

# Keep Public Education Public

**Prepared For:** To Whom it May Concern

**Prepared By:** University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

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The University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society is calling on the Province to invest net new operating funds to our public post-secondary institutions (PSIs). **Government investments in public post-secondary education (PSE) has fallen dramatically over time, particularly from 1970, when public PSE funding represented 2% of GDP.**

Looking at more recent trends, **Provincial investment in post-secondary education as a percentage of GDP has fallen from over 6% in 2007 to 4.5% in 2019<sup>2</sup>.** Additionally, federal cash transfers for post-secondary education have fallen from 0.45% of GDP in 1983-4 to an average of 0.2% from 2007-2019.

**Provincial funding has fallen from 52.9% of overall PSI budgets in 2006**

**to 43.8% in 2020.** In that same time,

tuition rose from 21.9% of PSI

budgets to 31%. Alternative funding

sources, including private grants and investments, were stable at approximately 25% of PSI revenue

during this same period. Taken together, these indicate that students have been the primary source of

net new funding for the last twenty years. Provincial funding per FTE operating expenditures declined

17.3% in real terms from 2006-21

Despite these facts, the Province has determined at the outset of a review of post-secondary sector sustainability that no net new operating funds would be made available. The Province is abdicating their role in funding PSE. **The only sustainable source of funding for Provincial entities is Provincial funding. We demand the restoration of appropriate Provincial spending on PSE.**

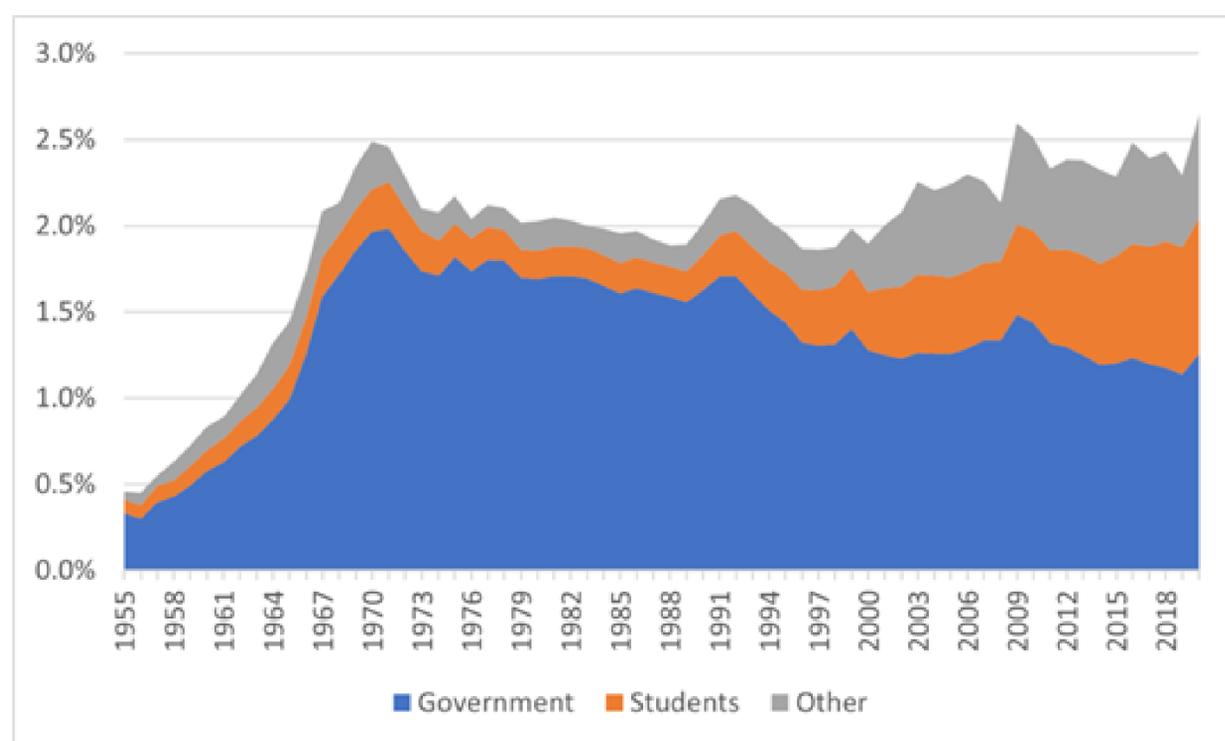


Figure 1: Total Institutional Income as a Percentage of GDP, by Source, Canadian Universities and Colleges, 1955-56 to 2020-21, in constant \$2022<sup>1</sup>

1. Usher, Alex. Higher Education Strategy Associates. "State of Postsecondary Education in Canada 2023". September 6, 2023. Retrieved from: CPI Annual Averages, Government of British Columbia, BC Stats. Retrieved from: [https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/2c75c627-3eb6-41ee-bb54-7b089eade484/resource/93e4367b-56af-4e1c-aea7-48fb48f0727c/download/cpi\\_annual\\_averages.pdf](https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/2c75c627-3eb6-41ee-bb54-7b089eade484/resource/93e4367b-56af-4e1c-aea7-48fb48f0727c/download/cpi_annual_averages.pdf)
2. Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC. "Funding for Success: Post-Secondary Education in BC." 2023. Retrieved from: MacDonald, Moira. University Affairs. "Ontario lifts tuition freeze, injects \$6.4B in post-secondary sector." February 12, 2026. Retrieved from: [https://universityaffairs.ca/news/ontario-lifts-tuition-freeze-injects-6-4-b-in-post-secondary-sector/?utm\\_source=University+Affairs+e-newsletter&utm\\_campaign=12de372aae-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2025\\_01\\_07\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_314bc2ee29-12de372aae-425258193](https://universityaffairs.ca/news/ontario-lifts-tuition-freeze-injects-6-4-b-in-post-secondary-sector/?utm_source=University+Affairs+e-newsletter&utm_campaign=12de372aae-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_01_07_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_314bc2ee29-12de372aae-425258193)