



**F A É C U M**

# **PLATFORM OF DEMANDS**

**2019 FEDERAL ELECTION**

**FÉDÉRATION DES ASSOCIATIONS ÉTUDIANTES  
DU CAMPUS DE L'UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL**

Adopted at the 547<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Central Council

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The content of this document does not necessarily reflect the opinions of its authors.

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Since 1976, the Fédération des associations étudiantes du campus de l'Université de Montréal (FAÉCUM) represents 40,000 students at Université de Montréal, through its 85 student association members. Its mission is to defend its members' rights and interests at the university and in society as a whole. Through its services and sociocultural events, it seeks to improve the university experience for students at Université de Montréal. FAÉCUM is the largest campus-level student association in Quebec.

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## LIST OF INITIALS AND ACRONYMS

<b>CARA</b>	Canadian Association of Research Administrators
<b>CAUBO</b>	Canadian Association of University Business Officers
<b>Board</b>	Board of Directors
<b>CASA-ACAE</b>	Canadian Alliance of Student Associations
<b>SSHRC</b>	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
<b>NSERC</b>	Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
<b>CFI</b>	Canada Foundation for Innovation
<b>FRQ</b>	Quebec Research Funds
<b>CIHR</b>	Canadian Institutes of Health Research
<b>NDP</b>	New Democratic Party
<b>FGA</b>	Federal Granting Agencies
<b>CSGP</b>	Canada Student Grants Program
<b>CSLP</b>	Canada Student Loans Program
<b>CPC</b>	Conservative Party of Canada
<b>LPC</b>	Liberal Party of Canada
<b>CST</b>	Canada Social Transfer
<b>QSU</b>	Quebec Student Union

## INTRODUCTION

At the end of the last federal election, on October 19, 2015, the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) succeeded in winning 184 out of 338 seats in Canada's House of Commons<sup>1</sup>, forming the 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament with a majority of elected representatives. This was the LPC's first electoral victory in almost ten years, following three successive Conservative governments from 2006 to 2015. The LPC was elected based on its numerous promises, including commitments to improve research in Canada and make up for years of neglect under the previous government. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament is now coming to its end. In the fall of 2019, Canadians will be asked to decide whether the LPC should remain in power or whether a new party will instead form government.

The upcoming federal election will, without a doubt, focus on the controversial record of current Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) has been steadily rising in polls, while the New Democratic Party (NDP) has been losing steam since the election of its new leader, Jagmeet Singh. In Quebec, the Bloc Québécois seems to be gaining new support, adding an unknown variable to the election and calling seats that the three major national parties will be hoping to win into question. In a situation where nothing can be taken for granted, it is critical that we make sure higher education and research are at the heart of every party's platform and the interests of their candidates. The Federation's platform of demands will be used to effectively present an overview of the our positions to the four major federal parties.

FAECUM has identified six important political issues that impact students' conditions and that it hopes the federal parties will address this election. These include funding for the indirect costs of research, adequate funding for student researchers through a reinvestment in Federal Granting Agencies (FGA), student representation on FGA decision-making bodies, the exclusion of university staff from Section 91 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, the Canada Social Transfer, and improvements to the Canada Student Grants Program following the elimination of federal tax credits for education and textbooks.

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<sup>1</sup> Élections Canada, « Rapport sur la 42<sup>e</sup> élection générale du 19 octobre 2015 », 2015.  
[http://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=res&dir=rep/off/sta\\_2015&document=p2&lang=f#24](http://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=res&dir=rep/off/sta_2015&document=p2&lang=f#24)

## 1. INDIRECT COSTS OF RESEARCH

When Federal Granting Agencies support a research project, the funds they provide to the researcher don't cover the indirect costs of research. These arise as a result of research activities and include things like maintaining and repairing equipment, updating software and servers, electricity, salaries for the staff maintaining the equipment, etc.<sup>2</sup>. These costs increase every year as a result of numerous factors. For example, the research environment has been undergoing major changes in the past several years and this reorganization has resulted in increased indirect research costs<sup>3</sup>. A good example of these changes is the rise in interdisciplinary work and collaborative research, which doesn't just call for more complex information systems to support collaborations, but also administration staff for all of the various teams and grants involved<sup>4</sup>. Another example is the increasing complexity of research, requiring new technologies to handle ever larger volumes of data. There are many other factors currently transforming the world of research, and each of them is coupled with ongoing increases to the costs of maintaining infrastructure (electricity, heating, salaries, etc.)<sup>5</sup>. More and more establishments of higher education are having to cover these costs from their operating budgets<sup>6</sup>. The redirection of these funds can, in turn, have impacts on student services and reduce the investments made in increasing the quality of education. As a result, the under-funding of indirect research costs can have significant knock-on effects throughout a university.

