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**Faculty Group At
Queen's 'encouraged' by
Rae Report**

The Queen's University Faculty Association is encouraged by the recommendations in Bob Rae's report on post-secondary education in Ontario, released earlier this month. Our members - 1,200 faculty, librarians, archivists and sessional faculty - have been coping for years with the effects of underfunding in their classrooms, libraries and laboratories.

We welcome Mr. Rae's call for a substantial increase in provincial funding, with multi-year planning. This will bring Ontario into line with government spending per student in the other provinces and across North America. Hiring additional professors will improve the classroom experience for students and allow our faculty to contribute to knowledge and innovation with their research. Doubling the number of graduate students in Ontario universities would build on a particular strength at Queen's, enabling us to attract and retain top students and train future professors.

We're concerned about the report's recommendation to allow tuition fees to be set locally by each institution, albeit within a set of regulations established by the new Council of Higher Education and not until a revamped student grant and loan system is in place. Ontario is enshrining a system in which students and their families bear a substantial portion of the costs of a university education. We're concerned that students are choosing programs and making decisions about pursuing graduate studies not based on interest and intellectual ability but on their ability to pay and carry debt.

The report recommends establishing an Ontario Research Council to coordinate research priorities and allocate funding. We hope that funding for basic research won't be neglected in the pursuit of commercialization. Research in the social sciences and humanities has also tended to lose out to other disciplines.

Mr. Rae engaged Ontarians in a serious discussion about the quality and accessibility of our colleges and universities and how we should fund higher education. We hope the province will follow through on his call to reinvest in post-secondary education.

**Constance Adamson
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