

#### 4. Education - Post-Secondary

Post-secondary education should be a right for every person who wants it. Education allows the disadvantaged to gain the knowledge, skills, and experience to demand equality and social justice. People with a post-secondary degree or diploma tend to have above average employment opportunities and salaries.

Education is a right. Access to a post-secondary institution must be universal and equitable. A firm commitment from federal and provincial governments is required to maintain and enhance post-secondary education as a public institution under democratic public control. Quality standards must remain high, and there must be public accountability in its delivery.

##### ***Recommendations for A People's Charter:***

*Post-secondary education in Ontario must be built on the following components:*

- ***Accessibility.***
  - *Access to a college or university education should be based on ability to learn, not ability to pay. The downloading of education costs through increasing tuition fees must be stopped. Escalating student debt must be eradicated. Tuition fees should be regulated, frozen and eventually eliminated.*
  - *The double cohort is an urgent problem. The government must commit adequate funding for all qualified students to have a space in the post-secondary system.*
- ***Reverse privatization and corporate influence over academic programs.***
  - *Private for-profit universities created under Bill 132 should be turned over to the public sector. All disciplines deserve equitable funding, whether or not they are directly connected to corporate interests.*
- ***Reverse the contracting out of post-secondary education support services jobs.***
  - *Library, custodial, maintenance, clerical and technical workers are an integral part of the post-secondary community. All new facilities and services on campuses should have adequate numbers of staff employed by the institution and covered by union contracts.*

- ***Well-built facilities maintained by union labour and supported by public funding.***
  - *Governments should not require institutions to seek private sector partners to build new facilities or expand existing ones.*
  - *Funding is required to complete work that has been deferred for years because of under-funding.*
  
- ***Academic Freedom.***
  - *Corporate interests should not control research at universities. It is an essential independent right of academics in their search for truth, justice and knowledge in the interests of society at large.*
  
- ***Governance.***
  - *All governing bodies in the education system should include representation from all sectors of the community.*
  - *Shared decision-making on education policy should be in effect to protect academic freedom, as well as accessible and affordable institutions.*
  
- ***All workers in the post-secondary sector deserve fair wages, good working conditions and job security.***
  
- ***Funding.***
  - *Adequate government funding levels are required for post-secondary education to reverse the trend of relying on student fees and corporate sponsors. Funds are needed to repair buildings so that working and learning conditions are healthy and safe. Funds are also needed to ensure high quality programs and adequate space for all qualified students in this period of increased enrollment to gain a post-secondary education.*