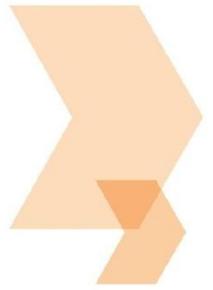




**NDP**  
**NOVA SCOTIA NDP**  
f NSNDP @nsndp  
[www.nsndp.ca](http://www.nsndp.ca)



July 29, 2021

Students, Staff and Faculty Alliance  
380 Bedford Highway, Suite 210  
Halifax, NS B3M 2L4

Dear Members of the SSFA,

As requested, please find below our responses to your questions. For further details on many of these commitments as well as other areas of our plan, please read our Vision Document, *Something Better for Nova Scotia*, available at <https://www.nsndp.ca/something-better-nova-scotia>.

## **FUNDING**

### **How will you address the need for better funding for universities and colleges?**

*There are two sides to this issue that must both be addressed. The first is simple: the fact that current post-secondary core funding is insufficient. An NDP government would increase this funding while also working toward the elimination of tuition fees.*

*The second issue is that many post-secondary institutions spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on changes that do not actually help students, staff, or faculty. One such area is raises to university executives, who already get paid at rates much higher than other faculty or staff. The NDP would implement hard caps on university executives' compensation to ensure that new money brought into universities will be spent where it is needed.*

### **Will you restore the 11-year loss of approximately \$40.4 million?**



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*The NDP would work with post-secondary institutions in the province to ensure that they receive sufficient core funding to operate successfully as well as to gradually reduce and eliminate tuition fees.*

**Will you work with the federal government to advocate for a Post Secondary Education Act, as proposed by the Canadian Association of University Teachers?**

*Our NDP partners in Ottawa have been calling for a federal Post-Secondary Education Act for over a decade. The most recent attempt was Bill C-312, introduced by the NDP as a private member's bill last month. Unfortunately, Liberal and Conservative governments alike have rejected these bills every time, not even permitting them to progress past the first reading.*

*The Nova Scotia NDP shares our federal partners' commitment to fairness in post-secondary funding at a national level and will continue to advocate on Nova Scotia's behalf in favour of such a measure.*

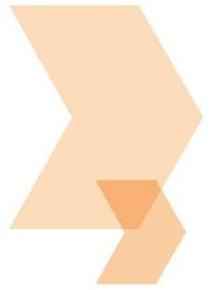
**TUITION**

**Will you immediately lower tuition fees and commit to elimination of tuition fees for students attending Nova Scotian universities during your term?**

*The NDP is committed to working toward the full elimination of tuition fees in Nova Scotia. Our plan is to begin by eliminating tuition fees at Nova Scotia Community College. We will work from there to gradually lower and eventually eliminate tuition fees at all public post-secondary institutions in the province. An NDP government would also expand access to trades, with a specific focus on communities facing discrimination and underemployment.*

**Will you commit to lowering or eliminating differential fees for international students?**

*International students provide immense benefits to our province by bringing new ideas and expertise from around the world while enriching life on campus and beyond. It is not fair that they have been excluded from previous memorandums of understanding on tuition fees, allowing differential fees to rise as high as post-secondary institutions believe they can get away with. An NDP*



*government would address international student differential fees as part of its eventual goal to eliminate tuition fees.*

**Will you eliminate interest on all provincial student loans, ultimately replacing all provincial student loans with non-repayable grants?**

*Eliminating interest does not go far enough, especially since many Nova Scotian graduates already qualify for 0 percent interest on their provincial student loans. An NDP government would move directly to convert all Nova Scotia government student loans to grants. This will give young people a chance to succeed without being burdened by debt, putting them in a better position to build careers, homes, and families in the province.*

**ANTI-RACISM AND RECONCILIATION**

**Will you commit to fulfilling all TRC Calls to Action as they relate to PSE?**

*The NDP is committed to implementing all provincial Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including, but not limited to, those related to post-secondary education. We also commit to reporting annually on our progress. Some of our specific plans include:*

- *Eliminating the over-representation of Indigenous adults and youth in custody in jails and report on progress toward doing so.*
- *Adopting and supporting community sanctions that would provide alternatives to imprisonment for Indigenous people.*
- *Fully implementing Jordan's Principle, which ensures that First Nations children have equitable access to all government-funded public services, regardless of whether they live on or off-reserve.*
- *Increasing the number of Indigenous professionals working in the health care field.*

*The NDP has introduced legislation to this effect, but it has not been supported by the Liberals.*



# NDP

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### **Will you amend the current MOU to include clauses that incorporate principles from the CAUT Policy Statement on Indigenizing the Academy?**

*Yes. The NDP greatly appreciates the work by CAUT in drafting the Policy Statement on Indigenizing the Academy and fully agrees with the principles contained in it. Incorporating these goals into the MOU is an important first step toward making sure our post-secondary institutions reflect the importance of Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaw and Indigenous communities.*

### **COMMERCIALIZATION**

#### **How will you balance the issue of commercialization at NS universities and colleges with the principles of academic freedom and research?**

*The NDP believes that all public institutions, including universities and colleges, must remain fundamentally that: public. The more public funding is replaced with corporate contributions, the more academic freedom, equity, accessibility, and other essential goals of a public institution will be negatively impacted.*

*An NDP government would work to ensure that post-secondary institutions across the province receive sufficient funding to deliver necessary services and to work toward the elimination of tuition fees. While institutions may always choose to accept private donations, these donations should never have to be used to cover gaps in core parts of their budgets.*