



The Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

I am writing on behalf of the Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) that works to improve the status of women and to promote human rights, public education, social justice and peace in Ontario, Canada and abroad.

We commend the Government of Ontario for its recent action, as part of the responses to COVID-19, in placing a six-month interest-free moratorium on the repayment of Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) for all individuals currently in the process of repaying these loans.

We know these are troubling times, but they are particularly troubling for students who may have been counting on summer jobs or their first job placement after graduation. We know that those opportunities are likely not going to be there.

We urge you to keep Canadian students in mind when you are planning your next wave of strategic planning.

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Charitable Trust has been working with Canadian students since 1976. The CFUW Clubs across Ontario And Canada work towards supporting girls and women in their education goals. Between the CFUW Charitable Trust and the Canadian Clubs we issue about **one million dollars** every year to support fellowships and scholarships. We know how great the need is and we know how important education is for the future of all of us. Education is one of the primary mandates of CFUW and we are proud that we have been such a significant contributor to the future of Ontario.

Please continue to remember Ontario's students in your planning. Consider increasing scholarship money, consider increased deferrals of student loans, and consider additional supports to our educational institutions – all of which will be under serious pressure because of this unprecedented situation.

We have always seen ourselves as partners, important ones, in the support of the future of our country – the education of Ontario's women and girls. We will continue to offer financial support and genuine encouragement. We ask that you continue to see how you can augment your assistance to students and educational institutions.

Thank you for your consideration to date and we will look forward to future developments.

Sincerely

Sandra Thomson
President, CFUW Ontario Council
president.cfuwontario@gmail.com
www.cfuwontcouncil.org

cc.

Hon. Ross Romano, Minister of Colleges and Universities
Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance

