

# FAIRNESS FOR STUDENTS

**STUDENTS FOR STRONGER PUBLIC SERVICES NOW!**



## Reconciliation

Post-secondary education is a treaty right guaranteed by the state of Canada to the Indigenous peoples of this land, as found in the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and re-affirmed as a constitutional right in the Canadian Constitution Act of 1982. Despite this being a fundamental right, decades of government underfunding at the federal level has made campuses unattainable for thousands of potential Indigenous learners. At the provincial level, government often engages in a "pass the buck" mentality when confronted with questions of Indigenous education, using the logic that Indigenous issues are the sole responsibility of the federal government.

Indigenous students who make it onto post-secondary campuses are often faced with high levels of racism and discrimination, due to a lack of public education on the history of colonialism in Canada. Indigenous students also struggle with accessing culturally-appropriate support services and are forced to study euro-centric courses and curricula.

### Quick Facts



**22,500 | Indigenous students unable to access post-secondary education due to a lack of funding.**



**11.3% | Indigenous population holds a university degree compared to the 29.3% of the non-Indigenous population.**



**9 | Indigenous post-secondary institutions in Ontario, none of which receive public funds.**

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## Students Respond

Students and in particular, Indigenous students, recognize that any reconciliation efforts on behalf of the provincial government must be backed with community consultations, increased funds and resources to make Ontario a leader in Indigenous education. These efforts should include an increase in Indigenous studies programs, an increase in and wider availability of course selections in Indigenous languages, an increase in the hiring of Indigenous faculty members and cultural sensitivity training provided to college and university faculty and administration.

## Students Mobilize

At both the federal and provincial levels, post-secondary students have supported the calls of Indigenous communities for improved access to education.

Become a part of these efforts by:

- 1 Pressuring your administration to adopt and implement the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action on campus.**
- 2 Supporting events and campaigns by your local Indigenous Students' Association.**
- 3 Pressuring your candidates in the provincial election to support an Indigenous Education Strategy.**