Despite programs that support equipment maintenance, like the Research Support Fund and the Research Tools and Instruments grants program, the federal contribution towards indirect research costs represents only a small part of the expenses covered by research institutes. Ideally, the Canadian Government would fund the indirect costs of research at a level equivalent to 40% of the amount the project received from a FGA as grants for its direct research costs. A joint-study by the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO) and the Canadian Association of Research Administrators (CARA) used data on the indirect costs of research at 22 institutions to show that indirect costs represented between 40% and 60% of direct costs<sup>7</sup>. The most recently available data, from the 2017 Naylor Report, shows that government funding received by research institutes represents only 21.6% of their grants from FGA<sup>8</sup>. The budget for the Indirect Costs Program (now known as the Research Support Fund) was around \$332 million in 2012-2013. In 2018-2019, it was \$369 million<sup>9</sup>. The Naylor Report determined that it would take an additional \$314 million a year to provide funding equivalent to 40% of FGA grants through the Research Support Fund. The

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<sup>2</sup> Goss Gilroy Inc. "Tenth-year Evaluation of the Indirect Costs Program: Final Report". 2014. [http://www.rsf-fsr.gc.ca/about-au\\_sujet/publications/2014\\_Evaluation\\_Report\\_eng.pdf](http://www.rsf-fsr.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/publications/2014_Evaluation_Report_eng.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Canadian Association of University Business Officers. "Indirect Costs of Research". 2013. [https://www.caubo.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Indirect\\_Costs\\_of\\_Research-CAUBO\\_2013.pdf](https://www.caubo.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Indirect_Costs_of_Research-CAUBO_2013.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> David Naylor, "Investing in Canada's Future: Strengthening the Foundations of Canadian Research, Canada's Fundamental Science Review", (2017), [http://www.sciencereview.ca/eic/site/059.nsf/vwapi/ScienceReview\\_April2017-rv.pdf/\\$file/ScienceReview\\_April2017-rv.pdf](http://www.sciencereview.ca/eic/site/059.nsf/vwapi/ScienceReview_April2017-rv.pdf/$file/ScienceReview_April2017-rv.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Government of Canada. "Research Support Fund". 2017. [http://www.rsf-fsr.gc.ca/about-au\\_sujet/index-eng.aspx](http://www.rsf-fsr.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/index-eng.aspx)

Federation is therefore asking the federal government to invest the remaining \$314 million needed to allow the Research Support Fund to provide amounts equivalent to 40% of FGA grants.

**Previously Adopted Position**

That the Indirect Costs Program reimburse the indirect costs of research at a level at least equivalent to 40% of the direct costs of research.

Adopted: [CCO-503<sup>e</sup>-5.1].

**FAECUM asks that the government invest the missing \$314 million in the Research Support Fund, and that it maintain a level of funding that allows the Fund to provide research institutes with funding at least equivalent to 40% of the amounts awarded by Federal Granting Agencies.**

## 2. STUDENT FUNDING FROM FEDERAL GRANTING AGENCIES

### 2.1. STUDENT GRANTS

In 2011, the federal Conservative government cut the budgets of Federal Granting Agencies, which were mostly absorbed through cuts in the student grant programs. In 2015, the Liberal government began a new round of investments in the FGA, allowing them to quickly catch up with the rate of inflation.

However, until very recently, students had been left aside through these reinvestments in research, as the amounts allocated to student programs failed to grow in line with new investments. FAECUM has been working for several years to try and secure a proper reinvestment in these programs. In the fall of 2018, with the help of the Quebec Student Union (QSU) and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA-ACAE), we put forward a demand for a specific reinvestment in student grants through meetings with more than 150 Members of Parliament and Senators during Advocacy Week in Ottawa. The request we made to different federal politicians in fall 2018 had two options for ensuring an adequate reinvestment: either a new investment of \$55.9 million directly into student grant programs for 2019-2020 or a re-allocation of existing funds within each FGA. These demands were based on the percentage of FGA budgets allocated to student grants in 2011 (17.2% for SSHRC, 6.3% for CIHR, and 13.3% for NSERC) and would provide nearly \$50 million in new funding to students. As of November 2018, the funding for students in each granting agency was estimated at 15.4% for SSHRC, 11.3% for NSERC, and 5.4% for CIHR.

