



January 31, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

McMaster Students Union calls on the province to restore crucial maintenance funding

McMaster University occupies an area of approximately 300 acres, having moved to its current Hamilton location in 1930. Several of McMaster's most iconic buildings, constructed at that time, are still in use today. Almost all academic buildings were constructed during the 20th century. As the campus ages, infrastructure is in constant need of maintenance.

Adequately funding the continual maintenance of McMaster's campus has not been maintained by the institution. Deferring maintenance, either through planned or unplanned delays, has simply compounded the growing costs into an uncertain economic future.

McMaster has a backlog of an estimated \$150 million in deferred maintenance, of which \$50 million is considered critical and by definition should be repaired within a year. This will not happen given the little funding allocated to prevention and repair.

"The McMaster Students Union calls on the provincial government to increase its annual deferred maintenance funding to McMaster University," said Huzaifa Saeed, Vice President (Education) of the McMaster Students Union. "The government must increase their contribution to the recommended amount of 1.5% of Total Asset Value - the value of buildings within the University - which equals approx \$25 million annually."

The provincial government has done little help McMaster University in this regard since 2007/2008, when one-time funding in the amount of \$9.16 million from the Campus Renewal Program (CRP) and \$13.5 million from the University Campus Renewal Fund (UCRF) temporarily off-set the growing backlog of deferred maintenance.

Funding for a select few new builds tends to trump the less visible, yet extremely important repair and maintenance work of the majority of learning facilities at McMaster University. Without urgently needed investment in the existing classrooms of McMaster, students will remain concerned that academic buildings will continue their slide into decay. Relative to major Canadian institutions, McMaster has one of the lowest funding allocations for deferred maintenance, resulting in a detrimental impact on both the academic environment and the student experience on campus.

For more information, please contact:

Huzaifa Saeed
Vice President (Education)
McMaster Students Union
905-525-9140 ext. 24017
vped@msu.mcmaster.ca