



Category:	Federal-Provincial Relations
Topic:	Federal Funding Distribution
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Whereas:

The Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations (ANSSA) believes that funding for education should come in the form of a dedicated transfer from the federal government. *ANSSA further believes that the dollar amount of this transfer should be representative of the number of students studying within the province.*

The federal government of Canada traditionally distributes funding to the provinces for education on a per capita basis. This occurs both in the cases of unrestricted funding, such as the Canada Social Transfer (CST), and money dedicated for specific post-secondary programs, such as the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Program (CMSF).

ANSSA believes this to be problematic in that it examines only the overall population of each province, and does not provide consideration for the participation rates, and overall number of post-secondary students, of a given province. Furthermore, it penalizes provinces that are net-importers of students.

The province of Nova Scotia traditionally has a relatively high participation rate in post-secondary education, despite its small population.¹ Additionally, the province of Nova Scotia is the second highest net-importer of students amongst the ten provinces, and has the greatest percentage per capita of out-of-province students studying at its institutions.² A shift to per-student funding would mean an extra 1 to 1.5% share of federal funds annually for Nova Scotia. ANSSA believes that the federal government must begin to recognize the reality of our post-secondary demographics, and provide financial assistance to those provinces who are educating the greatest number of students.

ANSSA also believes that the post-secondary transfer should be provided to provinces in the form of a dedicated fund, much like the Canada Health Transfer. Currently, post-secondary education is funded through monies provided in the Canada Social Transfer, which are unrestricted. This arrangement makes post-secondary funding less transparent and ultimately less accountable to students.

Therefore, ANSSA:

1. *Resolves* that federal funding for post-secondary education to be disbursed to the provinces on a per-student basis, not a per capita basis.

¹ The Price of Knowledge 2004: Access and Student Finance in Canada. Montreal: Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation. 2004. pp.50-1.

² Ibid. p.78.

2. *Supports* a federal dedicated post-secondary education transfer separate from the Canada Social Transfer, as a necessary step to ensure that all federal funds can be disbursed on a per-student basis.