

Invest in education Invest in our future

Post-secondary education is key to a bright future. The benefits of higher education **extend far beyond better jobs and incomes** for graduates and their children. A more highly educated population is healthier, wealthier and more engaged.

The last time the federal government enhanced core funding to assist provinces to meet demand for **quality and affordable post-secondary education** was in 2007.

- + Make higher education more affordable
- + Address inequalities in access
- + Meet the demand for life-long learning
- + Grow our talent pool of researchers

The federal government has recently made **important investments in the post-secondary education system**: increases in basic research support, funding to modernize labs and classrooms, improved access to the Canada Student Loan and Grants Program, and some funding to support Indigenous learners. While these are welcome investments, **Canada's post-secondary education system remains under strain**.

The federal government **must work with the provinces** to:

Make higher education more affordable

The current high debt model is unsustainable. **Federal student loan debt has ballooned by 40%** over the past decade to \$21 billion, contributing to record high household debt in Canada. It may also be a factor in a lower rate of graduates seeking advanced degrees in Canada compared to other OECD countries.

Address inequalities in access

While Canada has a high level of post-secondary graduates, **the inequality gaps continue to grow**. The gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples is one that must be closed.

Meet the demand for life-long learning

The world of work is being reshaped as **labour markets are undergoing massive change**. Canada's post-secondary education needs to expand to meet current and future needs from students of all ages.

Grow our talent pool of researchers

At least **a third of professors are employed on precarious teaching-only contracts** with no opportunity to undertake the basic research we need to face the future. More permanent positions will stabilize the academic workforce and address equity and diversity as women, Indigenous and racialized post-secondary teachers are over-represented on temporary contracts.

33

Canada's rank out of 40 OECD countries for public funding of tertiary education. — *OECD*

361,000

The number of high school students in Ontario who applied to university in 2017 but could not get a space. — *Maclean's*

\$3 billion

The amount of investment in post-secondary education needed in the next decade for adult re-skilling alone. — *Advisory Panel on Economic Growth*

\$1.36

The economic return of each dollar spent on post-secondary education. — *Conference Board of Canada*

The Canadian Association of University Teachers represents 70,000 teachers, researchers, and librarians at 123 universities and colleges across Canada. CAUT works actively in the public interest to improve the working conditions of its members, and the quality and accessibility of post-secondary education in Canada.

 **CAUT**
www.caut.ca