



BUILDING ON A
STRONGER
NOVA SCOTIA

Canadian Federation of Students

Tuition Fees

Will your party commit to reducing tuition fees? What will this plan look like?

The Liberal Government made the cost of university for students more affordable. In the last four years, the interest has been removed on student loans and the Loan Forgiveness Program was established.

If re-elected, a Liberal Government will expand student assistance with higher weekly loan allowances to a maximum of \$200 per week. As well, a Nova Scotia student graduating from Nova Scotia university will now receive over \$30,000 in non-repayable support; the equivalent of 4 years of average tuition. If re-elected, a Liberal government will continue to work to ensure we make a post-secondary education more affordable for Nova Scotia students.

Core Funding

What is your party's plan for increasing funding to core operating budgets for colleges and universities?

The Liberal Government has increased the operating grant for universities every year we have been in office, unlike the NS NDP, which cut 10% from University operating grants during its time in office.

In June 2016, the Province and Nova Scotia's 10 universities signed a Memorandum of Understanding. If re-elected, a Liberal government will retain its commitment in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2016 to a 1% increase in the operating grant in each year of the memorandum.

The Memorandum expires in March 2019. Any additional support in the form of an operating grant will be negotiated in the future Memorandum of Understanding. We have provided consistent funding year over year and this will allow universities to plan appropriately.

Needs Based Grants

Will your party commit to increasing the portion of student assistance received in non-repayable, up front grants?

The Liberal Government has worked hard to make the cost of university more affordable for our students. This has been accomplished through a series of initiatives such as removing the interest on student loans. The Liberal Government also established the loan forgiveness program, which ensures that if a student graduates in a reasonable time their entire provincial student loan is forgiven. As well, there is the Nova Scotia University Student Bursary for Nova Scotia students studying in this province.

We want to keep more young Nova Scotians here. That means we need to take further steps to improve the affordability of post-secondary education. If re-elected, a Liberal Government will expand student assistance support and expand loan forgiveness to student who complete their undergraduate programs in 5 years from 4 years. A Nova Scotia student graduating from a Nova Scotia University can now receive over \$30,000 in non-repayable support. This is the equivalent of 4 years of average tuition.

If re-elected, a Liberal Government will continue to work to ensure we make post-secondary education more affordable for Nova Scotia students.

Employment Support and Income Assistance

Will your party commit to repealing regulation 67 of the Employment Support and Income Assistance Act to ensure that persons in need are not denied assistance simply because they are students?

We have made changes to a couple of our programs to make post-secondary education more affordable for Nova Scotians on social assistance. In 2016, the Liberal Government extended the Career Seek program to now include 1 year of tuition relief for University students. As well, the program now provides funding to go towards the cost of books, childcare and extra funds for food. It is important to note that an individual on Career Seek can receive income assistance.

In 2016, the Liberal Government enhanced our Educate to Work program. It gives Nova Scotians the opportunity to remain on income assistance at the same time as they receive support for important things like tuition, books, and transportation. We understand the financial cost to continuing with education. We believe changes to these important programs addressed gaps in our system. With the current programs

and structures in place we do not support a change to regulation 67 of the Employment Support and Income Assistance Act. Regulation 67 is enabling legislation and the repeal of that act would in effect hinder government's ability to provide important programs like Career Seek and Educate to Work program.

Stakeholder Participation

Will your party commit to putting students, faculty and staff on the next MOU Partnership Board? Will your party sponsor legislation to increase the power of these groups on university boards?

Liberal Minister for Labour and Advanced Education Kelly Regan met quarterly with University student leaders as part of her Government Student Round Table. This round table engaged both university students as well as community college students 4 times per year at a minimum.

Student groups such as Students Nova Scotia and the Canadian Federation of Students have met repeatedly with members of the Liberal Caucus as part of their advocacy week. If re-elected, a Liberal Government will continue to engage with stakeholders including provincial student groups on important issues that affect their education and employment prospects here in Nova Scotia.

Gender Based Violence

Will your party commit to working with students to implement provincial legislation to combat sexualized and gender-based violence on campus?

The Liberal Government is proud of the work we have done about gender based violence in Nova Scotia. It was a Liberal Government who introduced the first ever Sexual Violence strategy in the province. As part of the Sexual Violence Strategy, grants have been awarded to groups on campuses across the province to work ending gender based violence.

The creation of sexualized violence prevention policies at universities is now tied to the 1% annual funding agreement for universities. A failure to meet this outcome could mean the University would face a financial penalty.

The province also created the Sexual Violence Prevention Committee. It is made up of stakeholders from students, universities, government and the community. This committee is due to report back to the Minister with their recommendations.

MSI for International Students

Will your party commit to eliminating the deferral period which prevents international students from immediately accessing Medical Services Insurance?

International students are a very important part of our student population and our economy here in the province of Nova Scotia. We will continue to engage stakeholders and explore options for International Students so that Nova Scotia continues to be an attractive option for their education.

Youth Employment

Will your party commit to extending regulations currently applied to Federal sectors restricting the use of unpaid internships outside of workplace integrated learning programs, in all workplaces in Nova Scotia?

The Liberal Party is committed to ensuring more youth find first job in Nova Scotia. We have implemented successful programs that encourage companies to hire new grads such as the Graduate to Opportunities, and have removed the 2-year work experience requirement for entry level jobs with the Government of Nova Scotia. We have also successfully created over 2,000 co-op positions through Labour and Advanced Education and 339 co-op positions created through MITACs since 2013.

If awarded the privilege of a second mandate, a Liberal Government will commit to looking at all government options that will enhance opportunities for Nova Scotia students that will help them be successful in Nova Scotia.

Will your party commit to eliminating the inexperienced minimum wage in Nova Scotia?

Premier McNeil has been committed to the youth of this province since forming government. The future of Nova Scotia is in the hands of our children and youth and that is why we have worked so hard to keep our Nova Scotia students living and working right here. If we are given the privilege of forming government again, we will look all options that will provide our young Nova Scotians an opportunity to succeed here at home.

Fixed Election Dates

Does your party support fixed elections dates?

If re-elected a Liberal Government will continue to ensure our democracy is healthy and accountable. The Liberal Party of Nova Scotia is committed to fair and transparent elections. If given the privilege to form government we commit to looking at options that would make our election process more accessible for all Nova Scotians.

It is important to note that even though fixed election dates exist in other provinces, we have seen many times that governments break their own fixed election date. We don't believe they are a useful tool that holds government accountable.