In its March 2019 budget, the Liberal government announced a \$114 million investment for Federal Granting Agencies to increase graduate student grants over the next five years, followed by \$26.5 million annually after that. This funding will allow for the creation of 500 new grants for Master's students and 167 new grants for doctoral students each year. It is therefore possible to estimate that for the next five years, students will benefit from \$22.8 million in additional funding. This is slightly less than half of our ask in fall 2018. While this funding is a welcome addition, it isn't enough to make up for the cuts that began in 2011. As a result, FAECUM is asking that the federal government contribute the missing \$33.1 million in its 2020-2021 budget (for a total of \$55 million for 2020-2021) and then maintain the subsequent \$22.8 million and \$26.5 million additions. The FAECUM is also asking that the government make a clear commitment to not reduce funding for students in the FGA and that future investments in the FGA guarantee a proportional increase to student grant programs, to avoid repeating this scenario in years to come.

#### **Previously Adopted Position**

That the Government of Canada progressively invest adequate financial resources to ensure that Canadian granting agencies can support students through grants for academic excellence.

Adopted: [CCO-430<sup>e</sup>-10.1-1].

**FAECUM asks that the government immediately invest an additional \$33.1 million in student grant programs while maintaining the subsequent investments it promised in the 2019-2020 budget.**

**FAECUM also asks for a clear commitment from the government guaranteeing that new investments in the FGA budgets include a proportional increase in funding for student programs.**

## 2.2. CONCENTRATION OF FUNDING

Most of the federal research funding provided to students comes from the Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's Program (CGS-MP) and the Canada Graduate Scholarships - Doctoral Program (CSG-DP). Each year, these programs provide 2,500 master's and 2,500 doctoral students with \$17,500 and \$35,000 a year, respectively<sup>10</sup>. These programs are open to students from across Canada, as long as they are citizens or permanent residents. Grants for master's students are given for one year, while those for doctoral students are for three years. There are therefore 2,500 new grants given out each year: 400 through CIHR, 800 for NSERC, and 1,300 for SSHRC<sup>11</sup>. For doctoral students, NSERC and SSHRC also have their own specific grant programs worth \$21,000 and \$20,000, respectively, which are also given for three years.

Before the reinvestment announced in the March 2019 federal budget, discussed above, the amount and number of grants awarded had not changed since 2007, despite significant increases in the number of graduate students in Canada. Between 2006-2007 and 2013-2014, the number of doctoral and master's students grew by 38% and 32% respectively.

In 2008, the government announced the Vanier "super-grants," intended to increase Canada's attractiveness for top doctoral students. These scholarships award \$50,000 a year for three years and are open to both international and Canadian students. The program is jointly administered by all three research councils<sup>12</sup>. It awards 500 scholarships over a three-year cycle, approximately 167 scholarships a year, which are evenly split among the FGA.

A 2013 study by Vincent Larivière, a professor at the *École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information* [School of Library and Information Science] at Université de Montréal, found that the most important way to improve doctoral students' academic success was through funding<sup>13</sup>. As such, in the interest of supporting the largest number of doctoral students possible, improving their academic results and increasing graduation rates, it would be more effective to reduce the amounts awarded through "super-grants" and reinvest those funds into new grants that would then fund a larger number of students in financial need.

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<sup>10</sup> David Naylor, "Investing in Canada's Future: Strengthening the Foundations of Canadian Research, Canada's Fundamental Science Review", (2017), [http://www.sciencereview.ca/eic/site/059.nsf/vwapi/ScienceReview\\_April2017-rv.pdf/\\$file/ScienceReview\\_April2017-rv.pdf](http://www.sciencereview.ca/eic/site/059.nsf/vwapi/ScienceReview_April2017-rv.pdf/$file/ScienceReview_April2017-rv.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> Vincent Larivière, "PhD students' excellence scholarships and their relationship with research productivity, scientific impact, and degree completion", *Canadian Journal of Higher Education*, vol. 43, n° 2, p. 27-41

**Previously Adopted Position**

That the Federal Granting Agencies (SSHRC, NSERC, and CIHR) decrease the value of the Vanier and Banting scholarships to match amounts provided by the Canada Graduate Scholarships - Doctoral Program (CSG-DP) and post-doctoral scholarship, respectively, and that the money saved be used to increase the number of grants awarded through the CSG-DP and post-doctoral scholarship program.

