CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS-ONTARIO

IRF

2019 Annual Report



Students have, and always will be, at the forefront of change.

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LETTER TO MEMBERS

In 2018, on the heels of the provincial and municipal elections, students across Ontario organized campaigns, town halls, actions and local and provincial candidates debates to prioritize student issues like post-secondary education, health care, transit and child care.

However, within the first 100 days, it was clear that the newly elected provincial government did not share those priorities. This year (2019), students have organized *Email your Member of Provincial Parliament* campaigns, rallies, campus specific outreach blitzes, walkouts, sit-ins, town halls and more to push the government back on its treacherous plans for post-secondary education.

The 2019-2020 academic year presents great opportunities and challenges that will shape how to navigate post-secondary education for decades to come. With the, Student "Choice" Initiative threatening crucial student organizations, clubs and services like students' unions, campus press and food centres, it is more important than ever for students to unite against these attacks.

No matter what the government or our local administrations throw our way, students will continue to educate, agitate and organize for our rights. Students have, and always will be, at the forefront of change. We know that a free, high-quality and accessible post-secondary education is possible.

This year, we will show the government that when students are united, we will never be defeated.

In Solidarity,

Felipe Nagata - Chairperson Kayla Weiler - National Executive Representative Fabrice Jean-Baptiste - Treasurer



ABOUT THE FEDERATION

The Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, formed in 1981, is your provincial students' union representing over 350,000 post-secondary education students across Ontario. The Federation represents domestic and international students, part-time and full-time students, college students and university undergraduate and graduate students at English, Francophone and Bilingual institutions.

MEMBER LOCALS

LOCAL 1 Carleton University Students' Association LOCAL 19 University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union LOCAL 20 Nipissing University Student Union LOCAL 24 Ryerson Students' Union LOCAL 25 Ontario College of Art and Design Student Union LOCAL 27 Queen's University Society of Graduate and Professional Students LOCAL 30 Laurentian University Students' **General Association** LOCAL 32 Lakehead University Student Union LOCAL 47 University of Western Ontario Society of Graduate Students LOCAL 48 University of Windsor Graduate Student Society LOCAL 49 University of Windsor Students' Alliance LOCAL 54 University of Guelph Central Student Association

LOCAL 56 Wilfrid Laurier University Graduate Students' Association

LOCAL 62 University of Guelph Graduate Students' Association

LOCAL 68 York Federation of Students

LOCAL 71 Trent Central Student Association

LOCAL 78 Carleton University Graduate Students' Association

LOCAL 82 Algoma University Students' Union LOCAL 84 York University Graduate Students' Association

LOCAL 85 Saint Paul University Students' Association

LOCAL 88 Association des étudiantes et étudiants francophones de l'Université Laurentienne

LOCAL 92 Student Association of George Brown College

LOCAL 93 Glendon College Students' Union LOCAL 94 University of Ottawa Graduate Students' Association LOCAL 97 Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students of the University of Toronto

LOCAL 98 University of Toronto Students' Union

LOCAL 99 Scarborough Campus Students' Union

LOCAL 102 Brock University Graduate Students' Association

LOCAL 105 Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson

LOCAL 106 University of Windsor Organization of Part-time Undergraduate Students

LOCAL 109 University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union

LOCAL 110 Laurentian University Graduate Students' Association

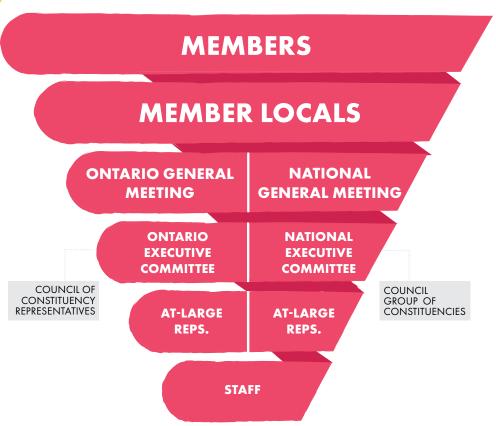
LOCAL 112 Collège Boréal Association générale des étudiants et des étudiantes

LOCAL 114 Association des étudiantes et étudiants de l'Université de Hearst

ONTARIO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH MEMBER LOCAL CONSTITUENCY COMMISSIONER CIRCLE OF FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT STUDENTS COMMISSIONER WOMENS' COMMISSIONER FRANCOPHONE AND BILINGUAL CHAIRPERSON NORTHERN REGION CAUCUS CHAIRPERSON ONTARIO GRADUATE CAUCUS CHAIRPERSON PART-TIME AND CONTINUING EDUCATION CAUCUS CHAIRPERSON CHAIRPERSON NATIONAL EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE TREASURER

STRUCTURE OF THE FEDERATION



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STRATEGIC VISION

To be effective in achieving victories the Federation must be strategic.

The Federation believes in fighting for free, accessible and high-quality, public postsecondary education for all students by uniting students together

We must influence key decision makers, organize direct action, analyze policies and address decisions made at the national, provincial and local level.

In order to do so the Federation will use the following tactics:



MOBILIZE

Organize support for student issues through active participation by members and the public through actions such as petition drives, rallies, banner drops, walk-outs and media coverage.



LOBBY

Develop working relationships with all levels of government to present student issues and concerns to decision makers.



RESEARCH

Produce quality research and analysis to support any proposal, policy or campaign.

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS ON ARIO

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- > Over 15,000 petition signatures
- 1103 e-mails to Members of Provincial Parliament
- 888 ACTION texts to 647-493-0734 to receive updates.



WE THE STUDENTS

In January 2019, the Ontario Government announced detrimental changes to post-secondary education. Instead of improving the quality of education for students, the government launched a direct attack on students' unions, our campuses, our communities and the Federation.

Some of the changes include, a ten per cent tuition fee reduction, major cuts to the Ontario Student Assistant Program (OSAP) and the creation of a new ancillary fee framework which makes many student fees, including students' union membership, optional. The impact of these changes includes increased student debt, more loans, fewer grants and far less student-focused advocacy and services on campus.

This government is taking our province down a reckless path for post-secondary education and the Federation will not accept these changes.

We The Students is a campaign created by the Federation to address the direct attack on colleges, universities and students within the province. The campaign calls for:

- More Grants not Loans,
- > The Elimination of Tuition Fees for ALL students,
- > Increased Public Funding for Public Education,
- > Protecting ALL Independent Student Voices, and
- Defending the Right to Organize.

Following the announced changes, students took direct action. The Federation hosted rallies at Queen's Parks, attended protests in Orillia, Sault Ste. Marie, Peterborough and Guelph, marched against the cuts to OSAP down the streets of Toronto and held a provincialwide student walkout.

To provide education and awareness to members, the Federation provided member locals with outreach materials on the changes to post-secondary education, created an online emailer for students and allies to contact Members of Provincial Parliament and collected signatures through the We The Students petition, directed at the Ontario legislature.

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

The Mental Health Matters campaign began amidst a growing conversation with students and within mainstream media about the mental health crisis taking place in post-secondary education. Stressors such as juggling multiple jobs, debt, being away from family and academic expectations all contribute to the erosion of mental wellness, leading to increases in anxiety, depression and a growing number of reported suicides on campuses.

Students have unique mental health and support needs that relate to the multiple roles they take on, including worker, researcher, educator and parent, to name a few. The *Mental Health Matters* campaign calls on colleges and universities to have accessible, diverse and intersectional mental health services. It is important that campus administrators recognize the various identities and intersectionalities that students hold, as well as the roles students play and how that relates to their experience with mental health and wellbeing.

For campuses to truly become accessible, diverse and intersectional, an emphasis on integrating conversations and practices about mental health into campus culture, teaching, research and organizational structures is crucial. Every year, the Federation provides support with exam de-stress kits and outreach on self-care practices to member locals during peak times like midterm or exam season.

STUDENT VOTER EDUCATION

During election cycles, the Federation develops student-focused election campaigns to raise awareness about student issues and increase voter participation and turnout at the federal, provincial and municipal levels. Students' unions across the province raised awareness about elections through local candidate debates, banner drops, social media contests, outreach on campus and town halls. The Federation also created a corresponding website for the election campaigns, as well as a student's guide to voting, which addresses voting related questions.

Fairness for Students

Leading up to the June 2018 provincial election the Federation launched the *Fairness for Students* campaign, which called for increased investment in postsecondary education and public services. In the wake of increased privatization and cuts to public services students recognized that the outcome of the provincial election would greatly impact post-secondary education students and generations to come.

Vote Local

Municipal elections are an important way for students to advocate for local change within our campus communities. The six major issues discussed in the Vote Local 2018 campaign included; Child Care, Climate Change, Food Security, Housing, Reproductive Justice and Transit.







