



ELECTION issues

Funding down and tuition up

Under the Campbell Liberal government post-secondary institutions have been underfunded. Per student funding from government has declined each year. Most new revenue for programs and services has been paid by students, through massive tuition fee increases. The Campbell Liberals also ended tuition-free Adult Basic Education programs.

Here are some facts about provincial government funding in the colleges, university colleges and institutes.

- In 2001 institutions received \$7290 per student.
- In 2004 institutions received \$7160 per student.
- To keep up with inflation, institutions should have received \$7770 per student in 2004.
- Real (inflation-adjusted) government funding per student is about 8% lower than in 2001.
- Tuition fees have doubled at many institutions.
- In 2003, 80% of new revenue for institutions came from increases in student fees.

Future funding cuts

The three-year plan tabled by the Campbell government in February 2005 will see per student funding continue to lose ground. In 2005, per student funding will increase by less than one per cent, and will actually decrease over the three years of the plan.

Ask the candidates

- Does your party support increasing per student funding to at least 2001 levels, accounting for inflation and growth in student numbers?
- What is your party's record on tuition fees?
- Does your party support a freeze on tuition fees and a restoration of tuition-free Adult Basic Education?

Funding solutions

We need a freeze on tuition fees and a government commitment to properly fund post-secondary institutions.

We need to return per student funding to at least 2001 levels. If funding had kept pace with inflation and growth in student numbers, government funding would have been \$670 million, rather than the \$620 million provided in 2004 – a shortfall of \$50 million each year for the colleges, university colleges and institutes.