

Government for the People to Lower Student Tuition Burden by 10 per cent

First ever province-wide tuition reduction will make college and university more affordable for students in Oakville

January 17th, 2019

Oakville, ON - For the first time in Ontario, students at every publicly-assisted college and university will see their tuition rates go down by 10 percent thanks to a province-wide tuition rate reduction introduced by Ontario's Government for the People. The tuition rate reduction is the latest step in the Ford Government's plan to keep more money in the pockets of Ontario students and families.

"We believe that if you've got the grades, you deserve access to an affordable postsecondary education," said Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities. "By lowering tuition across the entire province, our Government is ensuring that all qualified Ontario students will have more affordable access to high quality skills, training and education."

"This announcement is welcomed news for students in Oakville, and across Ontario. This 10% cut in tuition across the board will benefit all students, regardless of what program they are enrolled in, and regardless of what institution they attend. Some examples of this include: students enrolled in Sheridan's Music Theatre – Performance program will see a reduction in tuition of \$860 for the 2019/2020 academic year. Students enrolled in an arts and science program at the University of Toronto will save \$700 for the 2019/2020 academic year" said Stephen Crawford, MPP

As part of its overall reform of postsecondary education affordability, Fullerton also announced that the Government will be refocussing the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) to ensure it remains sustainable and viable for future students while directing a greater proportion of OSAP funding to families with the greatest financial need.

"The previous government believed in handing out OSAP money to some of Ontario's highest income earners with virtually no meaningful criteria for success," said Fullerton. "It is no surprise that student enrolment has remained flat while tuition rates skyrocketed. Instead of using OSAP to indirectly subsidize future rounds of tuition hikes, we will focus our resources on the families in greatest need while challenging our partners in the postsecondary sector to deliver better value for the high tuitions they already charge."

The Minister also announced a Student Choice Initiative, giving every student in Ontario the freedom to choose which student fees they want to pay, and how that money will be allocated. Fees for essential health and safety initiatives will continue to be mandatory.

Student fees in Ontario can range as high as \$2000 per year and, too often, force students to pay for services they do not use and organizations they do not support. The opt-out initiative will

ensure students have transparency and freedom of choice regarding the campus services and organizations which get access to their money.

Reducing tuition and increasing the affordability of college and university is part of the government's plan to help people get the training they need to get good paying jobs.

"We are making postsecondary education more affordable in Oakville through these historic reforms, refocussing supports to our students and families who need it most." Said MPP Stephen Crawford. "These changes give students the freedom of choice about how their money is spent, and restores accountability, affordability and access to postsecondary education while giving more of our students' opportunities to find a job and build a career right here in Ontario."

Quick Facts

- The government's historic tuition reduction for 2019-20 represents the first time Ontario student tuition has decreased across all funding-eligible programs.
- Average university tuition in Ontario has increased significantly since the mid-1990s and is currently the highest in any Canadian province.
- A student attending Sheridan College enrolled in a Music Theatre - Performance program would see an \$860 reduction in their 2019-20 academic year tuition.
- An arts and science undergraduate student at the University of Toronto would see a reduction of \$700.
- Students pay fees in addition to tuition, which can range from approximately several hundred dollars to \$2,000 per academic year.
- The Auditor General recently tabled a report highlighting concerns with the way OSAP was administered, as well as drastic overspending. The report concluded that despite the previous government's excessive spending, OSAP did not result in proportionately higher enrolment.
- The government will administer a fund to help smaller, Northern institutions adjust to the tuition rate reduction.

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