

FUNDING

the problem

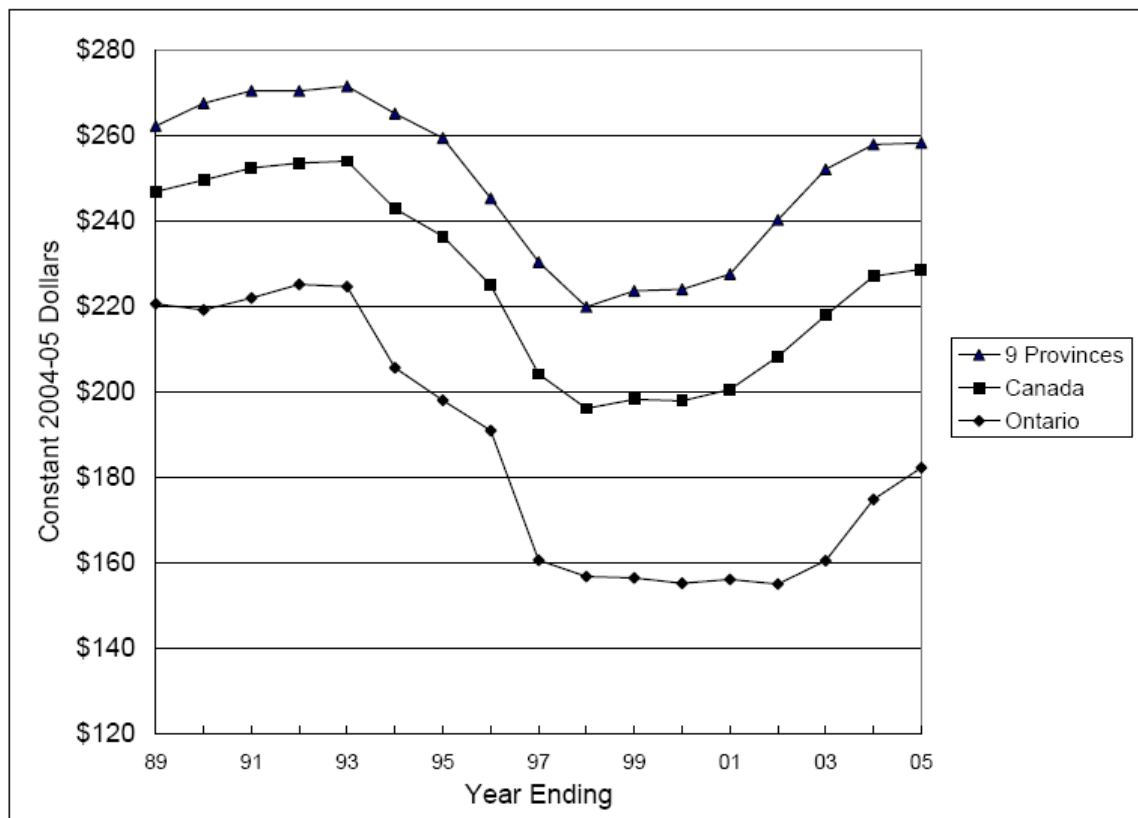
Ontario lags far behind the rest of Canada, North America and the rest of the world in funding its universities. Inadequate government operating grants mean universities are forced to shift the burden of financing education onto students. It also means that the quality of the educational experience on campuses across Ontario is in decline. This funding gap has only been strained by a tremendous increase in enrolment in the past five years. As a result, tuition fees have spiraled out of control, student to faculty ratios have ballooned and deferred maintenance bills have piled up.

The issue is simple. Ontario's universities do not have enough public funds.

PUBLIC FUNDING FOR ONTARIO'S UNIVERSITIES IS THE LOWEST AMONG ALL CANADIAN PROVINCES

Per student funding in Ontario is the lowest among all the provinces, despite its position as one of the wealthiest members of the confederation. Ontario sits at **tenth of ten in per capita funding to universities**, as demonstrated by the following graph:

