

2023 Student Engagement Survey

WEST KOOTENAY AND BOUNDARY REGIONS



2023 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

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SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

About the Respondents

Out of a possible 2,096 students who attended Selkirk College in the Winter 2023 semester, 1,132 students responded to the 2023 Student Engagement Survey for a response rate of 54%. In 2022, the response rate was 51%.

The majority of students who took the survey were:

- on the Castlegar campus (48%)
- between the ages of 22 and 30 (37%)
- studying full-time (86%)
- domestic students (72%)
- working full-time before attending Selkirk (44%)

83% of students said that Selkirk College was their first choice, representing a decrease from 2022 (90%); however, 87% said that if they could start over they would still choose Selkirk for their education.

The most common reasons domestic students chose to attend Selkirk was because Selkirk is close to home (63%), the program/course selection (48%), and the affordable tuition (44%). For international students, the most common reasons for choosing to attend Selkirk was the affordable tuition (55%), program/course selection (53%), and applied learning opportunities (34%).

The Selkirk College website was the top tool used to help domestic students make the decision to attend (38%). For international students, an international agent was the most common tool used in deciding to attend Selkirk (41%).

Aspects of Interaction with Faculty*

91% of students said they often worked hard to meet their instructor's expectations, which is in line with respondents from 2022. 84% of students felt encouraged and supported by their instructor(s) to meet their goals. 73% of students said they had received timely and meaningful feedback on their academic performance. While only 45% of students said they discussed grades or assignments with an instructor, this is an increase of 13% from 2022.

- 91% worked hard to meet instructor's expectations
- 84% felt encouraged and supported by their instructor(s) to meet their goals
- 73% received timely and meaningful feedback from an instructor on their academic performance
- 45% discussed grades or assignments with an instructor

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

***See section heading for domestic/international breakdown**

Aspects of Educational Experience*

0 of the 12 indicators have met the 90% threshold that the Ministry of Education sets for Quality of Education. While students are still overall satisfied with their educational experience, and many indicators came close to the threshold, all 12 indicators fall below the 90% threshold.

The areas that fall below the 90% (below 89%) benchmark and therefore require additional attention are:

- 87% satisfaction with the amount of knowledge that I have gained
- 86% satisfaction with availability of instructors to provide support
- 84% satisfaction with the quality of course content
- 84% satisfaction with quality of instruction
- 84% satisfaction with the clarity of course objectives
- 79% satisfaction with fairness of exams and assessments
- 78% satisfaction with the availability of computers and other technology
- 77% satisfaction with the amount of work required to do well
- 72% satisfaction with the quality of textbooks and other learning resources
- 66% satisfaction with the ability to learn through online/remote/blended
- 65% satisfaction with the access to technical support
- 59% satisfaction with the quality of Indigenous content and perspectives

Aspects of Active and Collaborative Learning*

Students were asked how often they engaged in five areas of active and collaborative learning.

- 77% worked together with classmates on assignments, projects, or coursework
- 74% discussed ideas from class with others outside of class
- 72% asked questions in class or contributed to a class discussion
- 70% connected ideas or concepts from different courses
- 61% expressed their individual point of view during class discussions
- 55% included diverse perspectives in course discussions or assignments

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

***See section heading for domestic/international breakdown**

Challenges to Academic Success*

The most common challenge facing students during this year was balancing family/personal obligations, 44% of students in total. Close behind, at 43%, is the challenge students identified with their mental health. For domestic students, other major challenges were keeping themselves motivated (43%), managing their finances (36%), physical health (32%) and heavy course load (31%). For international students, other major challenges included balancing work obligations (36%), managing their finances (35%), transportation to/from school (33%), keeping themselves motivated (31%).

Tuition Fees*

Student satisfaction with Selkirk's tuition fees has increased slightly from 2022 levels. Students are 65% satisfied with the comparability of Selkirk's tuition fees to other colleges, compared to 64% in 2022, and 70% in 2021. Satisfaction with the affordability of Selkirk's tuition fees increased to 62%, up slightly from 60% in 2022. Affordability of post-secondary education remained constant with 2022 at 50%, but decreased from 2021 (56%).

- 65% satisfaction with comparability of tuition fees to other colleges

- 62% satisfaction with affordability of Selkirk College tuition fees

- 50% satisfaction with affordability of post-secondary education

Personal savings still shows as the main source of funding for students, consistent with 2022 (48%) but a decrease compared to 53% in 2021. The results also show an increase in students using government student grants/loans (30%), part-time employment (29%), and scholarships or bursaries (21%) for their funding. There was a small decrease in students using direct support from family. The percentage of students using full-time employment while studying (6%) increased 2% from 2022. Most other areas remained constant.

In 2023, students were asked if they had experienced any financial stress this year.

