



Rosario Marchese, MPP/Député
Trinity-Spadina

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NDP TO McGUINTY – BAN TUITION HIKES THROUGH 2007

QUEEN'S PARK - NDP Post-Secondary Education Critic Rosario Marchese introduced a private member's bill that, if passed, would ban tuition fee hikes through 2007.

"No Ontario student should be denied a college or university education because they cannot afford it," Marchese said. "The cost of post-secondary education is already too high. Ontario should ban tuition fee hikes through the 2007 election, then let the people have their say."

The Trinity-Spadina MPP encouraged the McGuinty government to keep its promise to keep tuition affordable and pass his "Tuition Hike Ban" bill.

"Dalton McGuinty promised to fight high tuition fees. He should keep his promise to students and pass my bill. Otherwise, it will be clear he never meant what he said and never intended to keep his promise," Marchese said.

During the election, McGuinty campaigned against sky-high tuition rates, "The Harris-Eves government raised tuition a staggering 45 percent for basic undergraduate programs and allowed tuition to skyrocket in programs such as medicine, law and engineering. We will not let this continue," he said. Now, however, the McGuinty says that rates will continue to rise after the freeze is lifted next year.

The Canadian Federation of Students is calling on all MPPs to support Marchese's Bill. Jesse Greener with the Canadian Federation of Students says fees are already too high and rising debts are crippling students financially. The province can extend the freeze using extra money it will receive under federal NDP budget deal.

"This additional money was intended to ensure that tuition fees could be frozen or reduced across Canada. If adopted, Mr. Marchese's bill will help to ensure that the federal money goes where it was intended," said Greener.

"To build a strong Ontario, we need to keep tuition affordable so more students can get a college or university education. Raising tuition will drive students out, cheat them of opportunities and weaken our province," Marchese said. "That's why we need to ban tuition hikes through 2007."