

# the Eyeopener

## Your Ryerson student guide to the Ontario government's Student Choice Initiative (2019)



### **WHAT IS THE STUDENT CHOICE INITIATIVE?**

*On Jan. 17, 2019, the provincial government introduced the Student Choice Initiative (SCI), which gave students the ability to opt out of certain fees that were previously mandatory in their tuition. The initiative will be in place for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years, according to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.*

*If you're wondering what all of this means for you, here's a breakdown of frequently asked questions.*

### **WHAT SERVICES WERE DEEMED "ESSENTIAL"?**

- Athletics and recreation
- Career services
- Student buildings

- Health and counselling
- Academic support
- Student ID cards
- Student achievement and records
- Financial aid offices
- Campus safety programs
- Health and dental plans

## WHAT WAS DEEMED “NON-ESSENTIAL”?

- *The Eyeopener* — up to \$5.65 annually
- **CJRU 1280AM, Ryerson radio** — up to \$3.73 annually
- **Ryerson Students’ Union** — up to \$24.44 annually
- **Membership in the Canadian Federation of Students** — up to \$17.33 annually
- **Ryerson student societies** — fee varies
- **Student Refugee Program** — up to \$4.69 annually
- **Continuing Education Students’ Association of Ryerson** — up to \$7.72 annually (*fee only applies to those in The Chang School for Continuing Education and is not included in final total*)

*For a grand total of \$66.33 per year, 0.7% of what you pay for an average year of tuition*

## WHAT HAPPENS IF I OPT OUT?

You may not be able to access certain services provided by these student groups if you have opted out. Only students who have opted in to *The Eyeopener* may volunteer with us or run for a masthead position.

However, our newspaper and website are still accessible to all students and community members. **Your opt-in is essential to *The Eyeopener*’s ability to report the stories that matter to you.**

## HOW WILL THIS AFFECT ME?

Student press, groups, societies and unions provide a big part of campus life. By supporting these groups, you are helping them provide resources, advocacy, events and more—making for a vibrant and equitable campus life.

## WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

You can check out the We The Students RU (WTSRU) movement for more info on how to help. Learn more by visiting our WTSRU section in the SCI dropdown menu, or on the WTSRU Facebook page.

Before opting out, research whether a student group is right for you. Stay opted in to *The Eyeopener* for campus news and all the latest Student Choice Initiative updates.

## **DID YOU OPT OUT?**

**It's not too late to support us. Here's how you opt back in:**

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**Step 1: Open your [RAMSS](#) account**

**Step 2: Click "[Update Opt Out Selections](#)"**

**Step 3: Leave *The Eyeopener* box unchecked or uncheck the box. Do the same with any group you want to support**

**Step 4: Check the "[Acknowledgement](#)" box and click the "[Submit consent](#)" button below**

*FAQ by Kieona George.*