20.9%. That's how high the rate of student unemployment was this past summer. This isn't a surprise to many of the students who read this column, but we were still able to find one. Evidently, checking out and even doing more is the fact that the rate on average, post-secondary students depend on summer employment to cover more than 40% of their total cost of education (text, food, academic materials, tuition, etc.).

By the way, every dollar you put per-week over $50, claw back on the amount of OSSA you can recover. Effectively, you must choose between meaningful employment during the year, or receiving your "low-interest" government loan. I think that is a real lack in the truth. What we have is a crisis. Involved, dedicated students are being forced out of our colleges and universities due to record high student unemployment rates, literally the highest rates ever, currently set at twice the national average.

Numbers make this coverage easy to conceptualize, yet statistics cloud the nation's view of thousands of students now facing the daunting task of affording post-secondary education. It is easier to conceptualize, yet statistics cloud the nation's view of thousands of students now facing the daunting task of affording post-secondary education. By the way, every dollar you put into summer employment to cover the cost of tuition must be covered either by student job market. What happened instead was that due to a shrinking economy and a growing rate of student unemployment, those who are currently struggling with the cost of affording post-secondary, whilst in the Liberal caucus. Involved, dedicated students are now facing the daunting task of affording post-secondary education. That's why I am working on your behalf to ensure the Conservatives, Liberal, NDP and Green keep the nation's eye on Parliament Hill with the Canadian Alliance of Students Associations (CASA).

First, we had a debate about the issue of student employment and had the opportunity of the House of Commons during a time when Question Period was being carefully scrutinized due to the possibility of a snap election, not to mention the win in Afghanistan. All eyes were on Parliament Hill the day our question was asked. Second, Mr. Trudeau is in the same social pool placed MPs to assume a leadership role in the future. In addition, he is a powerful voice in Ottawa and across the country. His interest in student unemployment and youth unemployment is invaluable to our lobbying goals.

Facts or Fiction? Reading beyond the headlines

Last week, our student-founded not-for-profit organization, the Student Alliance of Students Associations (CASA), received an invitation from the Liberal Party of Canada to discuss student unemployment with MP Justin Trudeau (Papineau). At this meeting, two actions on the part of CASA Local 555 Unit 1 short-term solutions to the issue of student unemployment. We suggested eliminating the clamp-back on pre-study work, increase the amount a student can receive through the Canada Student Loans program. Mr. Trudeau pledged to ask a question during Question Period on our behalf, in addition to pushing the issue of student unemployment in the Liberal caucus.

Both of these events were incredibly valuable for the following reasons:
- First, a debate about student unemployment and had the opportunity of the House of Commons during a time when Question Period was being carefully scrutinized due to the possibility of a snap election, not to mention the win in Afghanistan. All eyes were on Parliament Hill the day our question was asked. Second, Mr. Trudeau is in the same social pool placed MPs to assume a leadership role in the future. In addition, he is a powerful voice in Ottawa and across the country. His interest in student unemployment and youth unemployment is invaluable to our lobbying goals.
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