

TUITION FEE INCREASE

In September 2024, the College of New Caledonia's Board of Governors approved yet another round of tuition increases, effective August 1, 2025. These include:

- A 2% increase for domestic students
- A 4% increase for international students
- An automatic 4% increase for international students again in both 2026 and 2027

These numbers may seem small on paper, but for students already struggling to stay afloat, they make a huge difference.

Let's talk about what this really looks like.

The current tuition fee is **\$1,412.13** for just 3 credits. Add **\$175** for a lab course. With a 4% increase, international students will pay **an extra \$56.49 per course**, bringing the total to **\$1,468.62** in 2025. That's just the beginning — the same 4% increase will be applied again in 2026 and 2027.

- In 2026, tuition would rise to approximately **\$1,527.36**
- In 2027, it would climb again to around **\$1,588.45**

Over just three years, the cost of a single 3-credit course would increase by more than **\$176** — and that's not including lab fees, textbooks, or other expenses.

Now consider that a student working the maximum 24 hours per week at BC's minimum wage of **\$17.85** earns about **\$1,713.60/month** before taxes. After paying for rent, groceries, phone bills, and other essentials, most students are left with barely anything.

Many are forced to share small rooms with two or more people just to afford rent. Some must skip meals, and others push themselves to work long, exhausting hours during semester breaks. It's not uncommon to hear about students going two or

three days without proper sleep — just to make ends meet. This isn't sustainable. This isn't healthy.

And now, the college has added a **\$35 fee** to the tuition installment plan — something that used to be free. What was meant to ease the burden is now being turned into another cost.

It's important to recognize that both domestic and international students are being affected by these decisions. While the percentages may differ, the struggles are shared. We all come to college with the hope of building a better future but rising tuition and added fees make that goal harder to reach for everyone.

This isn't just about tuition. It's about fairness. It's about recognizing the realities students face — and choosing compassion over profit. Now, more than ever, **domestic and international students must come together** and speak up. Our voices are stronger when united.

Let's push for change — together.

Let's call for a freeze on these increases.

Let's make education affordable again.

Let's make our voices heard.

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