

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE**Student Day of Action****Moved by: Councillor Perruza****Seconded by: Councillor Fletcher****SUMMARY:**

The cost of post secondary education continues to rise causing serious concerns for many students and their families. Undergraduate tuition fees in Ontario have tripled since 1990 while the average student debt in Ontario has skyrocketed by 250 percent in the past 15 years to over \$25,000.00 for four years of study. Professional programs such as law and medicine cost as much as \$20,000.00 per year.

Many new jobs require post-secondary education, thus rising tuitions reduce opportunities for many low and middle-income families while magnifying barriers for Aboriginal, rural, racialised and other marginalised students. Currently, Ontario provides the lowest per capita funding for post-secondary education in Canada while many countries fully fund higher education and charge little or no fees for college or university. Government efforts to deal with this problem are generally not supported as public opinion polls show that nearly three-quarters of Ontarians think the government's 'Reaching Higher' framework for tuition fee increases of 20 to 36 per cent over four years is "unfair".

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The City of Toronto endorses the Canadian Federation of Students Ontario 'Student Day of Action' on November 5, 2008.

October 29, 2008

According to Chapter 27, Council Procedures:

Requires two-thirds to waive notice	(v)
Fiscal Impact Statement provided	
Should have Fiscal Impact Statement prior to debate	*
Requires two-thirds to waive requirement if Council wishes to debate	
Should be referred to Executive Committee	(v)
City Clerk, in consultation with the Chair, agrees that the Motion Recommendations are Urgent	(v)

* Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to advise.