



March 11, 2026

Subject: Postsecondary Success and Sustainability Funding

Hon. Doug Ford

doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Dear Premier Ford,

I am writing on behalf of CFUW Ontario Council, a provincial organization with 48 clubs across Ontario and 4,500 members. CFUW (Canadian Federation of University Women) is a voluntary, self-funded, non-profit, non-partisan women's organization whose members seek to provide life-long learning, to improve public policy and to advocate for gender equality and for the rights of women and girls. CFUW embraces education as one of its pillars for action and advocacy and has supported post-secondary education for over a hundred years, recognizing its value in developing future leaders.

We acknowledge the announced \$6.4 Billion investment from the Ontario government to support postsecondary education as a welcome step to begin to address the crisis created by chronic underfunding. An updated tuition framework to support the postsecondary sector's long-term sustainability, with colleges and universities able to raise tuition by up to two (2) per cent per year for three years and providing some latitude in the following years based on the rate of inflation, is a reasonable beginning.

As a non-profit federation very focussed on supporting education at all levels, we are, however, very concerned with the announced changes to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). As you know, the current model of OSAP allows for a maximum of 85 per cent provided as grants and a minimum of 15 per cent as loans. Starting in 2026, this ratio will essentially be reversed with 25 per cent OSAP funding as grants and a minimum of 75 per cent as loans. This change threatens an unexpected and serious burden to be placed on students and their families, including parents and grandparents.

Students are already facing increased costs. Food expenses have risen to the point that food banks are seeing students in record numbers. For many, adequate housing is already financially unattainable. It is expected that many talented, qualified students will be discouraged by the reality of taking on high loans they and their families cannot afford and thus may not attend postsecondary schooling at all. Additionally, increased student debt will delay current and future graduates from starting independent lives (e.g. buying a house, a car, opening a business), having a reasonable standard of living and becoming contributing members of Ontario's economy.

Hardest hit will be professional programs such as medicine and dentistry. With the current shortage of medical professionals, our province cannot afford to discriminate in the post secondary education arena based on wealth, which is exactly what this change in OSAP will create. Post secondary education should not just be for the financially advantaged.

The Canadian Federation of Students Ontario (CFSON) called the restructuring of OSAP a “devastating blow for students” in an [Instagram post](#), writing that these changes “will have significant ramifications for students” in Ontario. “The much-needed funding boost is soured by the upheaval of the OSAP program and the increased tuition costs. It’s clear that these decisions were not made with students at the table, and it fails to meet the immediate needs of both students in this moment, and of the future.”

Premier Ford, we urge you to act in support of postsecondary students in our province by rescinding the announced changes to the Ontario Student Assistance Program. We ask for a consultative process whereby students and families most affected by changes to OSAP are given an opportunity to voice concerns. We support constructing a more graduated change to the OSAP loan/grant ratio that our students can more reasonably manage. All those affected need to work together to build solutions to support postsecondary students now, for the future of our province.

Yours sincerely,

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