



# FAIRNESS TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



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Throughout the entirety of Canadian Post-Secondary Institutions, British Columbia hosts one-third of all international students (Celeste 2). The reason behind BC being such a common choice by students from abroad, amongst all of the Post-Secondary schools in Canada, is due to the high reputation the institutions hold (Celeste 1). Not to mention the dazzling landscapes, the buzzing cities, and all of the other beautiful ways BC captures the hearts of many, the beautiful province is easy to call home. International students can see exactly what this province has to offer, though not all of it is as transparent as one may initially believe. Canada is using its excellent reputation for Post-Secondary education to its advantage (Celeste 1). British Columbian schools drive students to attend, however, since there is no regulation for fee increases, the institutions have the power to sky rocket tuition fees at any given time (Celeste 4). Annual budget planning is not possible with this law. Thus, the current model of International Student tuition is un-

regulated, unpredictable, and unfair. Economically, the unregulated fees for international students in British Columbia institutions could lead to significant risks for not only the province but for Canada as a whole (Celeste 4). While the government has placed a cap on domestic tuition increases at two percent per year, there is nothing holding back the college and universities from increasing international fees (Celeste 5). This lack of regulation is not reflective of the values that Canadians hold dear to their hearts, though it is the reality for so many. The BC government is very aware of how much money international education brings in (Celeste 2). English training programs alone bring in \$919.4 million, per year (Kunin). Furthermore, international education contributes \$9.3 billion to the Canadian GDP—BC providing 23.4 percent of that. British Columbia's economy depends so heavily upon that of international education that it has become one of the seven principal industry sectors; the other six are agrifoods, forestry, mining, natural gas, technol-

ogy, and transportation (Celeste 4). The model also does not account for the overwhelming cost of living and presupposes the idea that all students coming from abroad are able to easily finance Canadian education. The current system in place that allows tuition fees increases at any time is irresponsible and may cause students to search for other options outside of BC, and even Canada (Celeste 1). BC views international students strictly as a commodity by evening out budget shortages for the year and filling the funding gaps with student tuition increases (Celeste 4). Even though the international students significantly benefit Canada's economy, the government has yet to become involved, leaving the decision making in the hands of people whose responsibility and devotion is strict to that of their own institution (Celeste 4). Not only do international students struggle to pay their unregulated tuition fees, they also do not receive the support, neither emotional, nor financial, in order to successfully complete their studies (Celeste 9). They face