



# **Fund It, Fix It**

*Melissa Chirino - Chairperson*

# BC Federation of Students

- provincial-scale version of a local students' union
- founded in 1975
- 14 member local students' unions
- more than 170,000 individual student members
- provides **advocacy, representation, and services**

The Federation's primary purpose is to work for an **affordable, accessible, high quality** public post-secondary system in British Columbia, and across the country.

# The Reality of Students

- Having to work more than 2 jobs to support themselves.
- Living in precarious housing situations.
- Avoiding purchasing mandatory school materials due to high cost.
- Students' Union food banks are seeing an increase in usage.
- Students have diversified: mature students, international students, trades students, parents pursuing their education and more!

# The Issue

- Tuition fees have skyrocketed for the last two decades **doubling** since 2001.
- Students in BC are graduating with an average debt of **\$29,000**.
- Tuition fees make up just **over 50%** of the operating budget of institutions.
- Government funding now contributes **only 40%** of funding to institutions as compared to 80% in the 1980s.
- Over-reliance on international student tuition fees by institutions to make up for gaps in government funding.

# Fund It, Fix It Campaign Goal

- to increase funding to post-secondary institutions and secure a progressive funding model that accounts for inflation.
- to immediately freeze, then progressively reduce tuition and other user fees.



# Students Working Together Gets Results

**1989:** no GST on tuition and residence fees

**1992, 1996-2000:** tuition fee freezes

**2000-01:** tuition fee reduction

**2004:** 2% cap on tuition fee increases, annually

**2005:** international students work off campus

**2004-current:** re-regulation of tuition and ancillary fees

**2007-2014:** tuition fee-free adult basic education (ABE)

**2008:** Canada's first national system of grants

**2017:** interest on student loans reduction

**2017:** tuition fee-free ABE & English Language Learning

**2018:** \$250,000 funding for open education resources for ABE

**2019:** interest eliminated on BC student loans

interest on federal student loans reduction

\$3.26 million funding for open education resources

**2020:** BC Access Grant (\$41 million annually)

**2022:** interest eliminated on federal student loans

**2023:** Increase to Canada Student Grant up to \$4200

*Investing in students is the best way to invest in our present and future economy and ensure economic growth in British Columbia.*



# Social Media

- Please connect with us!
- On Facebook we have a page:
  - **BC Federation of Students**
- On Twitter and Instagram we are:
  - **@theBCFS**
- We achieve victories when people are talking about our issues at the dinner table.
- Hashtags: **#bcfamjam**, **#bcpoli**, **#bced**

