

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PAY MORE

TORONTO (CUP) -- International students attending Ontario post-secondary institutions will have to pay three times the tuition fees for Canadians starting next January. Ontario minister of colleges and

universities Harry Parrott announced the increases May 4, claiming "mounting public concern over the extent of taxpayer support for foreign students."

These students now must pay \$1500 for a two-term university year and \$750 for enrolment in colleges of applied arts and technology, up from \$585 and \$250 respectively.

The Minister of Education in Nova Scotia has not declared his intention to raise international students fees or impose quotas; but any action taken in Ontario will have an overflow effect in Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia currently has the highest rate of any province of international students, approximately twice the national average, in part due to the presence of large numbers of American students receiving undergraduate degrees in Nova Scotia. Approximately one third of all international students in Canada are in Ontario, if they are forced out, they will look to other parts of Canada, posing an overnight doubling of the numbers of international students elsewhere.

A closed door policy in Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia, would likely be followed by a closed door policy in all the other provinces by using the "we are a poor province" argument. In those provinces student and faculty

organizations are attempting to overturn the governmental policy.

Parrott claimed many Canadians studying abroad face similar situations, citing as examples the United States and the United Kingdom.

International students currently enrolled in education programs are exempt from the hike, the minister said.

But students groups and individuals have challenged Parrott's move and his rationale for the hike.

The Ontario Federation of Students (OFS/Feo) called Minister Parrott's actions discriminatory and said they "smack of racism" in a statement released the day of Parrott's announcement.

The federation questioned the ministry's calculations that \$2 million will be saved the first year, increasing to \$6 million yearly when the hike will affect all international students. They ministry gave no explanation for those figures, OFS stated.

"Our suspicion is that these enormous increases satisfy the government's political desire to appear to be 'cracking down' on foreigners, while making no progress whatever in the relief of taxes borne by individuals."

OFS has frequently called on the government to increase corporate taxes rather than cut back on

educational and social expenditures.

The statement also blamed the ministry for rendering its advisory body, the Ontario Council On University Affairs redundant, since Parrott's announcement was made just prior to the council's annual hearings.

On May 13 Parrott told the legislature that although assistance to developing countries is a federal responsibility, the Ontario government would "absorb" the tuition hike for students sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency. (CIDA). An OFS fact sheet states that only 12 percent of visa students are sponsored by CIDA.

An ad-hoc committee of the student council at the University of Western Ontario said in a statement the fee hike will discriminate mainly against third-world students.

The statement noted the profits Canadian industry makes in overseas investments, and the benefits Canadians derived from attending foreign schools while Canada's education system was still developing.

The report also accused Parrott of reversing his earlier promise that no tuition hikes were in store for

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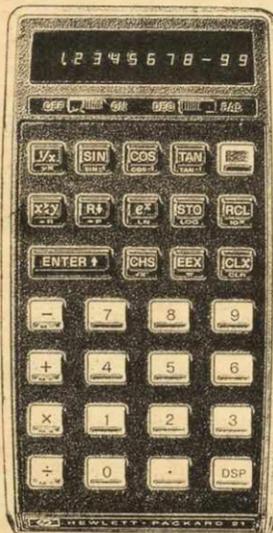
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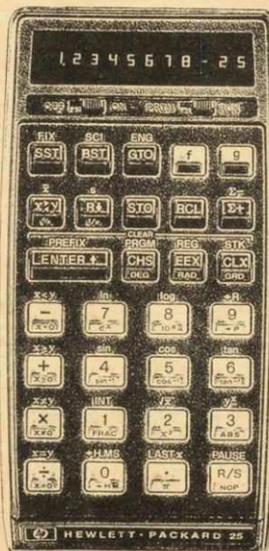
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