- 34% said they can manage their finances

- 32% worry regularly about how to pay tuition fees and living costs

- 14% chose none of the options

- 6% reduced their course load to pay for education and living expenses

- 5% might need to abandon studies at Selkirk College due to financial reasons

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

***See section heading for domestic/international breakdown**

Campus Climate and Environment*

In the Campus Climate and Environment section, students were asked several questions relating to their campus and college experience, including how they felt being a student at Selkirk and how often they had interactions with different groups of people.

The top three statements that students agreed with are:

I am treated with respect at Selkirk (87%)

Selkirk has a strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (81%)

I feel all students at Selkirk College are treated with respect regardless of their background (80%)

Students were asked how often they had discussions with people from the following groups.

From a different social class (58%)

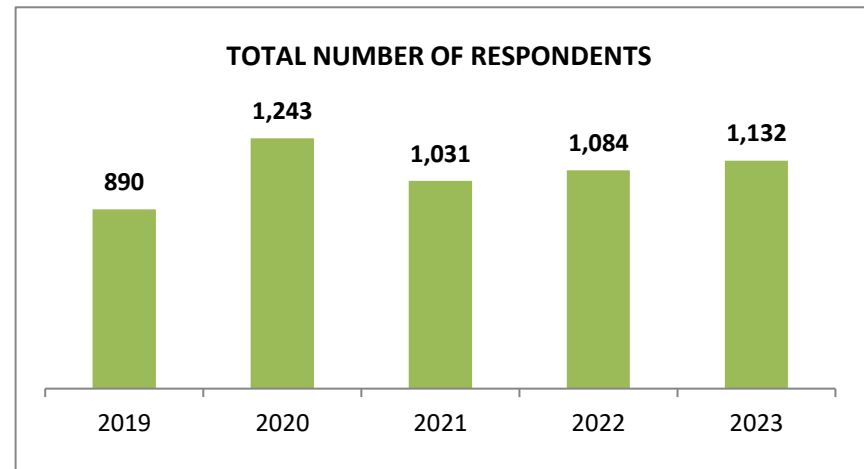
Of a different race or ethnicity than your own (56%)

Political views are different from your own (42%)

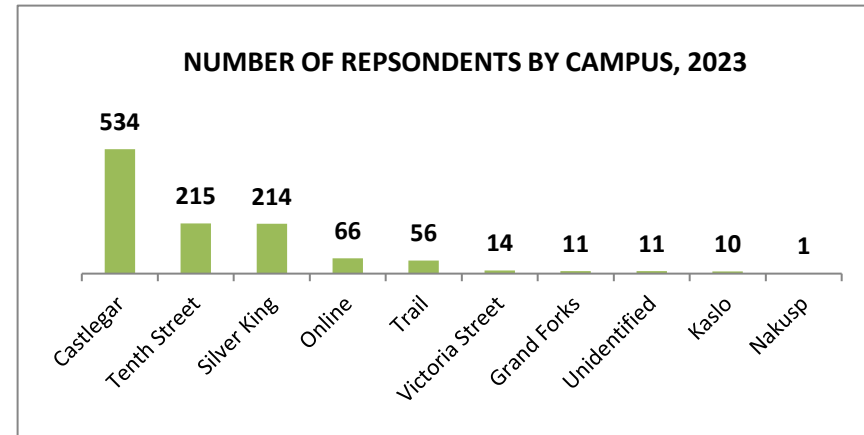
Religious beliefs are different than your own (40%)

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS

Number of Respondents	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
Castlegar	543	743	392	558	534	-24
Tenth Street	136	125	139	161	215	54
Silver King	99	230	210	237	214	-23
Online	34	51	208	105	66	-39
Trail	35	48	37	0	56	56
Victoria Street	9	9	9	9	14	5
Grand Forks	16	12	6	7	11	4
Unidentified	4	2	2	4	11	7
Kaslo	13	21	25	3	10	7
Nakusp	1	2	3	0	1	1
Total	890	1,243	1,031	1,084	1,132	48



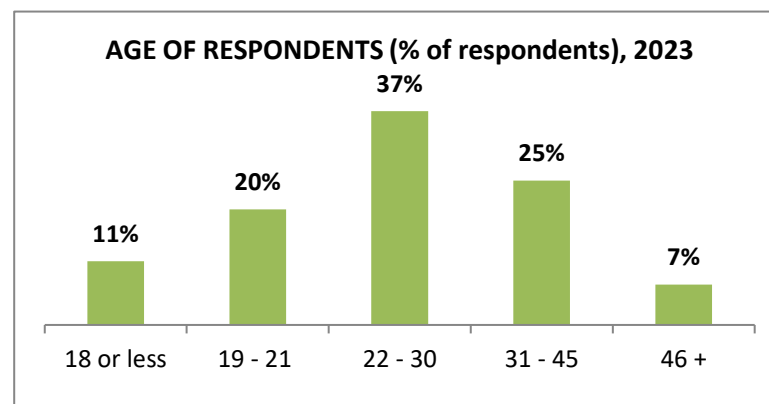
% of Respondents	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
Castlegar	61%	60%	38%	52%	48%	-4%
Silver King	11%	19%	20%	22%	19%	-3%
Tenth Street	15%	10%	14%	15%	19%	4%
Online	4%	4%	20%	10%	6%	-4%
Trail	4%	4%	4%	0%	5%	5%
Kaslo	2%	2%	2%	0%	1%	1%
Grand Forks	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Victoria Street	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Nakusp	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	101%	100%	101%	100%	-1%



DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

% of Respondents

Age	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
18 or less	10%	11%	11%	11%	11%	0%
19 - 21	29%	23%	17%	19%	20%	1%
22 - 30	42%	44%	43%	41%	37%	-4%
31 - 45	15%	17%	21%	23%	25%	2%
46 +	4%	5%	6%	6%	7%	1%



Status	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
Full-time	84%	82%	80%	86%	86%	0%
Part-time	16%	18%	20%	14%	14%	0%

Domestic or International	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
Domestic Student	72%	68%	72%	71%	72%	1%
International Student	28%	32%	28%	29%	28%	-1%

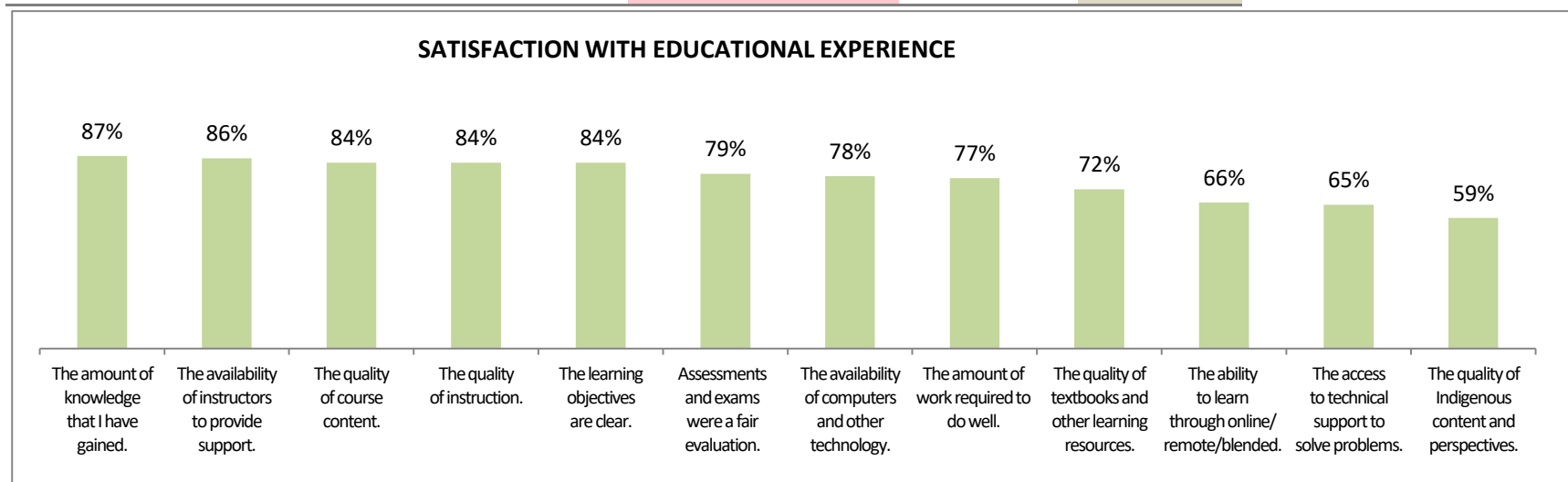
Activity Before Selkirk	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
Working full-time	35%	41%	45%	48%	44%	-4%
Attending high school	25%	21%	19%	19%	21%	2%
Studying and working	13%	13%	11%	9%	11%	2%
Working part-time	6%	6%	7%	6%	9%	3%
Studying elsewhere	8%	7%	5%	5%	5%	0%
Unemployed/looking for work	~	~	~	4%	5%	1%
Parenting	7%	5%	5%	4%	4%	0%
Travelling	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%	-1%
Retired	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

SATISFACTION BELOW MINISTRY TARGET OF 90% IS HIGHLIGHTED (within 1%)

