

Autos Careers Classifieds Homes

London Daily Coupons Get Up To 90% Off On Daily Deals Every Single Day - Get Yours Today! Dealfind.com/London

1, 2 and 3 bedroom apts. All-inclusive rent. Underground parking. Close to shopping. www.oidoakproperties.com

Student Loan Debt? We Can Help w/ your Student Loan. Turn Fear in Knowledge CreditSolutions.ca/StudentLoanHelp

Ads by Google

Change student-loan system: researcher

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE: Middle-income families should have more options, Western prof says

By CHIP MARTIN, THE LONDON FREE PRESS

Last Updated: February 11, 2011 9:30am

Government loans should be more widely available to middle-income students to address a shortcoming in the Canadian post-secondary experience, a London researcher suggested Thursday.

Economist Lance Lochner studied the link between family income and attendance at college or university in Canada and the U.S., considering student assistance available in both countries.

"One thing for Canada to think about is offering more loan aid, not contingent on income," said Lochner, an economics professor at the University of Western Ontario and the CIBC Chair in Human Capital and Productivity.

Lochner's study found a stronger link between higher family income in the U.S. and likelihood of attending a post-secondary institution than in Canada.

Other findings:

The U.S. is more generous than Canada in its grants and loans to low-income students, but that hasn't improved attendance among that group.

Tuition fees at public universities in both countries were comparable, although there is greater variation in the U.S.

Canada is more generous than the U.S. toward middle-income families.

Notwithstanding the better treatment middle-income students receive in Canada, Lochner said they would benefit even more if educational loans were more widely available to them.

"The U.S. gives loans regardless of income," he noted from Stanford University in California, where he is on sabbatical leave.

As an economist, Lochner said he prefers to see governments use loans instead of grants because loans get repaid and governments have the tools to ensure that.

He conceded that finding the nature and extent of student assistance in Canadian provinces was difficult, and the study amounts to pioneering work in the field.

The main conclusion was that the likelihood of attending a college or university in the U.S. was tied to income more strongly than in Canada.

Middle-income students in Ontario and B.C. can "finance educational expenses and a meagre lifestyle without much help from their parents," his study found. But in the U.S., they rely on their parents.

"The U.S. is quite generous and effective at targeting financial aid to families at the very bottom of the income distribution compared to Canada," said a four-page brief summarizing the income/attendance research.

Lochner said he has no definitive answer as to why increased help for the lowest income bracket hasn't stimulated greater attendance. But it may be connected to U.S. media reports about sharply higher tuition costs that "may also dissuade lower-income families from considering post-secondary education as an option."

A summary of the study and its conclusions can be found online at economics.uwo.ca/centres/cibc/policybriefs/policybrief1.pdf.

E-mail chip.martin@sunmedia.ca, or follow [ChipatLFP](https://twitter.com/ChipatLFP) on Twitter.

As Advertised in The London Free Press

Events Retail Food & Entertainment Automotive Homes Health Travel Miscellaneous View All Advertisers

Health, Weight, Allergies (Health & Wellbeing:)

INSPIRED HEALTH
By Janette

[View Ad](#)
[Website](#)
[Details](#)
[See All Health & Wellbeing Ads](#)

Beyond Borders Travel (Travel:)



[View Ad](#)
[Website](#)
[Details](#)
[See All Travel Ads](#)

Copyright © 2011 London Free Press All Rights Reserved