

Not your parents' education.

Students go to university on a promise: Get an education and the jobs will come. That worked for many students' parents, but something shifted.

The cost of university went up.

Secure jobs are harder to find.

The average student debt load is much higher than it was a generation ago.

University should broaden students' options, not limit them. Ontario is falling short on that promise.

Learn more: policyalternatives.ca/ontario

Shifting the burden.

Who pays their fair share?

Average cost of university tuition in Ontario has more than doubled.¹

1976: \$2,351

1990: \$2,607

2012: \$6,640

Who carries a bigger burden?

In 1989, students in Canada covered 14% of the real cost of going to university. The public, through government investments in post-secondary education, covered the rest.

Today, students in Ontario shoulder 44% of the cost.

Who has fewer summer job opportunities?

Youth unemployment:

Summer of 1976: 10.9%

Summer of 1990: 9.7%

Summer of 2011: 15.4%

Who is more likely to earn tuition with a job?

Minimum wage in 1976 was worth the equivalent of \$10.40 in today's currency.

Today, with higher tuition to pay, minimum wage is frozen at \$10.25.

In 1990, a middle-income family in Ontario could earn the equivalent of four years of tuition fees in 87 days; it took 195 days in 2011.

Which families take on greater debt for education?

In 1990, a family putting a child through university would face a debt of about 93% of its disposable income.

Today's families take on debt equal to 150% of their disposable income.

What are the alternatives?

If Ontario returned the corporate tax rate to 2009 levels, we could return undergraduate university tuition rates to their 1990 level.

If Ontarians contributed an average of \$170 more per family in personal income taxes a year, we could eliminate undergraduate tuition fees in Ontario universities.

1. Inflation-adjusted



1990

Lifetime of Opportunity?

Average cost of university tuition in Ontario:
\$2,607¹

Youth summer unemployment :
9.7%

A middle-income family in Ontario could earn the equivalent of four years of tuition fees in **87** days.

1. Inflation-adjusted



2012

Lifetime of Debt.

Average student debt after a four-year degree:
\$37,000

Average cost of university tuition in Ontario:
\$6,640

Youth summer unemployment :
15.4%

A middle-income family in Ontario could earn the equivalent of four years of tuition fees in **195** days.



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