



Liberal Party of Canada

350 Alberl Street, Suite 920
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6M8

Parti libéral du Canada

350, rue Albert, bureau 920
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6M8

September 15, 2021

Canadian Association of University Teachers

Via email: parl@caut.ca

Dear Mylène Freeman,

On behalf of our Leader, Justin Trudeau, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership. We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party of Canada's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

This is an election where there is a clear choice for all Canadians: the Liberal party has had Canadians' backs through the pandemic, and will finish the fight against COVID-19 with significant investments in health care and vaccines, including making them mandatory on planes and trains and supporting provinces and territories to adopt proof of vaccination requirements. Our recovery plan invests in the middle class and those working to join it, to make life more affordable and build a better, cleaner future for Canada.

Due to an overwhelming amount of correspondence and inquiries at this late stage in the election, we are unable to respond to each of your questions, however, we encourage you to review the full [Liberal Party of Canada platform](#) where you will find more information on relevant policy commitments to your organization.

In particular, we would point you these commitments, addressing the issues of post-secondary education and science and research:

- Permanently eliminate the federal interest on Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans to support young Canadians who choose to invest in post-secondary education. This will benefit over 1 million student loan borrowers and save an average borrower more than \$3,000 over the lifetime of their loan.
- Increase the repayment assistance threshold to \$50,000 for Canada Student Loan borrowers who are single. This means that new grads, working hard early in their careers, won't have to begin repaying their loans until they earn at least \$50,000 annually
- Introduce a new fund for student well-being to improve wait times and increase access to mental health care at colleges and universities. The fund will support the hiring of up to 1200 new mental



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health care counsellors, including those who can support the needs of BIPOC students, at post secondary institutions across Canada. We will invest \$500 million over four years and dedicate 10% annually to support Indigenous-governed and operated postsecondary institutions.

- Add 1,000 Canada Research Chairs to help attract and retain top talent at Canadian universities and support graduate research, with a focus on improving gender and racial equity among Canadian faculty, promoting inter-disciplinary research, and reinforcing Canada's world leading capabilities in life sciences and bio-medical research.
- Establish a \$75 million a year fund for colleges and universities to help commercialize leading research, including identifying and securing patent rights for research done within their institutions and connecting researchers with people and businesses to help put these innovations into action and grow our economy.
- Establish a Canada Advanced Research Projects Agency (CARPA) as a public-private bridge for research that helps develop and maintain Canadian led technology and capabilities in high-impact areas.
- Drawing on Canada's contribution to mRNA science and vaccines, introduce a new \$100 million a year fund to pursue moonshot research into high-impact illnesses where a vaccine may be possible.
- Strengthen equity targets for federally funded scientific research delivered through the granting councils to include a specific target for the representation of Black Canadians.
- Provide funding of \$30 million over 5 years to help promising graduate students, support the mentorship and development of younger researchers, and increase opportunities for Black Canadians in Canadian post-secondary institutions.

We hope you and your membership will participate in this federal election and get out to vote on September 20th.

Thank you again for your advocacy and political engagement on these issues.

Sincerely,

Liberal Party of Canada