Adopted: [CCO-503<sup>e</sup>-5.1].

**FAECUM asks that the Government of Canada decrease the value of large scholarships (Vanier scholarship) to match the amounts awarded by the Canada Graduate Scholarships - Doctoral Program and that the money saved be used to increase the number of grants awarded by the CGS-DP.**

### 2.3. DURATION OF FUNDING

The Naylor report criticized the fact that funding from the federal government is out of sync with the actual length of students' academic programs. Indeed, master's scholarships are valid for only one year, while most research master's programs take at least two years. The Naylor Report estimated that adding an additional year of funding to the master's program would cost approximately \$44 million. For their part, doctoral scholarships fund students for three years, even though the normal length of a PhD is longer than three years in virtually every academic discipline. In effect, studies have found the average length of a PhD program to be five years<sup>14</sup>. The exact cost of increasing the duration of doctoral funding wasn't determined in the Naylor Report, although it still explores the idea of increasing it from three years to four.

Further, should the duration of funding be increased for doctoral and master's students, it is critical that the funding provided by the Canada Graduate Scholarships programs remain at its current levels.

**Previously Adopted Position**

That granting agencies increase the duration of funding through their student grant programs to better reflect the actual length of academic programs.

Adopted: [CCO-508<sup>e</sup>-6].

**FAECUM asks that the Government of Canada require granting agencies to increase the duration of the funding they award through student grant programs to better reflect the actual length of graduate studies.**

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<sup>14</sup> Rosanna Tamburri, Rosanna. "The PhD is in need of revision", *University Affairs*, February 6, 2013. <https://www.universityaffairs.ca/features/feature-article/the-phd-is-in-need-of-revision/>

### 3. STUDENT REPRESENTATION ON FEDERAL GRANTING AGENCIES

Federal Granting Agencies play a fundamental role in funding graduate students across Canada. Each has its own Board of Directors, appointed by the government. The SSHRC board has around fifteen members<sup>15</sup>, NSERC has a 19 member board of directors<sup>16</sup> and CIHR has an 18 member board<sup>17</sup>. Each member is appointed by the government and comes from either the university community (librarians, professors, deans, etc.) or the private sector. As can be easily established, there are currently no students on any of these boards. This means that, contrary to universities or the boards of Quebec's Research Funds (FRQ), the perspective of students is simply not taken into account on FGA boards.

A granting agency's Board of Directors has a number of functions, including determine how to allocate the budget appropriations provided by Parliament<sup>18</sup>. This makes having a student on the board even more important, to make sure students aren't being forgotten when it comes to new investments in the FGA or, conversely, aren't the first to bear the brunt of budget cuts. FAECUM is therefore asking that the government ensure a seat on each federal granting agency's Board of Directors is reserved for students. This was a promise made by the Liberal Party of Canada during the last federal election, but it has failed to take any concrete action towards accomplishing it since forming government.

#### **Amendment (position 980)**

That the FRQNT, FRQSC, FRQS, NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR reserve at least one seat on their respective boards of directors for a graduate student representative that has been recommended by his or her peers, who will serve as a full member of that Board of Directors.

Adopted: [CCO-430<sup>e</sup>-10.1-1].

**FAECUM asks that the Government of Canada ensure that boards of directors for Federal Granting Agencies include a reserved student seat.**

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<sup>15</sup> Government of Canada. "Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council: Council". January 8, 2019. [http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au\\_sujet/governance-gouvernance/committees-comites/council-conseil-eng.aspx](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/governance-gouvernance/committees-comites/council-conseil-eng.aspx)

<sup>16</sup> Government of Canada. "Justice Laws Website: Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Act". March 26, 2019. <https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-21/page-1.html>

<sup>17</sup> Government of Canada. "Canadian Institutes of Health Research: Governing Council - Members". February 5, 2019. <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/6953.html>

