

**\*\*Media Release\*\* Progressive Canadian Party / Parti Progressiste Canadien**

**Progressive Canadian Policy Statement on Post-Secondary Education For Immediate Release:**

**October 16, 2019 Nanaimo-Ladysmith** - Progressive Canadian Deputy Leader and candidate in the Nanaimo-Ladysmith riding election in the 43rd General Election to be held October 21, 2019 today issued the following Policy Declaration by the Progressive Canadian Party, Supporting Post-Secondary Education A Path to Long-Term Economic Growth, acknowledging the contribution to the statement by author and past PC Party candidate in Vancouver Centre and in the 2017 South Surrey-White Rock By-Election Michael Huenefeld.

The Declaration follows, below.

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**Policy Declaration Progressive Canadian Party / Parti Progressiste Canadien**

**Supporting Post-Secondary Education: A Path to Long-Term Economic Growth**

Context & Rationale

High quality education is essential if Canadians are to compete successfully in the new global economy. Other federal political parties are ignoring the most critical issues of post-secondary education. Unprecedented economic uncertainty is facing Canadians. Well-paying secure jobs are scarcer than ever. International competition is growing exponentially. In spite of this, federal funding for post-secondary education has been cut drastically since the 1990s by Liberal and "new" Conservative governments. A new strategy to support post-secondary education is needed by the federal government, mindful of provincial jurisdiction.

Policy Statements & Principles

- A strong post-secondary education system will represent a competitive advantage for Canada at the international level.
- Investment in education is equivalent to a long-term investment in economic development.
- Improved educational standards will not only represent an economic advantage for

Canadians, but will also strengthen the social fabric of our communities.

- Affordable post-secondary education at the university, college, or trade school level must be accessible to all Canadians.

### **Policy Proposals**

- Increase federal transfers to the provinces for post-secondary education by 3%-3.5% every year over the next six years.
- Increase direct federal spending on post-secondary education (through scholarships, grants, etc.) by 2.5%-3% every year over the next six years.
- Recover the \$30 billion in annual revenue lost to the people of Canada to corporate tax reductions enacted by the previous "new" Conservative government since 2006.
- Gradually reduce or eliminate certain federal tax subsidies to oil companies.
- Dedicate 1% recovered from political GST cuts to post-secondary education and Canadian Health and Social Transfers to the provinces.
- Reduce expenditure on new prisons.
- Any increase in federal transfers to the provinces for post-secondary education should be tied to corresponding reduction in tuition fees.

Notes: The general corporate tax rate in Canada was reduced from 22% in 2006 to 15% in 2012. According to the International Institute for Sustainable Development (2010), corporations receive around 1.4% in federal tax subsidies every year.