

FAIRNESS FOR STUDENTS

STUDENTS FOR STRONGER PUBLIC SERVICES NOW!



Divestment

Post-secondary institutions often receive large private donations that are placed in what is referred to as an endowment. In some institutions, if they can afford to do so, portions of student tuition fees are also placed in an endowment. This is then invested into funds, corporations and companies, with the dual goal of growing the principal endowment while generating new income. Unfortunately, many of these investments send funds to companies and corporations that engage in a range of unethical behaviours such as harmful resource extraction projects that contribute to climate change or complicity in illegal military occupations and other violations of international law.

Ontario's institutions often invest in fossil fuel extraction companies such as Shell, Enbridge or Kinder Morgan and corporations involved in military conflicts and occupations around the world, like Motorola and BAE Systems.

Quick Facts



37 | the number of active divestment groups on college and university campuses across the country.



500 | number of institutions, valued at a total of \$3.4 trillion, who have divested, globally.



12 | the number of successful student campaigns in support of divestment in Canada.

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Colleges and universities are substantial investors and together hold a collective power as they invest in corporations around the world. Investments become political decisions when the receiving party is involved in environmental destruction or the infringement of human rights.

Students Respond

Students' unions have been lobbying administrations to divest from these unethical investments. Divestment campaigns push institutions to be mindful of what companies they put students' tuition money towards.

Calls for divestment are often accompanied with a call for the creation of Ethical Investment Policies for the college or university. These policies act as a framework that institutions can follow to ensure any investments do not infringe on human rights or contribute to the growing crisis of climate change. This dual approach – divestment and ethical investment – creates long-term change in regards to the future investments of an institution.

Students Mobilize

Across the province, students are pressuring their institutions through divestment campaigns to promote safer and more sustainable environments for the future.

Become a part of these efforts by pushing your candidates in this election to support:

- 1 The creation of ethical investment policies on campuses across the province.**
- 2 Immediate divestment from corporations and organizations that contribute to human rights abuses and violations and/or climate change.**
- 3 Inclusion of student representatives on boards, committees and any decision-making bodies that have power over student monies.**