<sup>18</sup> Government of Canada. "Justice Laws Website: Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Act". March 26, 2019. <https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-21/page-1.html>

## 4. SECTION 91 OF THE IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE PROTECTION ACT

Bill C-35 was adopted by the Harper government and came into effect on June 30, 2011. This bill amended the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act to regulate the activities of individuals who advise or represent others on immigration issues for a fee<sup>19</sup>. Under section 91 of the Act, only authorized individuals in Quebec can provide consulting services on immigration issues. These individuals must be either members of the Quebec Bar, the Quebec Order of Notaries, or the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants. The goal of this amendment was to correct an asymmetry in the real abilities of immigration advisors. Before these amendments, some advisors lacked the training to accurately offer these services, or even sought to defraud immigrating individuals. Anyone contravening the Act is subject to serious penalties: up to \$100,000 in fines and two years in prison<sup>20</sup>.

Although the Act's new measures came into effect in 2011, educational institutions only received confirmation that the measures applied to them in full in May 2013. Although the Act excludes "organizations that do not, and will not, charge a fee or receive any other consideration for providing citizenship or immigration advice or assistance"<sup>21</sup> from these restrictions, this essentially applies only to non-governmental and religious organizations. Yet, like these other organizations, the advising staff at universities do not receive any direct compensation for the services they provide and international students are not required to pay any fees in exchange for the counsel they receive.

A training program was recently created specifically for university and college staff. However, this program is quite expensive and demands a significant investment of time. The program takes place over 12 weeks, requiring 25 hours of training a week for a total of 300 hours, and costs \$2,600. Further, the program is only offered three times a year, and is only given once a year in French<sup>22</sup>.

As it stands, international students are unable to get advice regarding immigration matters and their related processes on most university campuses in Canada. This results in delays for students' applications, especially as regards study permits, and additional costs for a community that is often already living in

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<sup>19</sup> Fédération des associations étudiantes du campus de l'Université de Montréal (FAÉCUM), "Les contraintes imposées en matière de conseil en immigration: les impacts pour les étudiantes et les étudiants internationaux", May 24, 2016. <http://www.faecum.qc.ca/ressources/avis-memoires-recherches-et-positions-1/les-contraintes-imposees-en-matiere-de-conseils-en-immigration>

<sup>20</sup> Sandra Elgersma and Anna Gay. "Legislative Summary: Bill C-35: An Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, No. 40-3-C35-E. (2011)" <https://lop.parl.ca/staticfiles/PublicWebsite/Home/ResearchPublications/LegislativeSummaries/PDF/40-3/c35-e%20.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> Government of Canada. "Guide 5561: Use of a Representative". May 20, 2015. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/application-forms-guides/guide-5561-instructions-use-representative.html>

<sup>22</sup> Association des étudiants des cycles supérieurs de Polytechnique, "Immigration: Changement dans les services conseils", (Communiqué from the International Students Office), July 31, 2013. <http://aecsp.qc.ca/1806-immigration-changement-dans-les-services-conseil/>

financial precarity. International students face numerous obstacles and challenges when it comes to studying in Canada, and it is quite simply unacceptable to put up new obstacles in their way.

**Previously Adopted Position**

That the federal government exclude staff at post-secondary institutions from restrictions created by Section 91 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

Adopted: [CC-518<sup>e</sup>-9].

**FAECUM asks that the Government of Canada exclude university staff from Section 91 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.**

## 5. CANADA SOCIAL TRANSFER

Quebec receives funds through a federal transfer known as the Canada Social Transfer (CST). This transfer was created to support post-secondary education, social assistance, social services, early childhood development, early learning and child care. In 1994, in its pursuit of a zero deficit, the government of Jean Chrétien imposed significant cuts on federal transfers to the provinces. These cuts, known as the Axworthy reform, continue to result in provincial budget challenges to this day and are responsible for reducing the accessibility of services across Canada. Prior to the reform, federal transfers funded 19.8% of Quebec's social programs. By 2000-2001, this proportion had fallen to 11.9%. In effect, provincial governments were left with no choice but to cut into services to absorb this enormous loss of funding<sup>23</sup>.

