

PSAC 901

We the undersigned oppose Patrick Deane's lobbying efforts to end the provincial tuition freeze.

Tuition fees pose a serious financial barrier that prevents students from accessing education and forces others to take on often insurmountable levels of debt. This burden is most heavily shouldered by migrant students and other historically excluded and underrepresented groups who are an integral part of the Queen's community. Additionally, for graduate students-- Queen's employees who perform valuable, irreplaceable teaching and research work upon which the university builds its reputation--tuition fees reduce real wages to a rate far below the annual minimum wage for full time work in Ontario.

In light of the current cost-of-living and housing crises impacting students and workers at Queen's University, we call on Patrick Deane and Queen's University to:

- Formally acknowledge that fulfilling Queen's [mission](#) to "push the boundaries of knowledge through research" and "offer an exceptional student experience," as well as its [commitment](#) to "[build] a campus that welcomes and reflects diverse identities, cultures, and perspectives" requires the end to graduate worker and student poverty, including an end to tuition fees, which pose a significant and inequitable financial barrier to accessing education and performing research.
- Immediately cease and desist all lobbying efforts to end the provincial tuition freeze.
- Commit that all future lobbying efforts regarding University funding will be to increase public government funding of Universities and to advocate for the total abolition of tuition fees.
- Commit to abolishing tuition fees beginning with an immediate reduction in 2023.
- Equalize domestic and migrant tuition fees.
- Raise the minimum graduate student funding salary to match minimum wage for full time employment in Ontario (\$32,240) and index it to match cost of living increases.

We commit to join together and show support for these actions at the Abolish Tuition Rally on March 22nd. We hope that on that day our voices will be heard and we can work together to make Queen's the accessible, world-class research and education institution it strives to be.

If your organization would like to add their name to this letter, fill out [this Google Form](#).

Signatures as of March 20, 2023

Queens-Wide Organizations

PSAC 901

Arts and Science Undergraduate Society (ASUS)

Departmental Student Councils

Graduate English Society (GES)

Association of Graduate Students in Psychology (AGSIP)

Graduate History Students' Association (GHSA)

Chemical Engineering Graduate Student Association (CEGSA)

Physics/Engineering Physics Department Student Council

Biology Graduate Students Council (BGSC)

Biology Department Student Council (DSC)

Sociology Graduate Student Association (SGSA)

Graduate Student Council Film & Media

DEVS (Global Development Studies) Graduate Student Society

Queen's Graduate Chemistry Society

Graduate in Visual Culture Association (GVCA)

Research Groups, Student Clubs and Community Groups

Katarokwi (Kingston) Union of Tenants

Queen's NDP

Kingston and the Islands NDP Riding Association

Arnott Aquatic Ecology Lab