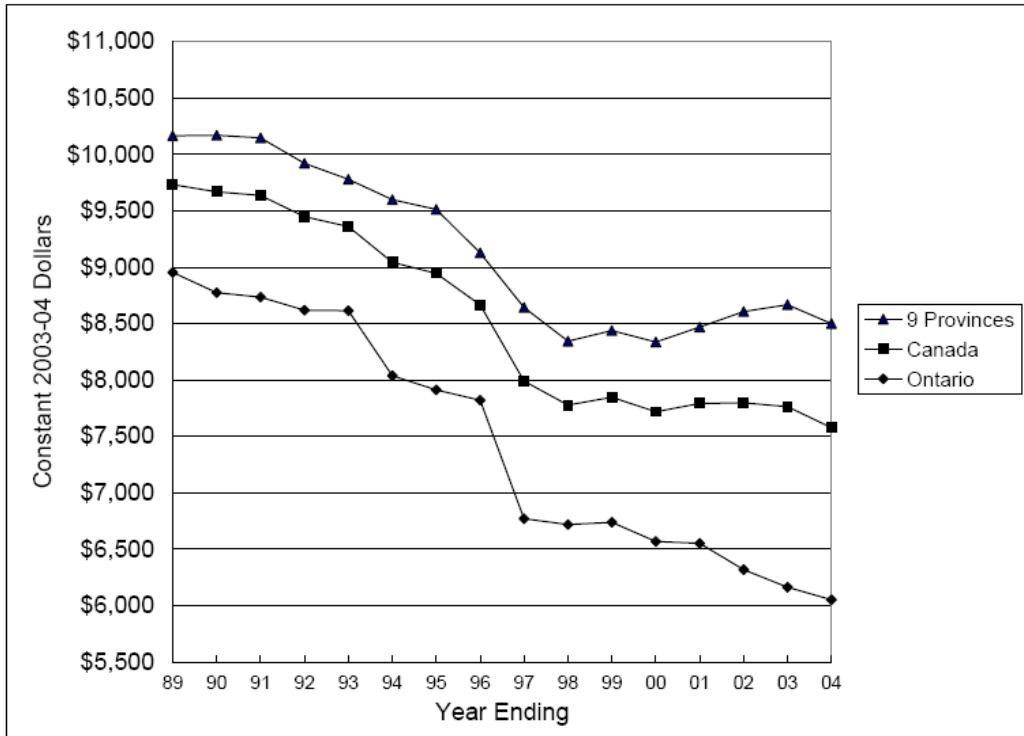
PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITY OPERATING GRANTS PER CAPITA, PROVINCIAL COMPARISON
1988-89 TO 2004-05



Council of Ontario Universities, Resource Document, 2007

Ontario also ranks **ninth of all ten provinces** in per student funding to universities:

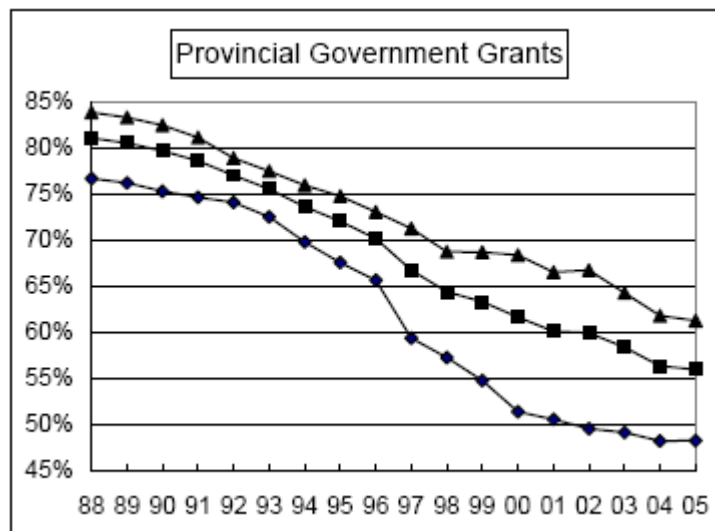
**PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITY OPERATING GRANTS PER FTE ENROLMENT, PROVINCIAL COMPARISON
1988-89 TO 2003-04**



Council of Ontario Universities, Resource Document, 2007

Ontario's under-investment in higher education has also created a disparity in the proportion of public funding to higher education when compared to the other provinces. This can be seen in the following graph:

**PERCENT OF UNIVERSITY OPERATING INCOME BY SOURCE OF INCOME, PROVINCIAL COMPARISON,
1987-88 TO 2004-05**



Council of Ontario Universities, Resource Document, 2007

The result

A decade of cuts and under-funding has left universities with decaying facilities, over-crowded classrooms and ill-equipped laboratories. Students now have less access to fewer staff, faculty and library books. The university system will face even further strain in the years to come with enrolment at record levels and a wave of potential faculty retirements.

Despite increased investment in campus construction, our teaching and learning facilities are under strain. In a recent assessment of campus facilities, 51.4 per cent were classified as “poor condition.” Under-funding has forced Ontario universities to defer maintenance and renewal of facilities and equipment. Studies estimate that the cost of deferred maintenance and adaptation renovations now stands at over \$1.71 billion.

Aside from the physical capacity of universities, the human resource potential of our campuses is also under strain. The student/faculty ratio has increased to 27:1 from 17:1 in the past decade – a ratio significantly higher than any peer jurisdiction. With large-scale professor retirement and rising enrolment expected in this decade, it is estimated that 5 500 new faculty by 2009-10 are required to maintain the quality of instruction at Ontario universities and bring the student-to-faculty ratio down to 22:1.

During this period of decreasing quality and public funding, tuition fees have increased tremendously as students have been told to take a bigger slice of a smaller pie. The average tuition today in Ontario is \$5 381, which represents an increase of 220.2 per cent since 1990/91. Moreover, the increase from 2000-01 to 2007-08 is 35.5 per cent.