

FAIRNESS FOR STUDENTS

STUDENTS FOR STRONGER PUBLIC SERVICES NOW!



Health Care

Students today face unprecedented challenges, which impact their physical and mental health. For trans and international students, these challenges are made even more daunting due to the additional barriers they must overcome when trying to access health services.

Ontario is one of five provinces that do not include international students under public health care coverage. International students must enroll in private health insurance programs that are not universally accepted by physicians, hospitals and clinics and cost between \$600 and \$2,000 per year. Due to limited health coverage, international students are more likely to ignore health concerns to avoid the upfront costs of accessing health care.

For trans and gender non-conforming students, accessing health care on campus comes with the added barrier of navigating campus services that lack knowledge about their unique realities. Trans and gender non-conforming students often contend with care providers who are ignorant of their experiences, transphobic and discriminatory.

Quick Facts



5 | provinces currently provide public health insurance to international students.



65% | of post-secondary students in Ontario report experiencing overwhelming anxiety.



X | shamefully, there is little to no data about the experiences of trans and gender non-conforming students accessing health services.

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Students Respond

Students have organized many local and national campaigns to address the struggles of trans and international students in accessing basic health care and the need for fully funded mental health services on campus. The Canadian Federation of Students continues to lobby for international students to be covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP), which was the case up until the 1990s, and for mandatory mental health first aid training for campus staff.

Students Mobilize

Students are calling on the provincial government to push campuses to be health-promoting institutions for ALL students, regardless of their gender or country of origin.

Become a part of these efforts by pushing your candidates to:

- 1** **Immediately reintegrate international students into OHIP.**
- 2** **Implement campus-wide training on gender and transphobia for all mental and physical health care providers.**
- 3** **Increase funds for campus-run initiatives to improve student mental health and student access to mental health services.**