



CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS  
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE  
DES ÉTUDIANTES ET ÉTUDIANTS



# Members' Advisory **Federal Budget 2018**

February 2018

This week, the 2018 Federal Budget was released and we have broken down what this means for students.

## Revisiting Budget 2017

Budget 2017 victories included:

- A \$90 million investment over two years for First Nations learners through the Post-Secondary Student Support Program
- Expanded eligibility for the Canada Student Grants Program to more part-time students and students with dependent children, among other investments

However, students failed to see direct investments in the post-secondary sector to meaningfully address skyrocketing tuition fees and student debt.

## Progress in Budget 2018?

Unfortunately, Budget 2018 leaves these problems unaddressed.

Despite over [\\$28 billion in public student debt](#), and average tuition rates in some provinces exceeding [\\$8,000 per year for a domestic undergraduate student](#), this government has once again failed to invest meaningfully in direct spending on post-secondary education.

## Victories for Students

Students did see significant victories in Budget 2018.

- \$1.7 billion over five years for [fundamental research](#), which includes \$1.2 billion in funding to the three granting councils, new funding for Canada Research Chairs, and other programs.
- A [National Framework to Address Gender-Based Violence at Post-Secondary Institutions](#), funded at \$5.5 million over five years.

## Budget 2018 for Parents

Budget 2018 introduces a new [Employment Insurance Parental Sharing Benefit](#) of 5 weeks paid "use it or lose it" second parent leave. However, [no new investments were made in childcare](#), despite our calls for a national childcare program.

## Budget 2018 for Student Workers

Some student workers may also see benefits from Budget 2018.

- A commitment to table pay equity legislation for federally regulated sectors
- Five days of paid domestic violence leave for federally regulated sectors
- \$448.5 million over five years for the Youth Employment Strategy
- A new Pre-Apprenticeship Program at \$46 million over five years
- A new Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women at \$19.9 million over five years

Budget 2018 also allocates \$16 million over two years to work with experts and public sector unions to [create a new federal government pay system](#), plus \$431.4 million over six years to [address current issues with the Phoenix pay system](#).

## Budget 2018 for International, Racialized and Indigenous Students

The federal government has committed:

- \$23 million over two years to the Multiculturalism Program for a [new national anti-racism approach to address rising racist and xenophobic sentiments](#).

The Federation will ensure that the international students constituency, racialized students constituency, and the Circle of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students are kept apprised of updates to this funding and will seek to consult on its use.

- Additionally, a \$10 million investment was made for [Métis post-secondary education](#) specifically.

## In a Nutshell?

While this budget fails to address many of our core demands, new investments in research and addressing campus gender-based violence are a reflection of our tireless work as student organizers, and proof that student action works.

This budget fails to act on debt-free access to education, particularly for Indigenous learners, but students will continue to fight. United, we shall not be defeated.

Access our proposal for an accessible public post-secondary education system on page 92 of the [Alternative Federal Budget](#).

Sincerely,

Canadian Federation of Students