

J.McKenna MPP

April 26,2021

Dear Jane,

CFUW Burlington is gravely concerned about the state of university education in Ontario. Universities are very important for the future of society. Ontario has the lowest funding for post secondary education in Canada. Prior to the pandemic, your government cut the tuition fees by 10%, freezing them for two years without topping up university operating grants. Moreover, due to the pandemic, enrollment by foreign students has been significantly reduced thereby decreasing the universities income considerably.

Laurentian University is an excellent example of where this leads over time. Sudbury relies on Laurentian for cultural enrichment, future skilled employees and entrepreneurs. It focuses on rural and indigenous care. This university is especially important in the north as it serves the Francophone and Indigenous communities. Eliminating the program smacks of systemic discrimination. For example, the midwifery program attracts ten applicants for every space and graduates are immediately locally employed. It returns \$ 200,000. annually to the university. Closing this program makes no sense at all. It reduces the opportunities for post- secondary education in the north.

We can't emphasize enough how important accessible, public, post-secondary education is to the future of Ontario in a competitive global society.

Regards,

Marianne Singh-Waraich  
Ruth Levcoe,  
Cynthia Iskiw

Co-presidents CFUW Burlington