Despite a small increase to the transfers in 2007, the funding needed to return these envelopes to the level they were at before the 1994-1995 Axworthy reform is considerable. For the CST in particular, the Government of Quebec has estimated that Canadian provinces lost \$2.5 billion a year, representing \$575 million a year for Quebec. Considering the impact this transfer has on the accessibility of higher education and programs used to address poverty—and therefore its impact on the overall health of our society—this loss of funding is a direct threat to the accessibility of education in Quebec. Addressing this situation would allow provincial governments to better support social services, including post-secondary education<sup>24</sup>.

### **Amendment (position 1149)**

That the federal government commit to increasing funding for the Canada Health and Social Transfer by ~~\$3.5~~ \$2.5 billion, with ~~\$820~~ \$575 million for Quebec.

Adopted: [CCO-473<sup>e</sup>-6.1].

### **Amendment (position 1167)**

That federal transfer to the provinces for education become dedicated funds, to improve citizen oversight.

Adopted: [CCO-474<sup>e</sup>-7.1].

**FAECUM asks that the Government of Canada increase the Canada Social Transfer by \$2.5 billion, with \$575 million for Quebec. FAECUM also asks that that Government of Canada make federal funds for education a dedicated transfer.**

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<sup>23</sup> Fédération des associations étudiantes du campus de l'Université de Montréal (FAÉCUM). "L'augmentation du transfert canadien en matière de programmes sociaux." <http://www.faecum.qc.ca/ressources/campagnes/etat-des-transferts-federaux-en-education-postsecondaire>

<sup>24</sup> Government of Quebec. "The Québec Economic Plan". March 2018.

[http://www.budget.finances.gouv.qc.ca/budget/2018-2019/en/documents/EconomicPlan\\_1819.pdf#page=567](http://www.budget.finances.gouv.qc.ca/budget/2018-2019/en/documents/EconomicPlan_1819.pdf#page=567)

## 6. ELIMINATING EDUCATION AND TEXTBOOK TAX CREDITS

In the 2016 Morneau budget, the federal government announced it was eliminating the education and textbook tax credits as of January 2017. The money this saved would be reinvested in the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) and Canada Student Grants Program (CSGP). However, as Quebec has its own loans and bursaries program, AFE, the provincial government used its right of withdrawal to instead receive its portion of this new investment, about \$80 million, as a federal transfer. At first, the Government of Quebec refused to invest this new money into AFE. Only after a campaign by the student movement, including FAECUM, the QSU and the FECQ (Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec) did Minister David accept to invest the full amount into Student Financial Aid. While the amount of this transfer, \$80 million, has been an adequate approximate to date, it is actually less than the federal government stands to save through the elimination of these credits. In effect, under certain conditions, taxpayers can defer claiming the credits. As such, certain individuals who could have claimed the credit for a given tax year instead chose to wait until a future year. Under a grandfather clause adopted with their elimination, these credits can still be claimed for another four years. It is therefore important to ensure that the \$300 million reinvested in the CSGP represents the full amount Ottawa saved by eliminating these tax credits and that, incidentally, the amount being transferred to Quebec hasn't been underestimated.

### **Previously Adopted Position**

That the federal government eliminate the education and textbook tax credits, and that the amount saved is reinvested in direct support for students, such as the Canada Student Grants Program (CSGP) or provincial transfers.

Adopted: [CCO-474<sup>e</sup>-7.1].

**FAECUM asks that the Government of Canada ensure that all of the funds saved by eliminating the education and textbook tax credits are invested in the Canada Student Grants Program (CSGP) and that Quebec's portion of this amount is transferred to the Government of Quebec.**

## CONCLUSION

This platform presents the demands of FAECUM's 40,000 student members. As was previously discussed, FAECUM believes that the Government of Canada should improve student funding from Federal Granting Agencies and ensure that students have reserved seats on their boards of directors. It also believes that the government should cover more of the indirect costs of research so that educational establishments no longer have to siphon funds from their operating budgets. The Federation also wants to see university staff excluded from Section 91 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, and asks that the government increase the Canada Social Transfer by \$2.5 billion, with \$575 million for Quebec. Finally, it asks that the entire amount saved by eliminating the education and textbook tax credits is invested in the Canada Student Grants Program (CSGP) and that Quebec's portion is subsequently transferred to the Government of Quebec.

In today's political context, where the youth vote had a significant role in bringing the current party to power in the 2015 elections<sup>25</sup>, the students at Université de Montréal hope they will be heard by every political party hoping to form government this fall. The Federation will carry these demands forward with diligence and rigour, presenting them to candidates, parties, and youth wings over the coming months to make sure it can secure clear commitments from each of them.

