



FEDERATION OF CANADIAN SECONDARY STUDENTS
FÉDÉRATION DES ÉLÈVES DU SECONDAIRE AU CANADA

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STUDENT AND PARENT PRIMER ON MEMBERSHIP DUES: 2023–2024

We want to be clear and transparent with both students as prospective Members of the Federation and their parents on why the FCSS-FESC charges Membership Dues for involvement and the supports available to ensure that all students can participate.

About the FCSS-FESC

The FCSS-FESC is the Federation of Canadian Secondary Students / Fédération des élèves du secondaire au Canada, a national youth-led charity that aims to help secondary students across Canada with personal and professional development including mental health and skills training while also being an advocate for better public education across Canada.

Why We Ask for Membership Dues

Due to ongoing cost pressures related to the delivery of our programs and services to high school students across Canada, we request the support of our student volunteers (Members) to help fund the important work that the FCSS-FESC does. Membership Dues are not spent on any bonuses, salaries, or other compensation and are used to help deliver programs to youth.

Amount of Membership Dues

For the 2023–2024 school year, Membership Dues are set at \$20.00 per Member per year (\$10.00 per semester). All Members, including the Executive Director and all volunteers, are asked to submit payment of Membership Dues at the start of each term.

Approval Process

Membership Dues are approved each year by the Members of the FCSS-FESC at our Annual General Meeting (AGM). At the meeting on June 3, 2023, the Members passed a motion to set Membership Dues for 2023–2024 at \$20.00 per year with 100% in favour. As such, the motion was carried.

Charitable Tax Receipts

The FCSS-FESC is a registered charity in Canada with the Canada Revenue Agency (registration number 818506784RR0001). As such, we are able to issue official donation receipts that qualify for charitable tax credits for all Membership Dues. Donation receipts can either be issued in the name of the Member (student) or their parent/guardian to qualify for a reduction in taxes.

Benefits

Members of the FCSS-FESC have access to exclusive benefits, including a global alumni network that includes students at world-renowned universities such as the University of Oxford, Stanford University, University of Pennsylvania, New York University, Duke University, McGill University, University of Toronto, and University of British Columbia that can offer advice, support, and mentorship. Members also have access to LifeWorks, FCSS-FESC's wellness program which includes 24/7 access to licensed counsellors, therapists, and psychologists for a wide range of issues. Access to career coaching, lawyers, and financial planners is also available.

Similar Applications

Other organisations also charge Membership Dues to support programmes and create value for Members. Examples include the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO) which charges school boards and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) which charges individual members.

Financial Assistance

The individual financial situation of a prospective Member or their family will never be a barrier to becoming involved with the FCSS-FESC. In cases where a student wishes to become a Member but is unable to pay the Membership Dues, they can request a waiver to exempt them from payment through a simple process. Please see Policy 5007 on the intranet for more information.

Payment

Payment of Membership Dues can be submitted in one of three ways:

- Credit card or Visa debit: online through CanadaHelps (instant donation receipt by email)
- Cheque: mailed to our head office (donation receipt sent by email within 24 days)
- Cash: in-person at the Fall Members' Meeting (donation receipt provided in person)

Additional Questions

We would be happy to answer any additional concerns or questions you may have. Please contact us via email: hello-bonjour@fcss-fesc.ca or by phone: +1 (289) 408-8600.