



Trent Durham Student Association

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Preamble:

Student enrolment at Trent Durham is declining, resulting in a decrease in the membership fees we receive. This past year and for the next couple of years, Trent Durham is expected to see a drop in enrolment and thus a reduction in the total fees the TDSA collects. In order to balance the reduction in enrollment, the TDSA is looking to increase the Food bank Levy.

Over the past years, the TDSA has run a food bank and/or a grocery assistance program for its members. This program has been funded by a levy that was first introduced in 2020 and passed at a referendum. Initially when the levy was passed, the TDSA had a food bank but when Covid-19 started it was switched to a grocery assistance program where students were given gift cards to grocery stores. This move, mainly done because of the pandemic, has been popular with the student body and has been continued ever since. All the money collected from this fee goes directly into our grocery assistance program. To learn more about the grocery assistance program, please visit here: <https://www.mytdsa.ca/grocery-assistance-fund.html>.

As per the terms and conditions in the original referendum question, this fee will continue to be voted upon every 3 years. The last time this referendum was voted was in the fall of 2023. This new vote is different as it is for an increase in the fee.

The Fee:

If the referendum passes, the food bank levy will increase from \$0.77/credit to \$0.85/credit. As a result we will continue to be able to offer the grocery assistance t

If the referendum fails, the food bank levy will not be increased with the referendum. As a result, the TDSA will have to reduce the amount of money that goes to the grocery assistance program.