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<sup>25</sup> Éric Grenier, "2015 federal election saw youth vote in unprecedented numbers", *CBC News*, June 15, 2016. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/grenier-youth-turnout-2015-1.3636290>

## **SUMMARY OF DEMANDS**

- 1. FAECUM asks that the government invest the missing \$255 million in the Research Support Fund, and that it maintain a level of funding that allows the Fund to provide research institutes with funding at least equivalent to 40% of the amounts awarded by Federal Granting Agencies.**
- 2. FAECUM asks that the government immediately invest an additional \$33.1 million in student grant programs while maintaining the subsequent investments it promised in the 2019-2020 budget. FAECUM also asks for a clear commitment from the government guaranteeing that new investments in the FGA budgets include a proportional increase in funding for student programs.**
- 3. FAECUM asks that the Government of Canada decrease the value of large scholarships (Vanier scholarship) to match the amounts awarded by the Canada Graduate Scholarships - Doctoral Program and that the money saved be used to increase the number of grants awarded by the CGS-DP.**
- 4. FAECUM asks that the Government of Canada require granting agencies to increase the duration of the funding they award through student grant programs to better reflect the actual length of graduate studies.**
- 5. FAECUM asks that the Government of Canada ensure that boards of directors for Federal Granting Agencies include a reserved student seat.**
- 6. FAECUM asks that the Government of Canada exclude university staff from Section 91 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.**
- 7. FAECUM asks that the Government of Canada increase the Canada Social Transfer by \$2.5 billion, with \$575 million for Quebec. FAECUM also asks that that Government of Canada make federal funds for education a dedicated transfer.**
- 8. FAECUM asks that the Government of Canada ensure that all of the funds saved by eliminating the education and textbook tax credits are invested in the Canada Student Grants Program (CSGP) and that Quebec's portion of this amount is transferred to the Government of Quebec.**

## SUMMARY OF POSITIONS

### Previously Adopted Position

That the Indirect Costs Program reimburse the indirect costs of research at a level at least equivalent to 40% of the direct costs of research.

Adopted: [CCO-503<sup>e</sup>-5.1].

### Previously Adopted Position

That the Government of Canada progressively invest adequate financial resources to ensure that Canadian granting agencies can support students through grants for academic excellence.

Adopted: [CCO-430e-10.1-1].

### Previously Adopted Position

That the Federal Granting Agencies (SSHRC, NSERC, and CIHR) decrease the value of the Vanier and Banting scholarships to match amounts provided by the Canada Graduate Scholarships - Doctoral Program (CSG-DP) and post-doctoral scholarship, respectively, and that the money saved be used to increase the number of grants awarded through the CSG-DP and post-doctoral scholarship program.

Adopted: [CCO-503e-5.1].

### Previously Adopted Position

That granting agencies increase the duration of funding through their student grant programs to better reflect the actual length of academic programs.

Adopted: [CCO-508e-6].

### Amendment (position 980)

That the FRQNT, FRQSC, FRQS, NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR reserve at least one seat on their respective boards of directors for a graduate student representative that has been recommended by his or her peers, who will serve as a full member of that Board of Directors.

Adopted: [CCO-430e-10.1-1].

### Previously Adopted Position

That the federal government exclude staff at post-secondary institutions from restrictions created by Section 91 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

Adopted: [CC-518e-9].

### Amendment (position 1149)

That the federal government commit to increasing funding for the Canada Health and Social Transfer by ~~\$3.5~~ \$2.5 billion, with ~~\$820~~ \$575 million for Quebec.

Adopted: [CCO-473e-6.1].

### Amendment (position 1167)

That federal transfer to the provinces for education become dedicated funds, to improve citizen oversight.

Adopted: [CCO-474e-7.1].

### Previously Adopted Position

That federal transfer to the provinces for education become dedicated funds, to improve citizen oversight.

Adopted: [CCO-474e-7.1].

### Previously Adopted Position

That the federal government eliminate the education and textbook tax credits, and that the amount saved is reinvested in direct support for students, such as the Canada Student Grants Program (CSGP) or provincial transfers.

Adopted: [CCO-474<sup>e</sup>-7.1].

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