

**Lack of summer work may hamper future education: Survey**  
**The Kingston Whig Standard**  
**Posted By QMI Agency**  
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TORONTO - A new survey of Canadian university students found that nearly one third of respondents were only able to find part-time work last summer, working fewer than 20 hours a week and saving far less than they needed for tuition.

The study, titled Canadian Student Survey: Summer Work and Paying for Post-Secondary Education, found that students from families with lower socio-economic status were slightly more likely to be among the underemployed who reported earning and saving less than they had hoped.

"If costs were to rise, most students reported that they would likely redouble their efforts to work more and borrow more," the report says.

"However, some students, particularly those from the lowest socio-economic backgrounds, may not be able to do so."

Arati Sharma, national director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, said students are "clearly worried about making ends meet, largely due to historically low levels of student unemployment during the past summer and through the current school year."

"We are particularly concerned about how cash constraints might affect students from lower-income backgrounds," Sharma said.

The report also said money problems can affect whether students finish their degrees - students from low-income backgrounds reported they were more likely to either leave full-time studies for lower-cost, part-time options or leave post-secondary education all together if costs increased.

Students from across the country will meet with federal politicians of all parties this week to discuss the findings and will present a plan to reform the Canada Student Loans Program, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations said in a release.

The alliance's study was conducted online in November and includes responses from 18,764 undergraduate students from 19 universities across the country.