



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université

May 30, 2019

BY E-MAIL: Trevor.Holder@gnb.ca

The Honourable Trevor Holder
Minister of Post-Secondary Education,
Training and Labour
Government of New Brunswick
Chestnut Complex
P. O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5H1

Dear Minister Holder:

On behalf of the Canadian Association of University Teachers' (CAUT) 72,000 academic staff, we are writing to express our strong opposition to your government's decision to replace the Free Tuition Program (FTP) and Tuition Relief for the Middle Class (TRMC) with the Renewed Tuition Bursary (RTB), as well as your decision to eliminate the Timely Completion Benefit (TCB) altogether.

Your regressive actions will reduce access to post-secondary education programs and will have devastating impacts for students from low-income families, Francophone communities, Indigenous Peoples, and those from rural or economically depressed areas. Whereas the FTP and TRMC provided up to \$10,000 of funding for university students and \$5,000 for college students, the RTB is capped at \$3,000 and \$1,500 respectively.

We also condemn your decision to extend the RTB to students attending private post-secondary institutions, which do not meet the same high quality and accountability standards as public institutions. Investing in a high quality publicly funded post-secondary education leads to a fairer society and a stronger economy.

The elimination of the TCB is sure to lead to higher student debt levels. As a province suffering from outmigration and slow economic growth, this decision is particularly short-sighted and it is not clear which evidence informed this decision. Indeed, evidence shows that the reintroduction of educational tax credits will only serve to benefit high-income households.

30/05/2019

CAUT strongly urges you to reverse these regressive policy and funding decisions and we encourage you to make the necessary and sustainable investments to support accessible, high-quality public post-secondary institutions to the benefit of all New Brunswickers.

Sincerely,



Brenda Austin-Smith
President

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David Robinson
Executive Director