



CUPE 2424  
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## Letter of Concern: Carleton University Finances

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In response to Carleton University's recent updates on the 2025–26 Operating Budget, CUPE 2424 urges our institution's decision makers to prioritize Carleton University's core mandate by resisting privatization efforts and austerity measures that undermine our institution's commitment to service excellence and education for students.

We recognize the challenges facing Ontario universities, including underfunding, but we believe transparency and fairness in budget decisions are crucial to the University's integrity.

Every budget is a choice; how money is allocated—and how those decisions are made and communicated — directly impacts our work and community.

Carleton has launched the Mission Sustainability Framework and Task Force to oversee four initiatives:

- Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security ([MCURES](#)) Efficiency and Accountability Fund (EAF) [Third-Party Review](#)
- Recommendations for Service Level Efficiencies and Rationalization
- Position Review Committee
- Cross-functional International Enrolment Strategy Working Group

CUPE 2424 calls on the University to provide consistent, standardized, plain language communications on the Mission Sustainability Framework and Task Force, including who is involved, the scope of work, timelines, objectives, outcomes, implementation plans, and how the University will incorporate community consultation.

CUPE 2424 has initiated research into the University's finances and has identified initial concerns regarding:

- A lack of clarity around what is included/excluded in the operating budget,
- The positioning of staffing costs, particularly those related to Bill 124, to justify the current financial situation,
- Carleton's plans to make organizational decisions without clearly communicating, in advance, the direction and process to the community, and
- The impact of the Efficiency and Accountability Fund (EAF) Third-Party Review, a process initiated by the Provincial Government that risks further privatizing public post-secondary education, under the guise of "efficiency."

CUPE 2424 requests inclusion on the Mission Sustainability Framework and Task Force to support transparency and equity in decision-making that affects our members.

Respectfully,  
CUPE 2424 Executive Board