

THE PLEDGE

To Restore Post-Residency Fees to Graduate Programmes

To the Governing Council of the University of Toronto:

In 1993, the Governing Council eliminated post-residency fees for graduate students at University of Toronto. The post-residency fee structure allowed graduate students to pay 40% of tuition fees following the completion of their course work but before their graduation. This practice recognized the reduced resources used by students in the research and writing phases of their degrees, the financial barriers faced by students pursuing a graduate education, and the important role graduate students play in the University's research and teaching mission.

The elimination of post-residency fees served to dramatically increase graduate tuition fees and severely limit the ability of many qualified students to pursue graduate studies. Such financial burdens delay or reduce completion rates as graduate students seek paid employment or drop-out of their studies entirely. Fee increases have a greater impact on international students, students with disabilities, single parents, women, Aboriginal students, and students from low and modest income backgrounds.

Re-instating post-residency fees would help to open the doors of graduate studies to qualified students from all backgrounds and income groups and demonstrate that University of Toronto is committed to accessible graduate education. Restoring post-residency fees would increase retention rates and reduce time-to-completion rates, thereby increasing the research and teaching capacity of University of Toronto and helping to ensure that Canada produces qualified candidates to address the anticipated faculty shortage.

It is for these reasons that I am signing the pledge below and joining graduate students, faculty and alumni at University of Toronto and across Canada in supporting the National Graduate Caucus of the Canadian Federation of Students' call for the restoration of post-residency fees.

As an alumnus,

I shall withhold any donations to University of Toronto until such time as the Governing Council re-instates post-residency fees at a maximum rate of 50% of regular tuition fees for all graduate students who have completed their required course work.

Furthermore, I call upon the Governing Council to actively and publicly lobby to reduce tuition fees for all students, to increase public funding for Ontario's colleges and universities to at least the national average and to restore federal cash transfers for post-secondary education.

I, _____, do solemnly pledge,
Print your full name clearly

on this, the _____ day of _____, two thousand and _____.
Date Month Year

Signed, _____
Sign your name here

Include your email address to receive updates on the campaign, _____

Please return completed Pledge Forms to University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union:
16 Bancroft Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1C1

Fax: (416)971-2362 - info.gsu@utoronto.ca - www.gsu.utoronto.ca

Copies of this Pledge will be delivered to the Governments of Ontario and Canada

NATIONAL GRADUATE CAUCUS of the CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

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