

From coast to coast

Tuition fee summary for BC

Eric Szeto, CUP Western Bureau Chief

VANCOUVER (CUP)—This year's two per cent increase will mark the fifth consecutive year that tuition has gone up in British Columbia. This year tuition fees have gone up from an average of \$4867 in 2005 to \$4960 in 2006, according to Statistics Canada.

Tuition fee increases in BC's postsecondary institutions have been capped at two per cent since a provincial mandate was passed in 2004.

This year's situation isn't as stark as when the six-year tuition fee freeze was lifted by the BC Liberal government in the 2002/03 academic year, but it's still the fifth highest in the country behind Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan.

Since 2001, tuition has risen 96.3 per cent in BC, the highest increase in the country in that time period.

Tuition fee summary for Saskatchewan

Jeanette Stewart, CUP Central Bureau Chief

REGINA (CUP)—In Saskatchewan, tuition is frozen at 2004/05 levels, and after the release of the 2006 provincial budgets, students can expect to pay those rates until 2008. Average tuition for undergraduate student at the University of Regina is currently \$4551. Student fees are \$319, excluding additional program fees and the health and dental plan, bumping up the cost to a total of \$4870. At the University of Saskatchewan, tuition is calculated within six different categories, depending on the type of course being taken. An undergraduate arts student can expect to pay \$4834 in tuition, which includes \$454 in fees for health and dental coverage.

All of these figures came from university websites. The figures reflect the cost of 30 credit hours of undergraduate arts courses.

Tuition fee summary for Manitoba

Jeanette Stewart, CUP Central Bureau Chief

REGINA (CUP)—As part of Manitoba's 10 per cent tuition reduction program that began in the 1999/2000 academic year, there will be no tuition increases for the 2006/07 year.

The Government of Manitoba Council on Postsecondary Education website states that \$2943 is a "weighted average" of the tuition at all Manitoba universities.

At Brandon University, a full-time student pays \$2729.70 after the \$303.30 rebate from the Manitoba Government. But once \$432.50 in student fees is included, the total is \$3162.20. The University of Manitoba's tuition fees are \$3087, which includes student organization and endowment fees. Tuition fees at the University of Winnipeg are \$2924.40, which includes the \$138 compulsory fees, but doesn't include the health and dental plan.

All of these figures came from university websites. The figures reflect the cost of 30 credit hours of undergraduate arts courses.

Tuition fee summary for Ontario

Adrian Ma, CUP Ontario Bureau Chief

WATERLOO (CUP)—Universities in Ontario have raised their tuition fees for the first time in two years, and most universities have elected to raise tuition by 4.5 per cent for incoming first-years, and by four per cent for returning undergraduate students.

Exceptions include Brock University and Laurentian University; both schools have increased tuition by four per cent for all undergraduate programs regardless of year.

Students entering graduate programs will have to pay an increase between four and eight per cent, although a handful of universities (Carleton, Queen's and York) have declined to raise tuition fees for most, if not all, of their graduate programs. Special and professional programs like engineering and law have been tagged with increases between six and eight per cent.

In March 2006, the McGuinty Liberal government announced that Ontario colleges and universities would be able to raise tuition rates an average of five per cent at the beginning of this year's fall semester.

This new tuition framework is part of the government's larger, multi-year education plan dubbed the "Reaching Higher Plan," which also includes efforts to expand student grants and update books and supplies allowances.

Tuition fee summary for Québec

Jeremy Delman, CUP Québec Bureau Chief

MONTRÉAL (CUP)—Québec tuition is still frozen at its 1993/94 level of \$1668 a year—the lowest in the country. However, it's widely expected that if Premier Jean Charest is re-elected, he will lift the tuition freeze.

Though tuition is frozen, the ancillary fees that most universities charge are not. In Québec, they increased this year by 4.7 per cent to \$624. Many Québec universities have looked to out-of-province and international students, who pay much higher tuition, to fill the funding gap.

Out-of-province students will see their tuition rise by 5.7 per cent to \$4914 while international student fees will go up by 4.3 per cent to \$12 349.

Tuition fee summary for the Atlantic Region

Chloé Fedio, Gateway Managing Editor

According to Statistics Canada, the average tuition hike for the Atlantic provinces—New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island—was 4.1 per cent for 2006/07.

Students in Newfoundland and Labrador paid the least tuition fees in the region—with the second lowest tuition in the country—which have actually declined by 14.1 per cent since 2001, the report outlined. Prince Edward Island saw the most drastic hike at 6.5 per cent, and New Brunswick wasn't far behind with a 5.8 per cent increase. Nova Scotia has the highest tuition in the country, with an average of \$6571 per full-time undergraduate student, and saw a 3.9 per cent increase this year.

