



society of graduate & professional students
CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS LOCAL 27

For immediate release

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Queen's grad & professional students' message reaches Ottawa

Ottawa—Representatives from the Society of Graduate & Professional Students (SGPS) at Queen's University will be in Ottawa this week meeting with Members of Parliament and Senators to call for a high-quality and accessible system of post-secondary education in Ontario and across the country.

"Post-secondary education is in crisis, and students are being asked to compensate for marked cuts to federal transfers to the provinces" said Anne-Marie Grondin, VP Campaigns & Community Affairs of the SGPS. "We are asking the federal government to take concrete action to ensure better access to high-quality post-secondary education for students across Canada."

Students are in Ottawa as part of the Canadian Federation of Students' lobby week. Representatives of the SGPS will be meeting with Members of Parliament and Senators from Ontario including Kingston & the Island's own MP, Mr. Ted Hsu, Ms. Susan Truppe of London North Centre, and the Honourable Mr. Mauril Bélanger from Ottawa-Vanier.

On Monday October 24, the Canadian Federation of Students released a policy paper entitled *Public Education for the Public Good, a national vision for Canada's Post-Secondary Education System*. The policy paper contains five recommendations, the centerpiece being a post-secondary education act that sets out a national vision for post-secondary education.

"Students at Queen's and across Ontario are paying higher fees and taking on more education-related debt than any previous generation, while, nationally, student debt is set to hit \$15 billion by January 2013, the legislative ceiling for government-issued student loans" added Grondin. "Students are calling on the federal government to take meaningful steps to reduce tuition fees and eliminate student debt."

Public Education for the Public Good is available for download at www.cfs-fcee.ca.

The SGPS represents over 4,000 students at Queen's and is united with more than 600,000 students across Canada as a member of the Canadian Federation of Students.

For more information, please contact:

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