STUDENTS AND WORKERS UNITED

Students and workers on campus are both impacted by the lack of accessibility and the quality of post-secondary education. As faculty working conditions are students' learning conditions, the Federation created the *Students and Workers United* campaign based on the principle that students and workers have common interests.

Students have jobs on campus and work in precarious situations up until they graduate and sometimes long afterwards. Graduate students work as teaching assistants, research assistants and/or contract instructors in commonly unionized environments. Faculty experience part-time, seasonal, casual and contract work which limits their ability to provide students with high-quality learning conditions. Many other workers on campus face exploitation through temporary agencies and unfair living wages. There has been little accountability or support from the government or institution administrators to improve students and workers' post-secondary conditions.

The Federation works closely with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL), the Ontario Public Services Employee Union (OPSEU), the Workers Action Centre and \$15 and Fairness during outreach blitzes, on picket lines, at rallies and demonstrations to ensure that through our campaign the Federation provides students and on campus workers greater job security, fair living wages and pensions to foster a high-quality post-secondary education system.



FAIRNESS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students participate in post-secondary education in the same ways as domestic students, but face more precarious learning conditions. Institutions routinely set international student tuition fees at levels three or four times higher than domestic students and require international students to pay into private health insurance programs.

The Fairness for International Students campaign advocates for the regulation of international student fees and full health coverage under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP). This campaign is widely used by member locals to inform and educate international and domestic students on the experiences of international students on campus.

CONSENT IS MANDATORY.

CONSENT IS MANDATORY

For over 30 years, the Federation has worked to combat sexual and gender-based violence on campus. The Consent is Mandatory campaign, through the Campus Toolkit for Creating Consent Culture, addresses sexual violence and rape culture while promoting a culture of consent.

In 2016, through the Consent is Mandatory campaign, students successfully collaborated on the creation and updating of Bill 132, Sexual Violence and Harassment Plan (Supporting Survivors and Challenging Sexual Violence and Harassment). As of January 1, 2017, the Bill became law and made it mandatory for all publicly assisted institutions to have a sexual violence policy and corresponding supports on campus.

The Federation regularly distributes consent materials during orientation week events. This year the Federation provided a *Consent is Mandatory* banner to member locals to put on display during orientation concerts and events.

united for equity

UNITED FOR EQUITY

The United for Equity campaign aims at challenging and educating students on barrier-free access to postsecondary education regardless of race, (dis)ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age and socio-economic background. The campaign addresses different forms of discrimination and oppression on campus and in our communities. Materials include buttons and stickers to raise awareness and to challenge ableism, colonialism, homophobia, racism, sexism and transphobia. The campaign is widely used at all member locals to support broader equity work across Ontario.

#NOT YOUR STEREOTYPE

FOR US ALL

NOT YOUR STEREOTYPE

During times of the year where dressing up in costume is common, too often people choose culturally appropriative costumes that perpetuate racist stereotypes. The impacts of choosing to wear culturally appropriative costumes are significant, including trivializing ongoing struggles, as well as spreading stereotypes and falsehoods about marginalized communities. Over the past year the Circle of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students and the Federation have ensured that students on campus and social media know about the hashtag #notyourstereotype, cultural appropriation and how the campaign encourages Indigenous people to identify instances of cultural appropriation on their own terms.

Other Federation Campaigns



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

A NEW STATE IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

In 2013, the provincial government introduced a new four-year tuition fee framework. Under this framework, tuition fees could increase by 3 per cent for most programs and 5 per cent for graduate and professional programs. Tuition fees for international students remain deregulated and are often four to five times more expensive than domestic tuition fees.

During the 2016-2017 budget the Ontario Liberal Party introduced the Ontario Student Grant (OSG) program that provided up-front, non-repayable grants to college and university students. Though more than 40 per cent of full-time post-secondary students benefitted from this initiative, part-time, mature and international students still faced the burden of increased tuition fees.

On January 17, the Minister of Training Colleges and Universities, Merrilee Fullerton, announced changes to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), student ancillary fees and tuition fees covered under the 2019 Tuition Fee Framework.

These changes to OSAP, will result in students having less access to grants and accruing more interests on their student loans through the elimination of the six-month grace period. The average student debt upon graduation in 2018 is \$28,450. Changes to post-secondary education will likely result in an increase to student debt.

Under the new framework, tuition fees will be reduced by 10 per cent for the 2019-2020 academic year with a subsequent freeze in 2020-2021. Institutions are already underfunded but now need to make up for the additional funding shortfall though budget cuts and changes in hiring practices.

