



Backgrounder

For immediate release...

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Summary of Feedback Research Corp. Poll for OCUFA

Ontarians believe college and university education should be a high priority for the government, think tuition is too high and favour government grants as the best solution to make postsecondary education affordable, according to a poll for the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations.

The survey by Feedback Research Corp. also found that, by a narrow margin, Ontarians would prefer higher income taxes to further cuts in public services. Another finding was that the government's two-year freeze on college and university tuition is overwhelmingly popular, with 70 percent supporting it and only 13 percent opposed.

The telephone poll of 1,000 voters was conducted between May 27th and June 6th, 2004. Margin of error for a sample this size is 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The survey was conducted soon after the Ontario Liberal government delivered its first budget and appointed former Premier Bob Rae to carry out a thorough review of postsecondary education in the province.

Here are more specific details on the questions:

For you personally, should post-secondary education be a very high priority, high priority, low priority or a very low priority for the Ontario government?

Very high priority 28%

High priority 61%

Low priority 8%

Very low priority 1%

DK/NA 4%

Based on what you know, do you think current tuition fees at Ontario's public universities are too high, too low or about right?

Too high 63%

Too low 1%

About right 20%

DK/NA 17%

Do you support or oppose a university tuition freeze across the province?

Support 70%

Oppose 13%

DK/NA 16%

What do you think would be the best solution for qualified students who can't afford university tuition?

Government grants 28%

Government loans 23%

Merit-based scholarships 18%

Student's own employment 11%

DK/NA 19%

As you know, the Ontario government is running a deficit. To deal with that issue, the government can either raise taxes or reduce services. Which of the following best reflect your own view?

Ready to pay more in income tax 43%

Want a reduction in personal income tax 37%

DK 20%

How concerned are you with the affordability of postsecondary education in Ontario?

Very concerned 57%

Somewhat concerned 23%

Neutral 14%

Not very concerned 3%

Not at all concerned 3%