



April 22, 2022

RE: Statement of Support for the Petition Calling on Food Services to Allow Residence Students to Carry Over a Greater Proportion of their Meal Plan Dollars

On behalf of the University of Toronto Students' Union, representing over 38,000 student members, we are writing today to voice our support for a [petition](#) calling for an increase in the amount of meal plan money that Chestnut and New College residents are eligible to carry over to the next academic term. As per the recent policy changes described in the *Chestnut Meal Plan Agreement* and the *New College Residence Code of Conduct (2021-22)*, the maximum amount that students are now allowed to carry over ranges from \$200-500 CAD. Our members have reached out to us to express their concern that this new policy may negatively impact students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

We ask that University Development and Campus Services (UDCS) and their subsidiary, Food Services, allow students to carry over a greater proportion of their meal plan dollars during these unprecedented times. We further request that students and relevant student representatives are given additional opportunities to voice their perspectives during the development of new dining hall policies. While this statement emphasizes the adversities experienced by students residing at Chestnut and New College, it must also be pointed out that students from other independently operated residences have experienced similar issues. In light of these recent developments, the UTSU will be dedicating resources to investigate concerns brought up by students related to dining halls and food security on campus over the next several months. The UTSU remains firm in its commitment to ensuring that all students have equitable access to food that meets their preferences and dietary needs, and continues to advocate, at all levels, for policies that address financial and food insecurity.

Yours in Service,

University of Toronto Students' Union Executive Committee

Resources and Support for Students:

UTSU Food Bank: www.utsu.ca/food-bank/

UTSU Financial Assistance and Emergency Bursaries: www.utsu.ca/financial-assistance/



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