

September 1, 2020

To party leaders :

The September 14 provincial election will determine the party and people who will be responsible for leading the destiny of our province over the next four years. For our sector, university education, they are also very important because recent trends have demonstrated the little interest given by successive governments to this crucial sector for our development. Therefore, the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations (FNBFA) respectfully asks you to make the following commitments:

1. Maintain stable, multi-year increases to university budgets during the length of its term in office.
2. Call on the federal government to provide post-secondary educational institutions with additional interim funding during the COVID-19 pandemic to help continue to provide quality education and protect jobs in the same way that the federal wage subsidy was paid to help businesses and private educational institutions.
3. Take steps to achieve universal accessibility to university education by eliminating tuition fees.
4. Respect the right to collective bargaining, including the right of university faculty and librarian associations to strike and without interference through the appointment of conciliation boards and "back to work" legislation, or amendments to the *Industrial Relations Act* to change the parameters of arbitration proceedings.
5. Ensure that faculty members are included in all committees pertaining to university education and, given their wide range of expertise, that they directly contribute to post-pandemic planning for the revival of activities in the province.
6. Take action, as part of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, to ensure the integration of Aboriginal people into the academic community and the learning of the languages, history and culture of Aboriginal communities in New Brunswick.
7. Ensure that international students who choose to attend New Brunswick universities are not left in dire straits, especially in this time of pandemic crisis.
8. To not use COVID-19 as a pretext to impose drastic austerity measures unilaterally and expeditiously.

On behalf of the 1,500 members of the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations, we offer you our best regards.

Hector Guy Adégbidi  
President

Lise Robichaud  
Executive Director

C.c. Member Associations