

For Immediate Release:  
September 13, 2023

## **Nova Scotia Students Oppose Minister’s Remarks on International Students and the Housing Crisis**

KJIPUKTUK/HALIFAX - The Canadian Federation of Students-Nova Scotia strongly opposes Advanced Education Minister Brian Wong’s [recent statement](#) that international students need to take responsibility for finding housing in the current housing crisis. These remarks follow federal Housing Minister Sean Fraser’s recent statement that the government may consider capping the number of international students to address the housing crisis. Blaming international students for our current crisis distracts from addressing the underlying systemic issues.

CFS International Student Representative Damanpreet Singh says, “International students bring so much to our communities and campuses, yet our current post-secondary education system relies on exploiting these students for high fees to keep universities afloat. To place responsibility for the housing crisis on international students is unacceptable and raises concerns of xenophobia.”

In Nova Scotia, international students pay an average of 2.5 times more than domestic students and deregulated international tuition has led to universities raising fees for international students by 10-25% each year, in some cases. At the same time, the average price of renting a one-bedroom apartment in Halifax increased 8.9% in the past year, now at \$1,987 per month. The housing crisis affects international students disproportionately, as many have insufficient information on how to navigate the system or how to assert their tenant rights with landlords.

CFS-NS Chair Aideen Reynolds adds, “International students are not to blame for the housing crisis and it is the responsibility of the government and universities, not international students, to ensure there is adequate affordable housing for everyone in the province.”

CFS-NS urges the provincial government to take responsibility for the housing crisis by increasing affordable housing options for students, implementing permanent rent control, and reinstating the ban on renovictions.

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*The Canadian Federation of Students is the oldest and largest national student organization in Canada, representing over 530,000 college, undergraduate and graduate students across the country.*

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