

PRESS RELEASE

RE: Provincial Day of Action

Thursday, February 1st 2018

The mandate of the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union has always been and always will be to advocate for our students' rights, to voice our students' concerns and to advance the common interests of students at UTM. It is these beliefs that have led us to fight for numerous campaigns throughout the years. Which is why this Provincial Day of Action, we demand the following:

1. **FREE EDUCATION FOR ALL:** As tuition fees and costs associated skyrocket, we see a significant underfunding of our education system. With no federal vision for Post Secondary Education our students are paying more and more for an education and accumulating thousands of dollars of debt. It is time that the Provincial Government establishes a sustainable funding model to prioritize equality, publicly-funded education system.
2. **AFFORDABLE TRANSIT:** As one of few schools within GTA with a Universal Transit Pass (U-PASS) we understand the impact of that this has on our students over the past 10 years. We understand that most schools within the GTA are commuter schools and that students consistently commute between cities, therefore we must work tirelessly to advocate for students. Over the last year the UTMSU has worked with coalition partners to achieve a GTA U-PASS to alleviate this huge burden. It is time that the Provincial Government works with Municipalities to develop and fund a solution for transit.
3. **OHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:** On top of paying 3X as much as domestic students, international students provide 3 billion dollars to the economy in Ontario alone. International students should not have to pay for ridiculously high tuition fees and receive subpar health coverage. Ontario is one of the only provinces in Canada that does not provide provincial healthcare to its international students, and we say enough is

enough. It is time that the Provincial Government re-integrate International students into the Ontario Health Insurance Plan.

As your students' union, we want your voice to be heard. We want your voice to aid in the creation of a democratic and equitable society all across the province. As students, our strength lies in our power and the only way to move forward is if we remain united. To put our demands forward, we ask you, the students to register to vote for the Ontario provincial elections happening on June 7th, 2018. We ask you to continue to be a part of the conversation. Lastly, we ask you to make your demands known and to make sure YOUR issues and concerns are put on the forefront of every politician's platform this provincial election.

In solidarity,

Your UTMSU Executives

Salma Fakhry
President

Jose Wilson
VP External

Yujia (Vikko) Qu
VP Internal

Maya Tomkiewicz
VP University Affairs

Sagal Osman
VP Equity

Felipe Nagata
VP Campus Life