



Press release
For immediate dissemination

Before the candidates in the federal elections, CAPS and the CNCS-FEUQ unveil the impacts of the taxation of postdoctoral grants.

Montreal, April 5, 2011 – The *Conseil national des cycles supérieurs de la Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec* (CNCS-FEUQ) and the Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Scholars (CAPS) are taking advantage of the presence of the candidates in the federal elections to outline the financial situation of postdoctoral students, who have been hard hit by the taxation of their grants. “The decisions made by the Harper government have serious consequences and will lead some students to go and do their research in other countries,” said Angela M. Crawley, president of CAPS.

In fact, in the 2010 federal budget, the Harper government decided that all postdoctoral grants will henceforth be considered taxable income. “The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) decided to apply the measure in a retroactive manner to 2006, obliging post-doctorates to reimburse many thousands of dollars they no longer have,” noted Laurent Viau, president of the CNCS-FEUQ. Post-doctorates as well as student associations ask the political parties that the taxation of grants only be applicable to postdoctoral grants awarded after the budget of March 2010.

CAPS and the CNCS-FEUQ have taken advantage of this opportunity to present the case of a student that was targeted by the CRA. “They attracted me to do a post-doctorate at McGill University by telling me that my grant would be tax free, and now they tell me that not only will my grant be taxed this year, but also for 2009! Conditions are really not very advantageous and I now envisage pursuing my research outside the country,” deplored Mary Beth Klinger, post-doctorate at the anesthesia research unit at McGill University.

While other countries are massively investing in research and innovation, Canada is degrading its research environment by this type of decision that adversely affects our scientific elite. The federal budget that was tabled on March 22, and it in no way settled the situation of post-doctorates. We should note that the Canada Revenue Agency can go back five years on the tax files of citizens and thus, that the retroactive taxation cases will be able to be observed up until 2014. “We feel that there is an urgency in acting to resolve the problem in a definitive way, and we hope to take advantage of the context of the general elections to summon all the political parties to publicly support the legitimate demand of post-doctorates,” concluded Ms. Crawley and Mr. Viau.

For more than twenty years, the FEUQ has been representing Quebec university students. With 15 member associations and more than 125,000 members, the FEUQ is the largest youth group in Quebec. Within the Federation, the CNCS-FEUQ represents more than 30,000 graduate students from Quebec universities.
www.feug.qc.ca

CAPS seeks to provide a means of expression for the needs and concerns of postdoctoral scholars at the national, provincial and local levels. CAPS thus makes the link between postdoctoral associations within universities, or

among individuals who do not have a local association. CAPS also works to promote best practices concerning the training and treatment of post-doctorates throughout Canada.

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