With an estimated sector inflation of 4-5 per cent, and core funding in the budget set to increase only by 0.48 per cent next year, cuts to institutional funding of \$440 million resulting from the 10 per cent tuition fee reduction will leave the post-secondary sector dealing with its largest funding cut in decades.

Additionally, the new student ancillary fee framework, called the Student "Choice" Initiative allows students to opt-out of paying levies and union dues that students have voted in support of through democratic referenda. The initiative, like many other government decisions, will result in a loss of funding for student support services, advocacy, student clubs and on-campus jobs. By reducing the ability of students' unions to represent and service their members, essential services offered by students' unions will be jeopardized.

Furthermore, drastic changes to the way institutions are funded by the government means moving from an enrollment-based model, where funding has been determined by the number of students at a given institution, to a funding model based on "performance outcomes".

By 2024-2025, 60 per cent of public funding for institutions will be based on their ability to meet key performance outcomes. With no evidence that performance funding works to improve institutional outcomes or the student experience, this funding model will create a system of winners and losers, where institutions who require greater resources to meet their mandate will instead see their funding reduced.

With transformation on the horizon for the 2019-2020 academic year, the Federation is committed to ensuring that progressive student issues remain at the forefront of government decisions and public awareness.

As tuition fees remain at an all time high in Ontario a tuition freeze alone will not solve the issues students experience such as debt, food security and lack of housing.



INSTITUTIONS HAVE STARTED TO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TUITION FEES TO MAKE UP FOR THE FUNDING SHORTFALL.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

PUBLIC OPINION IN ONTARIO

To better understand public perception of post-secondary issues and the continuation of OSG, the Federation retained IPSOS survey company to conduct polling amongst the general Ontario population.

The results outlined:



SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A NEW TUITION FEE FRAMEWORK WITH A PERCENTAGE REDUCTION IN FEES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS. 72%

ACCUMULATED STUDENT DEBT AFTER COMPLETING THEIR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.



SUPPORT EQUAL ACCESS TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION REGARDLESS OF INCOME AND THE CONTINUATION OF THE OSG PROGRAM.



AGREE THAT PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROCESS WHEN THE GOVERNMENT REVIEWS THE ONTARIO TUITION FEE FRAMEWORK.



AGREE STUDENTS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT STAKEHOLDERS TO BE CONSULTED IN THE PROCESS.

ONTARIO LOBBY WEEK

In order to shape legislation and advance students' issues, the Federation organizes an annual lobby week to meet with government officials and staff prior to the release of the provincial budget.

Ontario Lobby Week provides a space to connect local student representatives with MPPs to present policy recommendations based off of students concerns.

Ontario Lobby Week took place from March 24 to 28, 2019. Students from across the province gathered in Toronto to call on the provincial government to:

- > Eliminate tuition fees for all students;
- Maintain OSAP targeted grants while continuing the interest-free sixmonth grace period;
- > Protect all student voices by repealing the Student "Choice" Initiative;
- Legislate in-depth data collection on Indigenous student recruitment, enrollment and retention; and
- Reinstate and include funding to the Université de l'Ontario français in all future government funding.

STUDENTS MET WITH **48** MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT AND STAFF.

- MEMBERS OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY
 - MEMBERS OF THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY



MEMBER OF THE GREEN PARTY

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

2019 ONTARIO BUDGET

Each year, after our Ontario Lobby Week, Federation representatives participate in the Ontario Budget Lockup. During this time all forms of communication are removed and representatives are given the opportunity to review the budget, write reports and press releases prior to the official budget presentation.

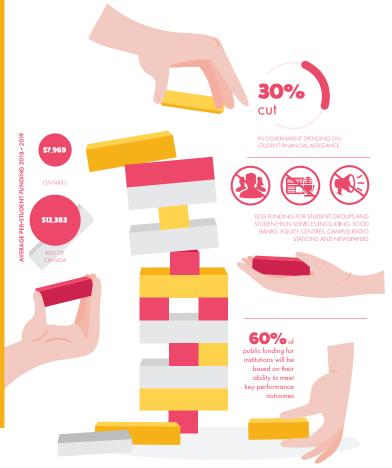
Unfortunately, the 2019 Ontario Budget did not reflect student priorities. The government has continued with its current policies of leaving students with more loans, less grants, greater debt, defunding to student organizations and inadequate funding to post-secondary institutions.

The government made no substantial commitments to post-secondary education and has ensured that institutions stay underfunded, international students remain cash-cows, and students graduate with higher levels of debt than ever before.

