



KUCSC RESPONSE
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PRESS RELEASE RE: CHANGES TO ONTARIO TUITION FRAMEWORK

On Thursday, January 17, 2019 the Government of Ontario announced they will be making changes to Ontario's tuition framework in efforts to make postsecondary education more affordable. This initiative includes decreasing both undergraduate and professional tuition fees by 10% and allowing students the option to opt-out of fees. The Government further announced they will be making considerable changes to OSAP funding, particularly, a reduction to OSAP's grant-to-loan ratio, family income threshold, and the grace period for accumulation of loan interest. Students are concerned these changes will influence their ability to afford post-secondary education in the future.

The KUCSC is concerned that these changes will have negative implications for students. "While the 10% decrease in tuition appears to be beneficial, it will most likely have a negative impact on student's access to bursaries and funding packages" said Vice President of Student Affairs, Claire Linley. "In addition, the government of Ontario proposed making a variety of student fees optional. This is critical and has the potential to be devastating seeing as one of the student fees is for the institution's student councils. Student's councils provide a variety of services and initiatives ranging from student life to advocacy for everyone. The VPSA portfolio will continue to advocate for the students of King's and their academic future."

Hadia Fiaz, KUCSC president, has expressed concern regarding the Ontario Government's cuts stating that, "the negative implications associated with the 10% cuts do not outweigh the benefits of the tuition decrease, we are looking forward to receiving more information in regard to the ancillary student fee opt-outs but mirror the concern of the USC in regards to potential ramifications of decreased student council funding." Moreover, President Fiaz contended that the move away from grants and towards a loan-based OSAP funding model is troubling and will impact students from low income families. "The previous government made a commitment to students of low-income families and these students are now in a position where they must finance their education in a way they did not anticipate." The KUCSC executive is working hard to ensure that the core services that are vital to the functioning of the KUCSC and the student experience here at King's are minimally impacted. If you have any questions or thoughts, we are open to having consultations to figure out a solution together.

For further inquiries please Chief Communications Officer, Julia Chiasson at communications@kucsc.com.
