

10 Ways

the Ford government's post-secondary education announcement is terrible for students:

WE ARE THE STUDENTS!

NOUS SOMMES LES ÉTUDIANTES ET ÉTUDIANTS

- 1** International students, who pay the highest tuition fees, are ineligible for a 10% reduction in tuition fees.
- 2** Universities in Ontario face a \$360 million cut to revenues while colleges face a \$80 million cut. This will mean a decrease in the quality of education students' receive. These deep cuts are expected to be downloaded onto students and workers through larger class sizes and unfair wages/benefits.
- 3** Students pursuing second-entry programs, such as graduate students and students in professional programs like law and medicine, who are in need of financial assistance to pay their tuition will be forced to take out a loan no matter their financial situation.
- 4** Interest will begin accumulating on student loans immediately after graduation. The 6 month grace period, allowing students some breathing room as they secure employment, is eliminated by the Ford government.
- 5** Students will be classified as "dependent" if they have been out of high school less than six years. These mature students will have their parental income factored into the OSAP needs assessment, regardless of whether or not they are economically independent, affecting access to grants.
- 6** The expected parental contribution amount, which determines how much financial assistance students will receive, is set to increase. This change negatively impacts families that have multiple children pursuing post-secondary education, as well as students whose parents do not contribute the expected amount.
- 7** Students from families with annual earnings below \$50,000 will be forced to take a loan as part of their financial assistance, rather than a non-repayable grant covering the average cost of tuition.
- 8** Students from families with annual earnings between \$50,000 and \$140,000 will receive a high proportion of repayable loans to non-repayable grants in their financial assistance.

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Students from families with annual earnings between \$140,000 and \$170,000 will no longer be eligible for the Ontario Student Grant, only repayable loans.

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Students' unions are under attack. Students democratically decide to participate and fund the activities of their students' union through the collection of dues. The Ford government is introducing student opt out for their students' union dues. This will reduce the ability of students' unions to represent and service their members. Students' unions serve their members in a number of significant ways, all of which are now under threat:

- Coordinating non-profit health and dental insurance plans
- Negotiating discounted transit passes for students
- Providing academic support and advocate services (such as challenging academic misconduct decisions and representing students on tribunals)
- Representing students on academic councils and academic departments
- Running essential support services such as peer support, equity centres (e.g Pride centres, gender resource centres, disability advocacy centres, racialized and Indigenous student centres etc.), sexual violence support centres, and food banks
- Creating volunteer and good job opportunities for students;
- Collecting fees for independent campus press, such as newspaper and radio
- Operating non-profit commercial services, such as book stores, restaurants, cafes and food services.
- Resource causes and programs that students' have democratically decided to fund, such as the Student Refugee Program (WUSC)
- Coordinating orientation week
- Providing first contact for international students
- Offering funding for student clubs

Students' unions are the independent, democratic voice for students so that they may have a say in their own education. Students, through their students' unions, have long fought for government action on accessible, affordable high quality public post-secondary education, which is why students' unions are the latest target of the Ford government.

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