

School tuition hikes eclipse inflation rate again: Statscan

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Canadian undergrads are paying way more than the inflation rate in tuition hikes this year.

Statistics Canada reports full-time students paid an average of 4.3 per cent more in tuition this fall than they did last year, when tuitions rose four per cent.

Inflation was 2.7 per cent between July 2010 and July 2011.

Statscan says undergraduate students are paying an average of \$5,366 in tuition fees in 2011-12, up from \$5,146 a year ago.

Tuition fees rose in all but one province, Newfoundland and Labrador, where they have been frozen since 2003-04.

Increases ranged from 1.4 per cent in Manitoba to 5.1 in Ontario.

New Brunswick ended three years of frozen tuition fees with a 3.6 per cent increase, while tuitions in Nova Scotia rose 4.3 after three years of declines.

On average, undergraduate students in Ontario paid the highest fees in Canada, at \$6,640, followed by students in New Brunswick who paid \$5,853.

Undergrads in Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador continued to have the lowest average fees, \$2,519 and \$2,649 respectively.

Graduate students paid an average of \$5,599 in tuition fees for the 2011-12 academic year, up 3.7 per cent.

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