM-vySOarI/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.v1e0dprnk9qv), under current tuition levels, an international student who works **24 hours per week** during studies and full-time in the summer would still run out of funds before the end of their second year and graduate with nearly **$50,000** in debt after a four-year degree. Even under the most optimistic employment conditions—working continuously without any breaks and earning more than minimum wage—students would still accumulate over **$22,000** in debt.

On top of that, international students are the only group in BC forced to pay an additional **$75-per-month healthcare fee**, contradicting the principle of universal access to healthcare in Canada.