% Very Satisfied or Somewhat Satisfied

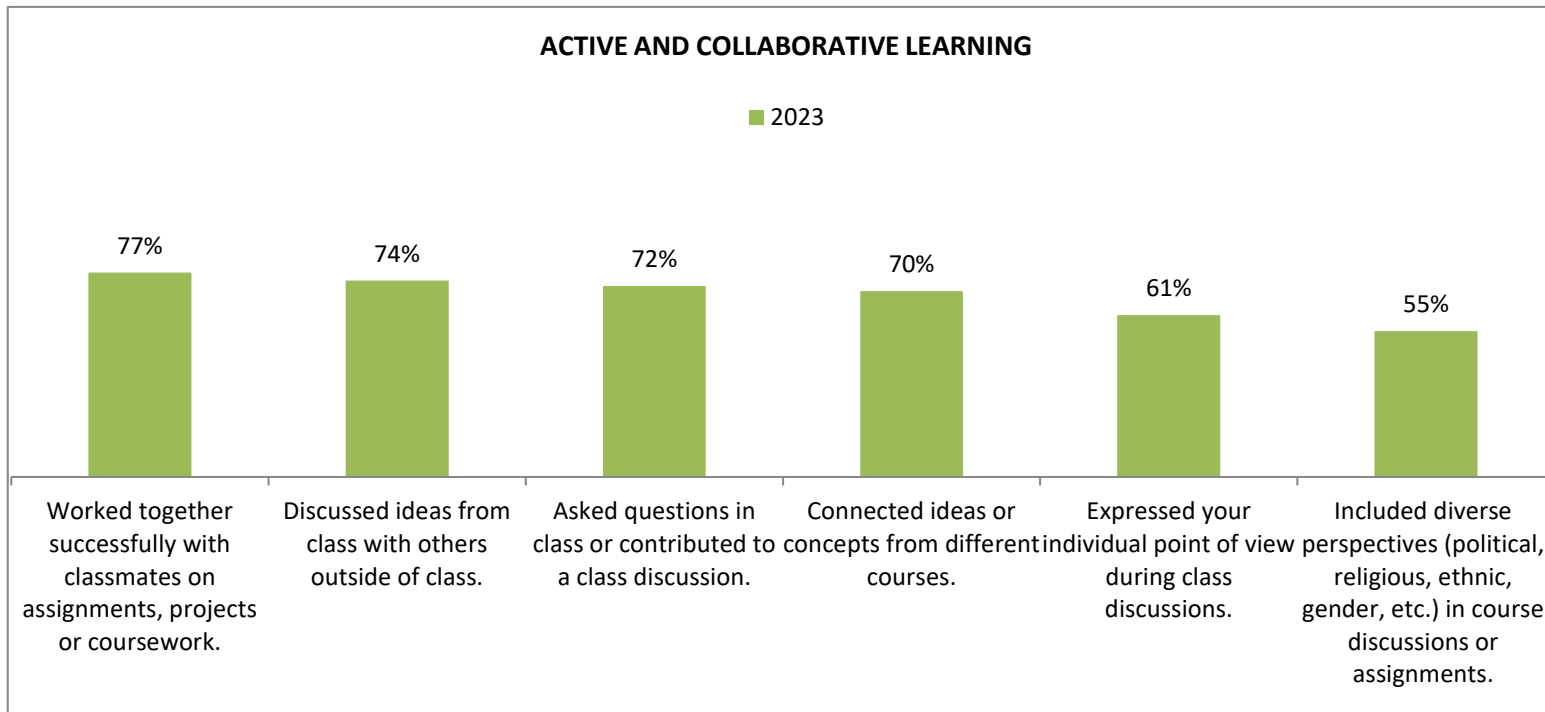
Satisfaction with Educational Experience	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
The amount of knowledge that I have gained.	86%	91%	90%	88%	87%	-1%
The availability of instructors to provide support.	88%	89%	86%	86%	86%	0%
The quality of course content.	84%	85%	85%	85%	84%	-1%
The quality of instruction.	87%	90%	86%	83%	84%	1%
The learning objectives are clear.	82%	85%	84%	83%	84%	1%
Assessments and exams were a fair evaluation.	~	~	~	80%	79%	-1%
The availability of computers and other technology.	~	~	~	74%	78%	4%
The amount of work required to do well.	~	~	~	79%	77%	-2%
The quality of textbooks and other learning resources.	~	~	~	69%	72%	3%
The ability to learn through online/remote/blended.	~	~	~	67%	66%	-1%
The access to technical support to solve problems.	~	~	~	68%	65%	-3%
The quality of Indigenous content and perspectives.	~	~	~	60%	59%	-1%
The level of instructional expertise.	84%	88%	87%	~	~	~
The availability of courses I require.	79%	81%	83%	~	~	~
The extent to which I am learning how to learn.	76%	80%	79%	~	~	~
The convenience of class scheduling.	68%	74%	75%	~	~	~



