

UNB Fredericton students spend over \$135,000 on Textbooks

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Fredericton, NB – The UNB Student Union is raising awareness about the high cost of textbooks and additional course resources for UNB Fredericton students. The TextBroke campaign took place from September 12th to 16th and surveyed students about how much they spent on textbooks, where they purchased them and if they were able to afford all their required materials.

“Over 300 students completed the survey and combined they spent over \$135,000 on textbooks this term alone” states, Vice President External, Katie Beers who was the lead for this campaign. Beers continues, “the cost of textbooks interferes with both the affordability of Post-Secondary education and when student cannot afford the textbook, it hinders their academic success.”

The survey presented the following findings:

- Over 150 student said they did not buy 1 or more of their required textbooks.
- 348 students reported that they collectively spent \$135,470.47 on 1297 textbooks.
- Student typically purchase their textbooks from the UNB Bookstore, Amazon or the UNBSU Book Buy and Sell.
- The most expensive price for a single textbook was \$400.
- When asked what strategies students use to compensate for not buying the textbook, the majority said “nothing, just hope for the best.”
- In order to pay for textbooks the majority of students noted that they had to use multiple sources of income such as student loans, part time employment, parents/family, scholarship/bursary and/or personal savings.

The UNBSU will use this data to advocate for the use of alternative and less expensive resources that instructors can use to support their courses.

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