

My Statement on the Tuition Increases for August 1st, 2025

“This is not the price of education — this is the price of survival.”

As an international student pursuing an Associate Degree in Psychology, I was told my two-year program would cost me around \$28,242. That number gave me hope, something I could plan around.

But the reality? I spent around **\$30,894.40**, and that's just for tuition and fees. If you include basic CNC Student Housing, my total reached **\$43,518.31**. And that's without counting groceries, a phone bill, winter clothes, and many more expenses.

Now, after budgeting every penny and struggling to make it through, I've been told the fees are going up again by **4% this year for international students** and **2% for Domestic Students**. The College has also already pre-approved tuition increases last year in September 2024 for 2026 and 2027 international students. That means future students won't even get the chance to speak up before the cost of their education is raised.

We are told to "come study in Canada" and invest in our futures. But no one told us the cost of that dream would keep changing after we arrive. International students are already paying double or triple the fees of domestic students and now, even more is being quietly added year after year.

We are students, not ATMs.

We are workers, not scapegoats.

We are people, not just paycheques to balance a budget.

I didn't come here to be buried under debt. I came to learn, contribute, and grow. But every fee hike makes that dream harder. Every dollar I pay is one I earned by working evenings, weekends, and holidays. I wish going to college was as easy as people think it is.

We want change, real change.

Cap Tuition Fees.

Include students in decisions.

And start treating education like a right, not a business.

Sincerely,

Geetanjali

Women Students' Representative

College of New Caledonia Students' Union