



To the **University of Guelph Board of Governors**,

The Ontario government's post-secondary education announcement on January 17 spells out nothing but bad news for college and university campuses across the province. Now, more than ever, students and administration will need to work together for a well-funded and high-quality system of post-secondary education in Ontario.

The "Student Choice Initiative" is a thinly-veiled attempt to destroy students' unions. Students' union fees are democratically established. Every year students elect their representatives and set the direction of their unions, including the option of changing membership fees. This government has no right to interfere with the way these organizations operate.

Our students' unions are an essential part of university and college campuses. On this campus, the Central Student Association delivers important programs and services, including:

- health and dental plans;
- the bus contact with Guelph Transit providing low-cost bus passes;
- advocacy for LGBTQ2S+ students, Indigenous students and students with disabilities;
- The Guelph Student FoodBank;
- Funding and support for over 100 clubs and societies;
- academic appeals support;
- representation for students on campus committees; and
- job and volunteer opportunities on campus through the Bullring and CSA services

All of these services are threatened by this announcement.

Despite the government's claim that it is helping students through an across the board decrease in tuition fees of 10%, this is clearly nothing more than a red herring. When tuition fee decreases aren't matched with increased government funding, they result in major cuts for colleges and universities. These cuts will mean our University will have to make significant changes and alter budgets in order to maintain the quality of education that we have as well it will result in an increase of International student tuition fees which are already three-times more than domestic student tuition across the post-secondary education sector in Ontario.

These funding cuts coupled with the proposed cuts to OSAP actually mean that students from middle- and low-income families will pay more for their education in the long run. This isn't fair.

Students in Ontario already pay the highest tuition fees in Canadian history. So far this year, Ford's government has already cancelled four new campus projects, including a critical French-language university in Ontario. Clearly, this government is NOT "for the students".



We implore you to join students in opposing Ford's disastrous plan for post-secondary education and standing up for students' right to democratic students' unions.

In Solidarity,

Kayla Weiler she/her
Vice President External Affairs
Central Student Association
Local 54 of the Canadian Federation of Students
University Centre 250 | University of Guelph
Office Number: 519-824-4120 x56376