



**B.C.  
FEDERATION  
OF LABOUR  
(CLC)**

200 - 5118 Joyce Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V5R 4H1

TEL (604) 430-1421  
FAX (604) 430-5917

Website: [www.bcfed.ca](http://www.bcfed.ca)  
E-Mail: [bcfed@bcfed.ca](mailto:bcfed@bcfed.ca)

Jim Sinclair  
President

Angela Schira  
Secretary-Treasurer

January 15, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Our friends in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) are engaged in a major campaign called "Education Shouldn't be a Debt Sentence" seeking reduced tuition fees and improved access to post-secondary education. They have asked for our support and I'm writing to urge you to do everything possible to make the CFS petition drive a success.

You can help in two key ways:

- circulate the attached petition form in your membership and return the completed forms to the address at the bottom; and
- add a link to [www.debtsentence.ca](http://www.debtsentence.ca) to your website and encourage your members to participate in the campaign.

Access to quality public education is a right, not a privilege. Let's do everything we can to make this CFS campaign a success.

In solidarity,

  
JIM SINCLAIR  
President

Encl:

JS/mp



0140-10aa-js-let-cfs

*Copy: Staff  
Local Presidents  
\* Please participate  
& return  
petition*

# EDUCATION SHOULDN'T BE A DEBT SENTENCE

- Whereas student debt is a burden on individuals and the BC economy;
- Whereas record high tuition fees have driven hundreds of thousands of young British Columbians into debt;
- Whereas the BC student grants program was eliminated in 2004 and student aid was cut by 14% in 2009; and
- Whereas equal access to post-secondary education is a right;

**We the following petitioners call on the BC government to re-instate an up-front student grants program, reduce tuition fees, increase core funding, and eliminate interest on student loans.**



Keep me informed about the Education Shouldn't be a Debt Sentence campaign. The Canadian Federation of Students-BC keeps my email address confidential and will not share it with any third parties.

NAME

ADDRESS + POSTAL CODE

SCHOOL (IF APPLICABLE)

EMAIL

A campaign of the Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia

[debt:sentence.ca](http://debt:sentence.ca)

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED COPIES TO: 306-780 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 2M1

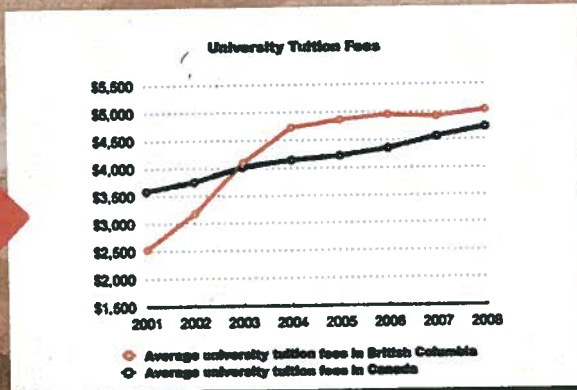
# EDUCATION SHOULDN'T BE A DEBT SENTENCE

## TUITION FEES

In 2002, the newly-elected BC Liberal government deregulated tuition fees, allowing them to double in just three years, bringing them from the 2nd lowest in Canada to 7% more than the national average (\$5,040 per year).

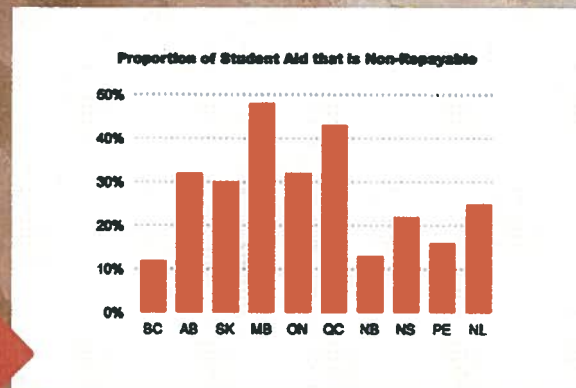
As a result of the Campbell government's tuition fee policies, student debt in BC sits at highest in Canada outside of the Maritimes, at an average of \$27,000 for students completing a four-year program.

The BC government's own figures show that it will be collecting more money from tuition fees in 2011 than corporate income tax.



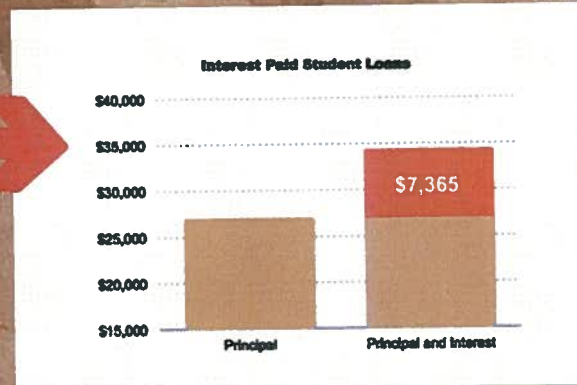
## STUDENT AID

After the BC Liberal government cut the provincial grants program, BC fell to dead last in Canada for the provision of non-repayable student aid—60% below the national average.



## STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES

BC's system of high tuition fees and high-interest loans means that those who cannot afford to pay upfront and borrow actually end up paying more for their education thanks to compound interest payments.



## PROVINCIAL FUNDING

Per student funding in BC has been cut over the past eight years, resulting in higher tuition fees and more student debt. If the government had simply frozen funding increases at the rate of inflation in 2001, funding would be 15% higher today.

