

MUNICIPALITY OF CLARINGTON
GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

RESOLUTION #

DATE: April 7, 2025

MOVED BY Mayor Foster

SECONDED BY Councillor

That the following resolution from the Town of Ajax, regarding Impacts of the International Student Program Changes to Local Post Secondary Programs, be endorsed by the Municipality of Clarington:

Whereas the Town of Ajax recognizes the significant contributions of Durham College (DC) to our local economy and community through its diverse range of programs and skilled graduates;

And whereas the recent changes to the International Student Program (ISP) by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) have negatively impacted post-secondary institutions in Ontario, including Durham College, by reducing international student study permits and limiting eligibility for Post-Graduation Work Permits (PGWP) to programs in fields of study identified as having national labour market shortages, irrespective of local labour market needs;

And whereas the Blue Ribbon Panel report commissioned by the provincial government highlighted the need for long-term, sustainable funding for the post-secondary sector, noting that Ontario's colleges are funded at 44% of the national average, with tuition revenue first cut by 10% in 2019 and then frozen for the past six years;

And whereas the financial sustainability challenges faced by Ontario's post-secondary institutions have been exacerbated by significant wage and cost inflation, as well as the growing reliance on international enrolment;

And whereas DC has compiled a short list 34 programs not currently PGWP eligible to the IRCC list of fields of study (ATTACHMENT #1) which provide skilled graduates who are vital to growing our local economy, and in some cases, the College relies on international student enrolment in these programs to create financially viable cohorts for domestic students;

Now Therefore Be it Resolved That:

1. Ajax Council calls on the federal government to add the 34 programs listed in ATTACHMENT #1 and offered at DC to the IRCC list of fields of study; and

2. Ajax Council calls on the provincial government to enact the recommendation in the Blue Ribbon Panel report to provide long term, sustainable funding for the post-secondary sector; and
3. A copy of this resolution be sent to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada Minister Marc Miller, the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities, Regional Municipality of Durham Chair John Henry, and all lower tier Durham Region municipal Councils.