

TUITION FREEZE NOW!

Students are not cash cows, freeze tuition now!

April 13th, 2022

On April 14, 2022 at 1:00pm students and workers from UBC, SFU, and UVic will join with community allies to march from Metrotown Skytrain Station to the office of Hon. Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to demand a freeze on ongoing tuition hikes that make our public Universities a place for the rich, not the working class. Students are not cash cows and universally accessible public education is the foundation of a just society.

“Over the past 20 years, tuition at SFU has increased nearly 200%, making school today three times as expensive as at the turn of the millennium. As tuition increases, students have to work longer hours, take on additional jobs, or rack up even more debt to continue their studies. As an instructor, I see too many of my students struggling financially. We need a tuition freeze to stop making the situation worse,” said Teaching Support Staff Union (TSSU) Chief Steward and SFU Sessional Instructor, Amal Vincent.

“The increase in tuition affects students. It is not just a percentage of 2% for domestic students or 4% for international students every year but it is a build up of stress, anxiety and constant worry. As a student at SFU, tuition increase is more than a number, it affects students every day of their lives.” said SFU Undergraduate Student, Eshana Baran.

“Rising tuition costs on top of other basic expenses such as housing and food make it nearly impossible for students to save money and start planning for life after university. This is extremely concerning as educational institutions are becoming increasingly inaccessible to the public. Governments and post-secondary educational institutions have a responsibility to provide the public with quality education without having to break our backs to afford it,” said SFU Undergraduate student, Rea Chatterjee.

TSSU Chair and SFU Graduate Student Kayla Hilstob added, “I work as both a Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant. When tuition goes up my paycheque goes down, giving me less to live off each month.”

Tuition Freeze Now will deliver a letter demanding the government:

1. implement a freeze on tuition for all students at post-secondary institutions across the province;
2. provide increases to funding across the post-secondary sector to enable the freeze; and
3. commit to strike a commission to study the feasibility of providing free post-secondary education for all.

Phyllis Pearson, UBC Graduate Student and President of CUPE 2278 added: “We are encouraged by the government's interest in reviewing university funding. They need to know that freezing tuition is a high priority for student workers.”

For interviews, please contact:

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