



To whom it may concern,

as a representative for the CNCSU and a current student at the College of New Caledonia, I find that it is unfair for students to have an increase in tuition fees as this will only make life for students more difficult than it already is. Knowing that there are members that cannot afford simple things like laundry or the only thing they can eat is rice and noodles every day when it is the only thing they can afford. In the time being a student at CNC as well as being a representative for the students' union there have been many stories that have come to my attention on how hard life can be. With many students telling me how hard it can be living alone and doing their best to go to college. Dealing with fees, bills and more in an economy where things are more expensive year-by-year. As those factors being out of our control how can anyone expect to afford more expensive tuition fees when people are unable to make ends meet or even afford hygiene. Furthermore, students that are using their bands to help them fund for higher education may have to deal with the reality that if they fail a class that for some bands there is a repayment clause, where they need to pay back to the band if failure is consistent. If a nonindigenous student is having difficulties paying for their tuition, then an indigenous student would not be able to pay them back, that will only make it harder for those communities to achieve success. There needs to be more support for students and more financial plans in place to help them. So that students are not suffering with more financial pressure and more communication with institution and band when it comes to tuition and any financial changes taking place is needed.

Where in the long term with higher expenses, this will drive away potential new students and nobody will go to college, when it is seen as a thing only the rich can do when college is meant for everyone to come and learn. It is understood that the college needs to make ends meet as well as when there is a decrease in international students coming in but there needs to be some reconsideration on what to do and how to make life easier for members. Being more considerate to their needs and find different solutions that won't affect students in their efforts in achieving a higher education. We need to find better ways to keep students attending classes and that won't affect the student wallet. Like how there needs to be more government funding to post-secondary institutions or have social programs that can budget student tuition fees, so the payment is only done in parts based on the income and be considered when it comes to students that are on government benefits. This statement is not meant to be alarmist, but to provide insight into what

many students are going through even today and to tell the College of New Caledonia that this decision is not ok and that there are other solutions that they need to consider that will not affect the bottom line for students this harsh. Solutions that can help both students and CNC as we move forward and navigate through these uncertain times. As a representative for the CNCSU I hope that together we can find a solution that can help all our problems and make the future academic years fair for all students.

For more information, please contact:

Kerry Thomas, Upgrading and Access Representative

upgrading@cncsu.ca