BUDGET 2019 POST-SECONDARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Funding cut to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) by \$670.8 million in 2019-2020
- The ancillary fee framework forces institutions to deem certain non-academic fees non-essential, including democratically established students' union membership dues and campus media
- > 10 per cent tuition fee reduction resulting in an institutional funding cut of \$440 million
- By 2024-2025, 60 per cent of public funding for institutions will be based on their ability to meet key performance outcomes
- Amendments to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act, will target senior research faculty who continue to be paid for work after qualifying for their pensions
- Strengthening intellectual property rights and maximizing commercialization for marketoriented research funded by the public

Students, faculty, solidarity partners and experts across the sector have spoken out against the government's changes. Through lobbying, meeting with opposition parties and working with solidarity groups, the Federation will continue to advocate for a free and accessible post-secondary education system and support protection for students' organizations that fight for student's rights.



LOBBY WEEK FEBRUARY 25 - 28, 2019 Torrer and

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COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS **OVERVIEW**

The Federation's media relations and communication strategy educates students and the public on post-secondary education issues. This communications strategy promotes the campaigns, services and research of the Federation through broadcast, news, and social media.

This year the Federation grew its reach online and in the broadcast and news media. There was a significant development in the Federation's reach in January 2019, following the Ontario government's announcement about optional ancillary fees and cuts to grants provided by OSAP.

20

Media Releases & **Advisories Sent**

2 **123** Media Interviews

2.76k Total Media Exposure*

FACEBOOK

3897 Followers 2683 Average Post Reach ▲ **33%** Follower Growth

TWITTER

- **3849** Followers ▲ **13%** Follower Growth
- ▲ 210% Impressions Growth

INSTAGRAM

1849	Fo	llowers
▲ 31 %	0	Follower Growth
1679	То	p Post Reach





SERVICES

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT **IDENTITY CARD**

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) is an internationally recognized student travel and discount card that acts as proof of full-time student status. ISIC is recognized in over 130 countries and has over 150,000 discounts across the globe.

The card is provided for free as a benefit of membership with the Federation. For non-members the card costs \$20 and is only available online or through the Federation in person as the Federation holds exclusive issuing rights in Canada.



IN CANADA, SOME OF THE **CURRENT ISIC BENEFITS INCLUDE:**





NETWORK

Since 2006 the Ethical Purchasing Network (EPN) has coordinated the purchase of ethically produced material for campuses across Canada. Through the EPN, the Federation has been key in advocating for union-made products that are produced in environmentally conscious and fair workplaces. Due to collective purchasing, the Federation is able to keep prices low for high-quality products. During the 2018-2019 year over 100,000 items were ordered in Ontario.

To order ethically produced materials for your club or event, contact your local students' union or email bulkpurchasing@cfsfcee.ca to request the full catalog of products.



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ALGOMA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2016 / 2017

23 WEDNESDAY



HANDBOOK AND DAYPLANNER SERVICES

The Federation's Handbook and Dayplanner Service is now in its 17th year. By coordinating the production of handbooks and dayplanners with other students' unions, the Federation is able to provide high-quality, ethically produced materials to ensure that a high portion of student fees can go to other important services, campaigns and events on campus. For the academic year, the Federation produced 66,900 individual books for more than 22 Ontario students' unions.



HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN

The National Student Health Network was created in 1986 to assist students' unions with the negotiation, promotion and administration of health and dental insurance plans for their members.

To execute this plan, the Federation works with Green Shield Canada, the country's only nonprofit health insurance provider. By way of partnering with the Federation, Green Shield Canada is able to provide comprehensive benefits at a very low cost to members. As a result, students and member students' unions have saved millions of dollars on their health and dental plans as well as administrative costs. In Ontario there are currently 9 locals participating in the Health and Dental plan. Across all participating locals, the Federation was able to save members over \$700,000 in premiums through renewal negotiations.



UFILE

Students are often first-time tax filers or have incomes that make it difficult for them to afford professional tax accountants. UFile is an online tax filing system that is easy to use, offers direct deposit and reduced wait times. Negotiations between UFile and the Federation allows the Federation to provide free tax-filing services for all Canadian post-secondary students.

To file your taxes for free visit UFilefree.ca and enter code **CFS1981** under special code offer.