ACTIVE AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

% Often or Very Often

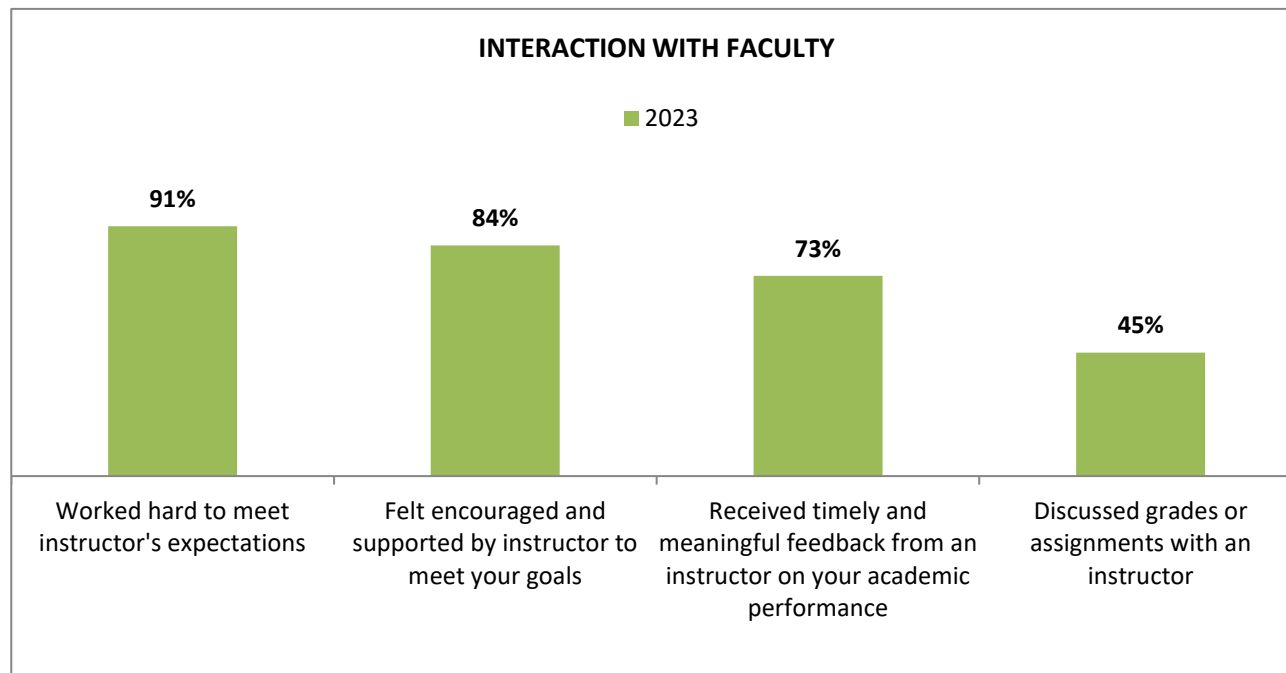
Active and Collaborative Learning	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
Worked together successfully with classmates on assignments, projects or coursework.	77%	75%	67%	77%	77%	0%
Discussed ideas from class with others outside of class.	75%	74%	67%	73%	74%	1%
Asked questions in class or contributed to a class discussion.	70%	71%	68%	68%	72%	4%
Connected ideas or concepts from different courses.	74%	69%	65%	68%	70%	2%
Expressed your individual point of view during class discussions.	57%	59%	57%	59%	61%	2%
Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, ethnic, gender, etc.) in course discussions or assignments.	~	~	~	~	55%	~
Made a class presentation.	53%	54%	41%	~	~	~



INTERACTION WITH FACULTY

% Often or Very Often

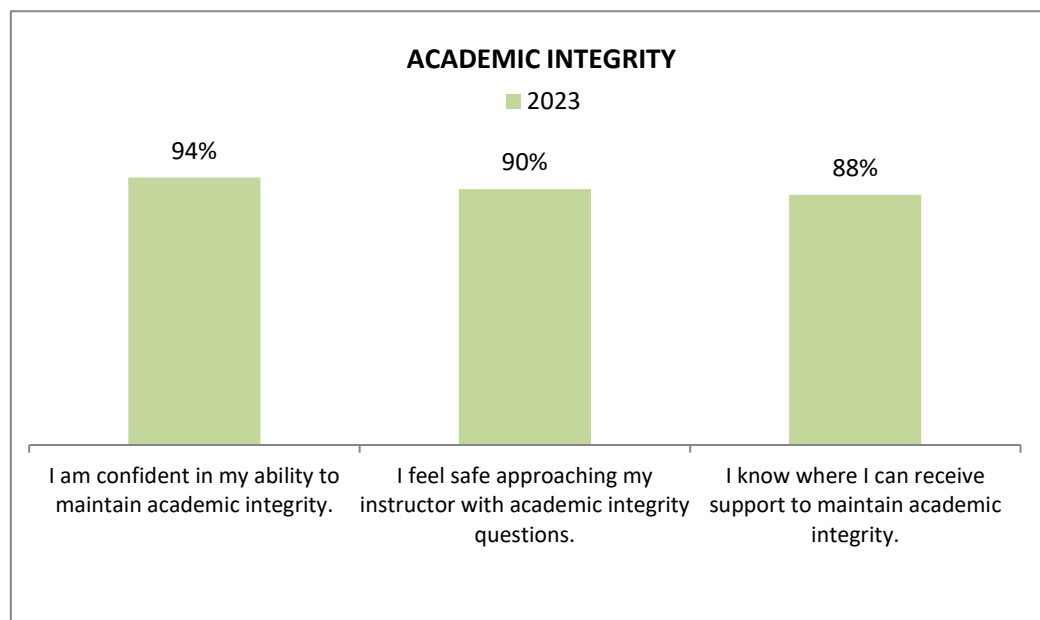
Interaction with Faculty	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
Worked hard to meet instructor's expectations	91%	92%	90%	90%	91%	1%
Felt encouraged and supported by instructor to meet your goals	82%	85%	83%	83%	84%	1%
Received timely and meaningful feedback from an instructor on your academic performance	72%	72%	70%	73%	73%	0%
Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor	45%	44%	42%	40%	45%	5%



ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

% All the time or Most of the time

	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
I am confident in my ability to maintain academic integrity.	69%	94%	25%
I feel safe approaching my instructor with academic integrity questions.	68%	90%	22%
I know where I can receive support to maintain academic integrity.	58%	88%	30%



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Various scales (Yes, % Strongly Agree or Agree, Have or Plan to, Excellent or Good)

Was Selkirk College your first choice?	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
Yes	67%	70%	74%	90%	83%	-7%

If you could start over, would you choose Selkirk College for your education?	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
Yes	~	~	~	~	87%	~

Do you intend to continue your studies at Selkirk College next year?	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
Yes, in the same program	~	~	~	~	51%	~
No, I am graduating	~	~	~	~	30%	~
Yes, in a different program	~	~	~	~	8%	~
No, I am transferring	~	~	~	~	7%	~
No, I am no longer planning to study	~	~	~	~	3%	~
Yes	~	~	~	62%	~	~

How likely are you to recommend Selkirk College?	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
% Very Likely or Likely	~	~	~	84%	82%	-2%

% Strongly Agree or Agree	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
The courses I needed were available	~	~	~	~	86%	~
The application process was easy and straightforward	~	~	~	81%	81%	0%
Registering for my courses was simple	~	~	~	78%	81%	3%
Scheduling my classes was easy and convenient	~	~	~	~	74%	~

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Various scales (Yes, % Strongly Agree or Agree, Have or Plan to, Excellent or Good)

Quality of your interactions with the following people at Selkirk College	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
Faculty/Instructors	~	~	~	~	90%	~
Students	~	~	~	~	87%	~
Support staff (academic advising, accessibility services, counselling, Indigenous services, etc.)	~	~	~	~	85%	~
Other administrative staff and offices (registrar, financial aid, etc.)	~	~	~	~	77%	~
Student services staff (career services, student activities, housing, etc.)	~	~	~	~	75%	~

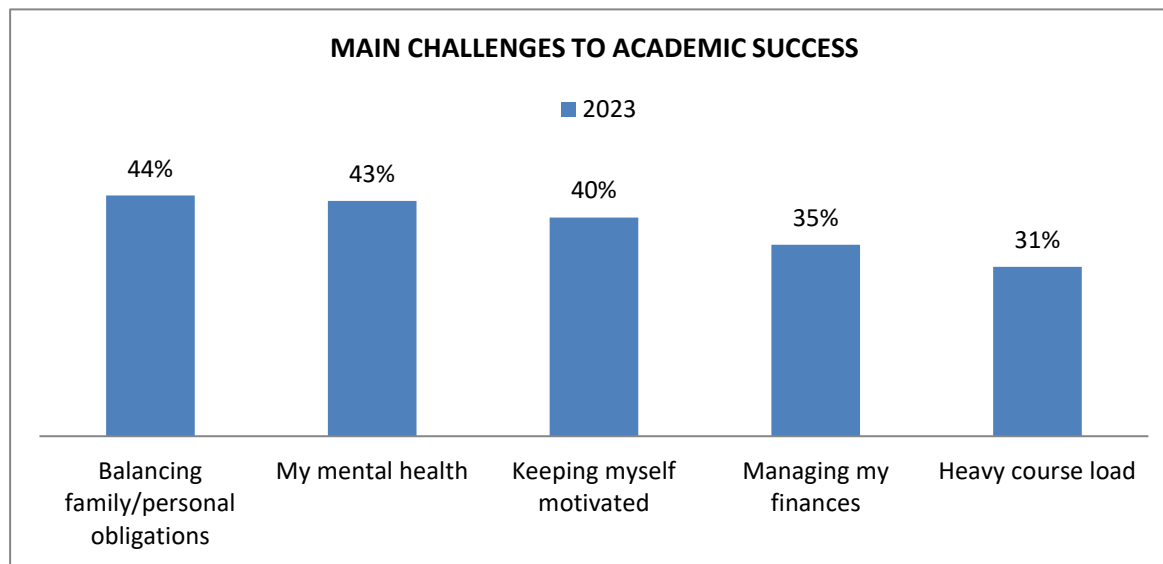
What kind of enhanced learning experience(s) have you done or plan to do at Selkirk College?	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
Practicum/field placement	~	~	~	~	49%	~
Applied learning/work-integrated learning	~	~	~	~	45%	~
Co-operative education or internship	~	~	~	~	37%	~
Research-intensive experience/project	~	~	~	~	36%	~
Community Service Learning	~	~	~	~	32%	~
Student leadership experience/role	~	~	~	~	30%	~

