

TARGET POVERTY



The face of poverty in Manitoba includes students, graduates with massive student debt, and the thousands of potential students who are shut out of university and college due to high costs and lack of student supports.

Governments everywhere recognise that widely-available public education at all levels is one of the best ways to bring people out of poverty, yet inadequate federal and provincial resources are dedicated to improving access and quality. When governments expect students and their families to fill the funding gap, the results are disastrous. Economically and socially vulnerable groups are shut out of opportunity. That's why ending the tuition fee freeze in Manitoba, in the midst of a global economic crisis, was a mistake.

The Canadian Federation of Students—Manitoba is calling on you to help build a province-wide campaign for a Poverty-Free Manitoba. Let's build on the work that anti-poverty organisations do every day, by uniting students and youth, community and labour organisations, and Aboriginal communities in the call for a real plan to end poverty and social inequality, one that includes a government commitment to lower tuition fees, grants—not loans—for students, college and university transition programmes to give more low-income students a chance at post-secondary education, and access to education for all.

**Let's build a united movement for a fair economy.
Join the Campaign for Poverty-Free Manitoba!**

ELIMINATE STUDENT POVERTY

**DAY OF ACTION
NOVEMBER 5**

WHY TARGET STUDENT POVERTY?

Education is a way out of poverty for many Manitobans.

It's time to reduce tuition fees, reduce student debt and target ^{student} \ poverty

- 1** 125,000 Manitobans, including one in five children in Winnipeg, live in poverty.
- 2** While 70% of new jobs require post-secondary education, average student debt in Manitoba is roughly \$19,000 and student aid recipients are required to live at 30% below the poverty line. Social assistance recipients are not eligible for student loans and grants.
- 3** At 29% province-wide and a staggering 37% in Winnipeg, Aboriginal poverty is a crisis in Manitoba. Over 1,000 Aboriginal students are on waiting lists to receive funding to access universities and colleges.
- 4** Students with dependents face enormous challenges, on top of other student financial barriers. Childcare can cost over \$7,200 per year, and waiting lists for childcare centres are as long as two years.
- 5** Manitoba's immigration strategy brought nearly 11,000 new Canadians to the province, yet 32% of recent immigrants in Manitoba live in poverty. Tuition fees for international students are now over three times more than what domestic students at some institutions pay, forcing students from other countries into poverty, in direct contradiction of Manitoba's immigration strategy.
- 6** Manitobans with disabilities are among the hardest hit by economic pressures: 16% live in poverty. Many students with disabilities study part-time students out of necessity, and they may not qualify for student aid.
- 7** Manitoba's unemployment rate was 5.2%, in July 2009. There are over 33,000 unemployed Manitobans, and 30% of all unemployed workers in Manitoba are Aboriginal. Student unemployment across Canada hit an all-time high of 21% this summer.
- 8** Women are disproportionately affected by poverty compared to men. Income disparity between men and women means that women make only 67% of what men do on average. This means it will take longer and cost more in interest for women to pay off their tuition fees and student debt.
- 9** With a vacancy rate of less than 1% in Manitoba's urban centres, more and more people are left without acceptable housing. Students are struggling to find affordable places to live, and student residences can cost over \$900/month!
- 10** Most universities and colleges in Manitoba have food banks. After tuition fee payments, textbooks, course materials and rent, a student on loans has virtually nothing left for transportation, food and other basics.

It's time to Target Poverty, for a Poverty-Free Manitoba.

Join the Campaign! www.targetpoverty.ca

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