SERVICES





ISIC TABLING FEBRUARY, 2019

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THE STUDENTS, ASSOCIATION

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FINANCES

OVERVIEW OF THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS-ONTARIO BUDGET

The Federation's fiscal year begins on the first of July every year and ends on June 30. At the August Annual General Meeting, the annual operating budget is adopted by members in attendance. The budget is also reviewed and revised, as necessary, at the January Semi-Annual General Meeting and at each Executive Committee meeting to ensure that the adopted budget is adhered to.

WHAT IS AN AUDIT?

To ensure that the Federation is in accordance with the General Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and that accurate financial statements are presented to members, an audit is conducted on a yearly basis.

An independent auditor is selected by member students' unions at the Federation's annual general meeting.

Auditors review various parts of an organization's financial operations to obtain sufficient evidence that the information disclosed in an organization's financial statements are correct.

The audit for the fiscal 2018 year was presented and approved at the 2019 January Semi-Annual General Meeting.

The audited financial statements can be found on the Federation's website at, **www.cfsontario.ca/about/finances**.

ABOUT OUR AUDITORS

Grant Thornton is one of Canada's largest accounting firms providing audit, tax and advisory services to both public and private organizations.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

As a membership-based organization, membership fees are collected and remitted by member local students' unions on behalf of individual members.

The membership fee for the 2018-2019 academic year was \$8.37 per member, per semester and prorated for part-time and continuing education members. The Federation's bylaws allow for membership fees to be adjusted each academic year by the rate of change in the Canadian Consumer Price Index (CPI) during the previous calendar year.

2018-2019 MEMBERSHIP FEE:

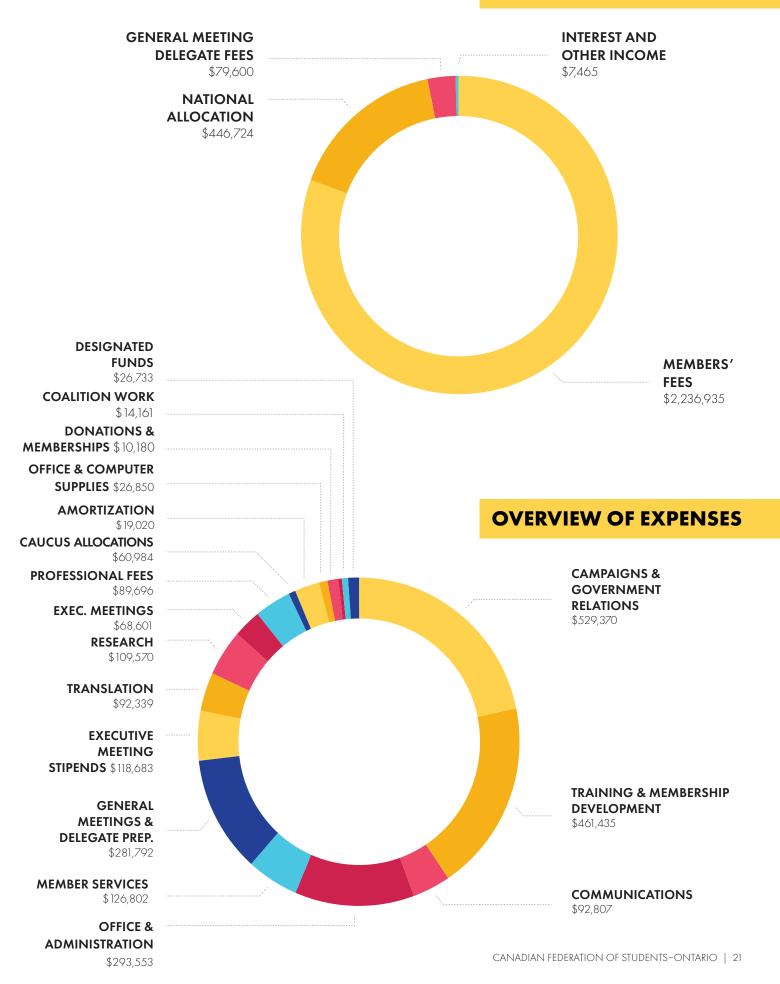
\$8.37

per memember, per semester*

*prorated for part-time and continuing education members



OVERVIEW OF REVENUE



FEDERATION OFFICES

ONTARIO OFFICE

416-925-3825 cfsontario.ca 225 Richmond Street West, Suite 302 Toronto, Ontario, M5V 1W2

NATIONAL OFFICE

613-232-7394338 cfsfcee.ca Somerset Street West Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0J9

The students, united, will never be defeated.

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS-ONTARIO

2019