

RESOLUTION: Post-Secondary Affordability

Whereas post-secondary students are facing greater cost-of-living challenges, due to a variety of factors including a lack of affordable housing options, longer and more expensive commutes, a lack of food security and underfunded food banks, and a range of other cost increases, resulting from a university funding model that's over reliant on international students;

And whereas student advocacy organizations have put forward a Student Issues Backgrounder 2025 with policy solutions that can help make life more affordable for students on campus, help bring down housing and transportation costs, and help ensure students have access to affordable food and services that they need to thrive while pursuing higher education:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province implement all 15 policy solutions identified in the Student Issues Backgrounder 2025.

BACKGROUND: Post-Secondary Affordability

“Students have been some of the hardest hit by our cost-of-living crisis. Limited availability of student housing and long commutes to campus on overcrowded buses have worsened our housing crisis and transportation services. Excessive demand for under-resourced student foodbanks has worsened our food security crisis. Limited protections for campus tenants, reduced revenues from a university funding model that's over-reliant on international students, and limited workers' rights for Graduate Research Assistants have only made these problems worse.”

The above is from the Student Issues Backgrounder 2025¹, a thoughtful advocacy brief prepared by a coalition of British Columbia's largest student organizations, including the University of Victoria Student Society. The Backgrounder presents a series of legislative and budgetary recommendations for the 2026 Provincial Budget, aiming to secure affordable education and ensuring students are not forced to choose between their studies and basic survival needs. The Backgrounder calls for provincial government action to:

- combat the affordability crisis
- enshrine on-campus student rights
- protect affordable education
- prioritize student safety
- invest in fast and efficient public transportation.

¹ <https://uvss.ca/campaigns/#toggle-id-1> (Student Issues Backgrounder 2025)

The Backgrounder provides a data-driven blueprint for stabilizing the post-secondary sector and supporting the future workforce of British Columbia. By highlighting that provincial funding for institutions has dropped to less than half of operating revenues, the brief illustrates how costs have shifted to students, threatening the accessibility of higher education. Implementing these recommendations would not only mitigate immediate student poverty and food insecurity but also foster a safer, more equitable learning environment. In the end, safeguarding student well-being is essential for the long-term economic stability and competitiveness of the province.

¹ <https://uvss.ca/campaigns/#toggle-id-1> (Student Issues Backgrounder 2025)