

## Green Party of Canada

1. Increase federal transfers to provincial governments, ear-marked and tied to post-secondary education. Work to eliminate student debt as a national goal. Earmark provincial transfers for post-secondary education outside of the broad-based Canada Social Transfer fund.
2. Establish a federal research program aimed at understanding and reducing barriers to post-secondary education in the absence of the 2001 Canadian Millennium Research Program.
3. Work with the provinces to support lifelong learning programs aimed at enabling older Canadians to pursue post-secondary education to gain new knowledge and skills. Increase funding for a needs-based Canadian National Student Loan and Bursary.
4. Invest in Early Intervention Programs through partnerships with other governments and through additional funding for Targeted Nonrepayable Assistance, Academic Support, Mentorship, and Campus Exposure Programs with an emphasis on low-income, first-generation, and Aboriginal students and communities.
5. Transition from costly and regressive tax-based credits and RESPs as methods of supporting an affordable post-secondary education system. Allow all students eligibility for guaranteed student loans up to their rate of tuition regardless of parental income.
6. Decrease the lending rate to that of the prime rate and extend the time period for which student loans must be repaid. Extend the payment grace period to two years after graduation in which time loans are interest-free.
7. Establish a Student Education Funding Committee, with at least 50% of members having student debt, whose purpose will be to create a student education funding system that better serves the needs of Canadian students.
8. Establish an Opportunity Grant under the Canada Student Grants Program for graduate students with high financial need. Increase funding to federal research councils by 15% annually for four years.
9. Exempt academic materials from the GST and/or any other federal sales taxes that may be implemented in the future.
10. Support integrated education and co-operative programs through the restoration and expansion of the federal student summer job program. Establish a Pan-Canadian set of comparable data and statistics to measure quality and progress similar to those of the medicare system.
11. Invest in undergraduate research fellowships through the federal research councils to support innovation and increase research capacity. Ensure that a portion of earmarked provincial transfers is long-term and predictable, provided that provinces remain accountable to quality metrics including increasing tenure track professors as well as a higher ratio of professors to students.
12. Ensure that copyright policy allows students to properly conduct and create research in a manner that is consistent with a thriving information commons, fair dealing principles, and moral rights.

## Liberal Party of Canada

1. A Liberal government will introduce the Canadian Learning Passport, a significant financial boost for higher education delivered directly to families. It will provide \$1,000 a year over four years for every high school student in Canada to use for college, university or CÉGEP. For students in low income families, the amount will be \$1,500 a year, or an extra \$6,000 in total.
2. All parents will have to do is open a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP). They won't have to make any contribution of their own to receive the Learning Passport.
3. This will be a new federal investment of \$1 billion annually.
4. A Liberal government will work with financial institutions, provincial and territorial governments and other partners to assist all parents to start an RESP for their kids. Promotion and information about the Canadian Learning Passport will begin early, in order to encourage young Canadians to consider and prepare for college or university. Additional financial support will help increase post-secondary participation among those families who currently assume they can't afford it. Moreover, the Learning Passport goes where the student goes, empowering students to choose the institution that works best for them.
5. There will be further relief for student debt loads through a Liberal government's Canada Service Corps, which will forgive \$1500 in student loan debt for young Canadians who engage in volunteer service.
6. The Learning Passport will be paid out in annual installments of \$1000 or \$1500 at the start of the school year, when students need it most. A reduced amount will be paid out for part-time study. If the recipient completes studies before the Passport benefits are fully paid out (for example after a 2-year college program), the remaining value of the Passport will remain in the RESP, available to support further post-secondary learning in later years. If the beneficiary of an RESP does not attend college or university, then the Learning Passport money does not get paid out, and is returned to government coffers.
7. The Learning Passport will simplify the existing scheme of tax credits by ending and rolling in the modest Textbook and Education tax credits (except for graduate students). The Tuition Tax Credit will remain in place, as would the Canada Student Loans Program and the associated Canada Student Grant Program.
8. A Liberal Government will invest an additional \$200 million in its first two years to lift the cap on post-secondary funding. Consistent with the approach of the Learning Passport, we will explore with Aboriginal leaders ways to deliver resources more directly to students and their families. A key objective will be to increase the retention of Aboriginal students in Canada's post secondary institutions.
9. We will create a Canada Métis Scholarship program, with a \$5 million annual investment in Métis students.

## **Conserative Paryt of Canada**

1. Extend support for the Canada Youth Business Foundation, which provides loans and mentoring to young entrepreneurs.
2. Enhance the Canada Student Loans Program for part-time students, to respond to increased demand for assistance in career transition through post-secondary education.
3. Double the work exemption for Canada Student Loans, to allow students to benefit more from part-time employment.
4. Establish 30 Industrial Research Chairs at colleges and polytechnics, to provide new opportunities for college students to interact with cutting-edge researchers.
5. Support research partnerships between college and university researchers and students, through Canada's research granting councils.
6. We will help attract new doctors, nurses and nurse practitioners to these communities, by forgiving a portion of federal student loans for those who agree to practice in under-served rural or remote areas. The result will be better health care and a higher quality of life for Canadians in rural and remote communities.

## **New Democratic Party**

1. We will make post-secondary education more affordable by directly attacking skyrocketing tuition costs with a designated \$800 million transfer to the provinces and territories to lower tuition fees, as per the NDP's Post Secondary Education Act;
2. We will increase the funding in the Canada Student Grants Program by \$200 million a year, targeting accessibility for Aboriginal, disabled and low-income students, in particular;
3. We will raise the education tax credit from \$4,800 per year to \$5,760 per year to help with increasing education costs.