

Larry Seymour



The Honourable Paul Martin, MP
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister;

I am an Athabasca University student who lives in Alberta. I have been taking classes toward my BSc. Computers and Information Technology by distance education for 2 years. I am having severe troubles with continuing my goals. My wife also is taking courses at AU (B.A with a Psyc Major), and I work full-time but my finances are seriously strained with increasing costs. This causes us many worries on top of the already stressful life. Between us we can take perhaps one or two courses a year! This must be the twenty year degree schedule.

Some Canadians, due to financial barriers, are not able to access the post-secondary education required for good jobs in Canada. I am writing to encourage your government to take steps in the next Federal budget to correct this situation.

The costs of post-secondary education continue to rise dramatically. Recent statistics from the Council of Alberta University Students show that tuition in Alberta alone has risen 271 percent (this IS accurate sir) since 1991. Canadian students deserve affordable tuition and that can start with your help.

I originally went to NAIT in Edmonton. My tuition costs were approximately 1200.00 a year, this year tuition is 3500.00. If today's young people are our future, what future do we have as Canadians when our future can't afford an education. Either our skilled work force will diminish or 1000's of student loans will end up going unpaid causing further strain on the federal governments budget.

Please respond to this letter and inform me of what specific steps you intend to take and when I may see these steps taken.

Yours truly,

Larry Seymour
c.c.: Athabasca University Student's Union