

# Keep The Cap

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

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

**Date:** March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

The 2005 Tuition Limit Policy restricts public post-secondary institutions (PSIs) to increasing tuition by no more than 2% per year. **The University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society (UVic GSS) demands this policy be maintained.**

Cuts or removal of affordability policies, such as the tuition cap, would hit those in the lowest income brackets hardest. **Youth from low-income families are less likely to attend post-secondary: ~83% of 18-24-year-olds from families earning over \$80,000 reported attending post-secondary, compared to ~55% among those from families earning \$55,000 or less<sup>1</sup>.**

In addition, **From 2005-2025, the average annual BC CPI was 2.02%, aligning with the current tuition policy.** Recognizing that inflation obviously compounds, we'd like to demonstrate the appropriateness of the 2005 Tuition Limit Policy over time. Below is a comparison between CPI<sup>2</sup> compounding versus a 2% compounding inflation with a baseline year of 2005.

Rate of increase	2010	2015	2020	2025
CPI	7.10%	13.10%	24.50%	48.80%
2%	10.40%	21.90%	34.60%	48.60%

**The 2005 Tuition Limit Policy allowed PSIs to keep up with or exceed inflation most years.** We recognize that the average inflation in the last five years has been high (3.72%) which may influence current public opinion on a 2% tuition cap. However, we have demonstrated above that this cap has in fact kept up with or exceeded inflation in the long term. We ask the Province not to remove long standing protections to react to short term inflation spikes. Should the Province renege on the promise to students of tuition cost control that five successive governments have kept, the **UVic GSS demands a new policy capping tuition increases at the three-year average inflation or 2%, whichever is lower**, as Ontario has done<sup>3</sup>.

1. CAUT. "Lower-income families have less access to post-secondary education". Available at: <https://www.caut.ca/bulletin/lower-income-families-have-less-access-to-post-secondary-education/>

2. 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)

3. 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)