Employment services needed to support job search	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
Networking events	~	~	~	39%	38%	-1%
Resume and cover letter assistance	~	~	~	41%	36%	-5%
Career readiness skills training	~	~	~	40%	36%	-4%
Technology assistance	~	~	~	16%	17%	1%

CHALLENGES TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Select all that apply

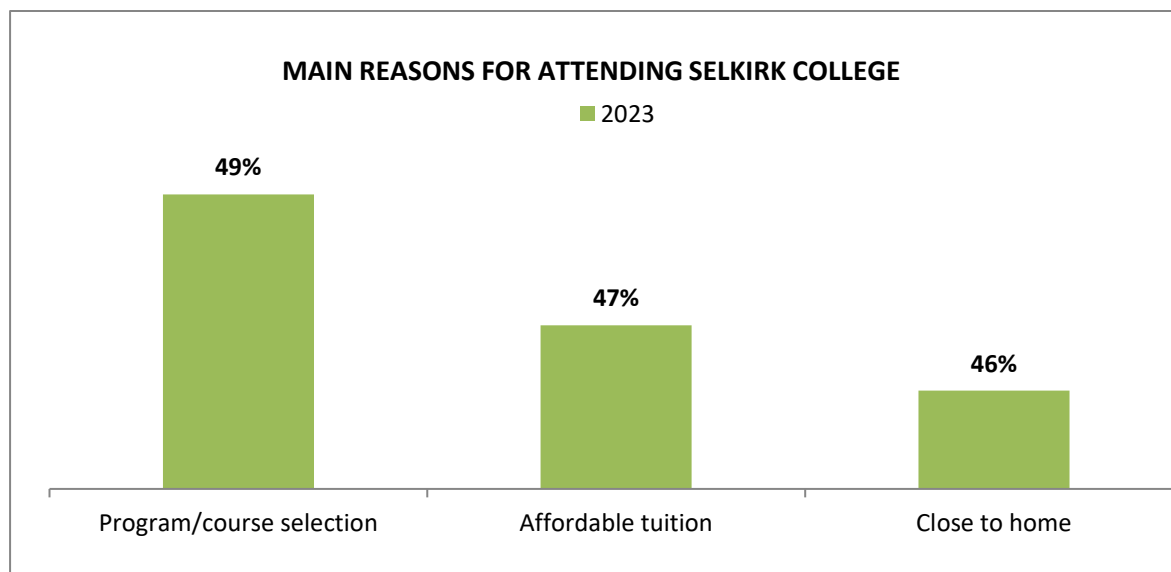
Biggest Challenges to Academic Success	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
Balancing family/personal obligations	38%	39%	37%	45%	44%	-1%
My mental health	~	~	39%	42%	43%	1%
Keeping myself motivated	40%	39%	43%	37%	40%	3%
Managing my finances	45%	45%	33%	31%	35%	4%
Heavy course load	35%	32%	30%	32%	31%	-1%
Balancing work obligations	29%	31%	28%	28%	31%	3%
My physical health	~	~	18%	27%	28%	1%
Transportation to/from school	24%	27%	9%	17%	23%	6%
Connecting with classmates and other students	~	~	32%	19%	20%	1%
Housing	14%	15%	12%	15%	18%	3%
Passing my courses	22%	20%	17%	15%	15%	0%
Online/remote Learning	~	~	32%	18%	10%	-8%
My health	25%	24%	~	~	~	~
Making new friends	14%	14%	~	~	~	~



