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FILE PHOTO

Day of (In)Action

No tuition fees protest organized for Lakehead students

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The Lakehead University community is approaching the final weeks of classes and no Day of Action has been organized to protest rising tuition fees.

The annual Day of Action to reduce tuition fees provides students with pertinent information that brings the severity of surrounding issues to light and allows them an opportunity to demon-

strate their disapproval.

"The Day of Action differs each year," explained LUSU President Emma Brightwell. "If it is a National Day of Action, students all across Canada protest on the same day."

As there was no National Day of Action this year, the duty of organising tuition protests fell to the individual student unions across Canada.

Former Campaigns Commissioner David Cardiff had planned to designate the entirety of last month as a "March to lower tuition

fees."

"I think it's very important for students to be involved in things like this!" exclaimed Cardiff. "If we follow the general [trend] of tuition, university is [likely] to be a lot more expensive and a lot less affordable for our children."

"It would be sad to see the privatisation of education," he added. Unfortunately, plans fell through after Cardiff resigned in the second week of March, according to Brightwell.

Ontario universities were also

running behind as a result of the recent Ontario Liberal leadership race. "The universities could not plan their budget for the following year because they had not yet received their budget support from the government," explained Brightwell. "Once the university has received their funding from the government, the university will be able to allocate their money."

Brightwell added that students enrolled in a general undergraduate degree can probably expect an increase of around 4 percent.

While students cannot physically protest, Brightwell encourages any who desire to write letters to the Lakehead President and Board of Governors, and to the Government of Ontario and Canada, in regards to the amount of debt they carry and the importance of allocating money towards accessible education. She also believes that an online campaign would prove effective, and will mention the idea to next year's Campaigns Commissioner.

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