



CANADIAN ALLIANCE OF STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS ALLIANCE CANADIENNE DES ASSOCIATIONS ÉTUDIANTES

Students Troubled as Western University Raises Licensing Fees

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Students across Canada are upset that Western University and the University of Toronto have signed a secretive side-deal with Access Copyright to make students pay more for floppy-disk era content delivery.

“More innovative institutions have clearly expressed that Access Copyright no longer represents good value for money,” said Zachary Dayler, National Director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. “This agreement will increase the cost of academic materials, creating additional barriers to learning.”

Access Copyright sells licenses to educational institutions to print copies of copyrighted works. As direct-with-publisher licensing and digital use becomes the norm, Access Copyright offers less and less.

The agreement struck increases the Access Copyright fee by approximately 850%. Unlike most other schools in Canada, which pay for Access Copyright through general expenses, Western University and the University of Toronto will immediately pass these fees directly on to students.

“Other leading universities have pulled out of Access Copyright,” said Patrick Searle, Vice-President University Affairs at the Western University Students’ Council. “Western has chosen to minimize the risk of litigation, and students are left to foot the bill.”

“Canada’s students do not stand behind the actions of these institutions,” said Dayler. “This sets back the progress made on ensuring students pay their fair share. We do not accept this decision and we will be fighting it any chance we get.”

- 30 -

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations represents 315,000 students at 27 member associations across Canada. CASA advocates for a Canadian Post-Secondary Education system that is accessible, affordable, and of a high quality.

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