



OFFICIAL MEMBERS/  
MEMBRES OFFICIELS :

Canadian Association of  
University Teachers /  
Association canadienne des  
professeures et professeurs  
d'université

The Canadian Bar Association/  
L'Association du Barreau  
canadien

Canadian Dental Association/  
L'Association dentaire  
canadienne

Canadian Federation of  
Students/Fédération canadienne  
des étudiantes et étudiants

Canadian Medical  
Association/Association  
médicale canadienne

Canadian Nurses Association/  
Association des infirmières et  
infirmiers du Canada

Canadian Pharmacists  
Association/Association  
des pharmaciens du Canada

Canadian Physiotherapy  
Association/Association  
canadienne de physiothérapie

Canadian Veterinary  
Medical Association/  
L'Association canadienne  
des médecins vétérinaires

OBSERVER/OBSERVATEUR:

Canadian Council of  
Professional Engineers /  
Conseil canadien  
des ingénieurs

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Ottawa, February 23, 2005

Members of the National Professional Association Coalition on Tuition (NPACT) are disappointed that the 2005 budget does not include any significant new funding or initiatives relating to post secondary education. Tuition fees in professional programs remain among the highest compared to other programs, in some cases \$16 000 per year or more.

"Members of NPACT are very concerned that high tuition fees in professional programs limit access to the affluent, and that those from lesser means who do attend are having to amass mortgage-sized personal debt to do so," says NPACT Chair and Scarborough-based physician Dr. William Easton.

"NPACT believes that the federal government has several key roles to play in post secondary education if Canada is to reap its full economic and social benefits. For one, we believe it needs to increase and target transfer funding for post secondary education, to help alleviate some of pressures that are driving tuition fee increases. It also needs to provide more grants and debt reduction strategies for students and new graduates, to help reduce the potential negative influence of debt on *what* and *where* graduates practice. These have implications for the delivery of services to the Canadian public. Third, we would have liked to see the federal government place as a priority new research devoted specifically to the impacts of high professional program tuition fees and student debt."

"We will continue to press the federal government to meet these goals, for the benefit of all Canadians," he concluded.

For further information, please contact:

Louise Marcus  
(613) 731-8610, ext. 2239  
Or 1-800-663-7336