



Dear Members of the Hamilton Post-Secondary Advisory Group,

It is an honour to address you in representation of Redeemer University's student body. I want to particularly thank Minister Tassi for continuing this valuable tradition.

First, I would like to provide the group with some updates on recent developments at Redeemer:

- With a massive **42% tuition cut** for Canadian students in 2019, Redeemer has become made an excellent faith-based, private education a feasible option for students across the country.
- The 2020 incoming class marked the **largest ever**, increasing enrolment with 13.5 per cent.
- The construction of a new **Living and Learning facility** is underway and is expected to be finished before the 2021 fall.
- Ontario legislation has been passed that enables Redeemer to grant **twenty possible new degrees** (including master's) and formally changes Redeemer's name to **Redeemer University**.

In light of the current global COVID-19 pandemic, students are suffering disproportionately from mental health implications. In addition, wide-spread job loss and increased financial instability have severed financial strain on students. As such, Redeemer's Student Senate is in favour of the following federal initiatives to support students in the post-pandemic recovery process:

1. Increased investment in student jobs, paid internships, and entry-level positions.
2. Implementation of a grace period on federal student loans.
3. Increased investment in student support infrastructure, including high-speed internet access.

We believe that equitable treatment of faith-based private institutions is essential to the federal government's mission of inclusion and diversity. As such, we urge that federal initiatives regarding the post-pandemic recovery are applied to all students, colleges, and universities. When distributing post-pandemic recovery funding to the provinces, the federal government should specify the eligibility criteria to include private and faith-based institutions.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Samuel Vandeputte".

Samuel Vandeputte | *Student Senate President*

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