REASONS FOR CHOOSING SELKIRK

Select all that apply

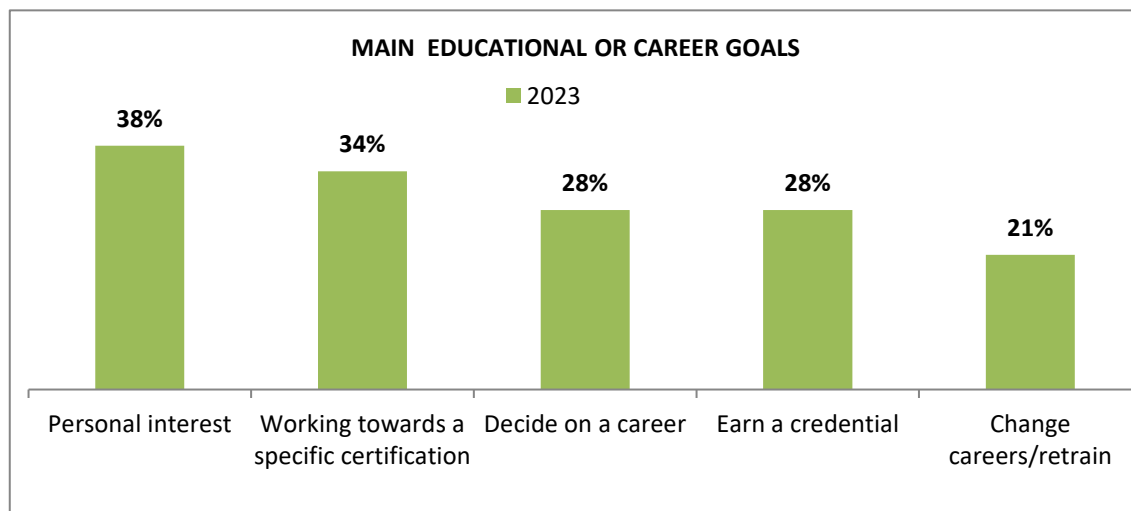
Reasons for Attending	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
Program/course selection	44%	43%	46%	45%	49%	4%
Affordable tuition	50%	52%	49%	44%	47%	3%
Close to home	49%	43%	48%	44%	46%	2%
Small classes/personal attention	35%	29%	30%	29%	35%	6%
Applied learning opportunities (co-op, practicum, etc)	12%	11%	16%	19%	20%	1%
Quality of instruction	18%	19%	20%	19%	20%	1%
Region/lifestyle (arts, culture, recreation)	18%	18%	19%	18%	19%	1%
Reputation of Selkirk College	19%	22%	24%	20%	19%	-1%
Ability to transfer	17%	13%	12%	13%	17%	4%
Social aspects	~	~	~	~	17%	~
Availability of scholarships/bursaries/awards	11%	10%	10%	8%	12%	4%
Financial constraints	10%	8%	8%	6%	9%	3%



MAIN EDUCATIONAL OR CAREER GOALS

Select all that apply

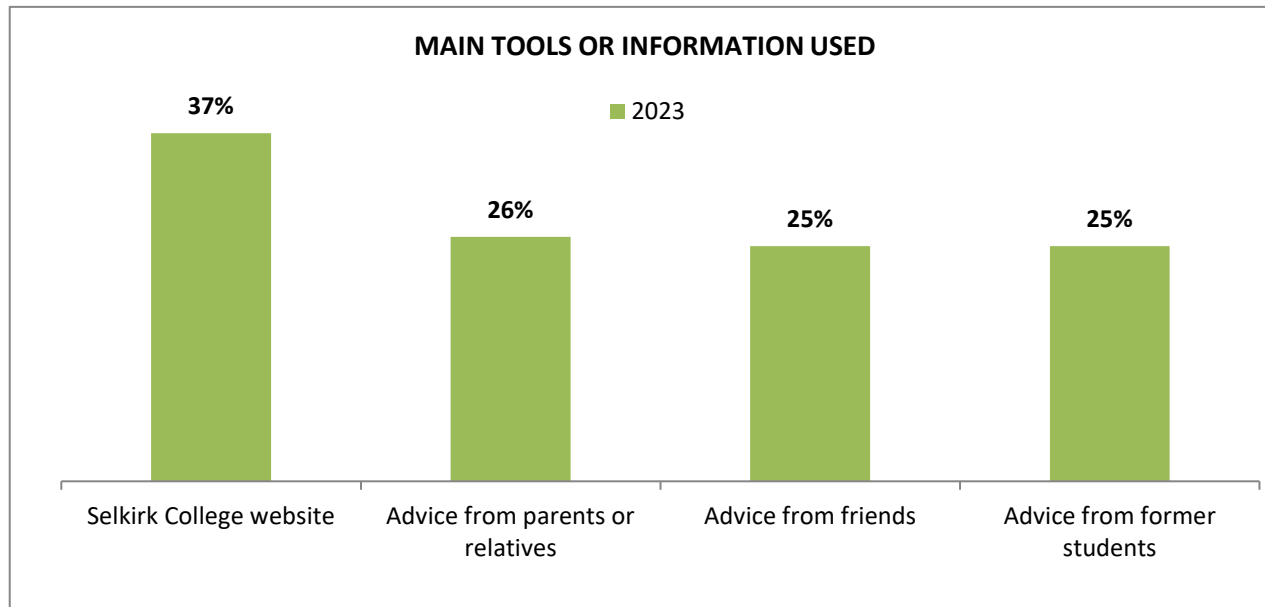
Educational or Career Goals	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to
						2023
Personal interest	48%	45%	47%	41%	38%	-3%
Working towards a specific certification	~	~	~	~	34%	~
Decide on a career	39%	38%	36%	32%	28%	-4%
Earn a credential	28%	28%	31%	27%	28%	1%
Change careers/retrain	16%	18%	24%	26%	21%	-5%
Add to current credentials	13%	12%	13%	24%	16%	-8%
Gain permanent resident status	~	~	~	11%	13%	2%
Need to upgrade	14%	18%	20%	14%	12%	-2%
Prepare to transfer	15%	9%	10%	10%	12%	2%
Qualify to enter a program	13%	13%	12%	10%	11%	1%



TOOLS USED TO HELP MAKE DECISION TO ATTEND SELKIRK COLLEGE

Select all that apply

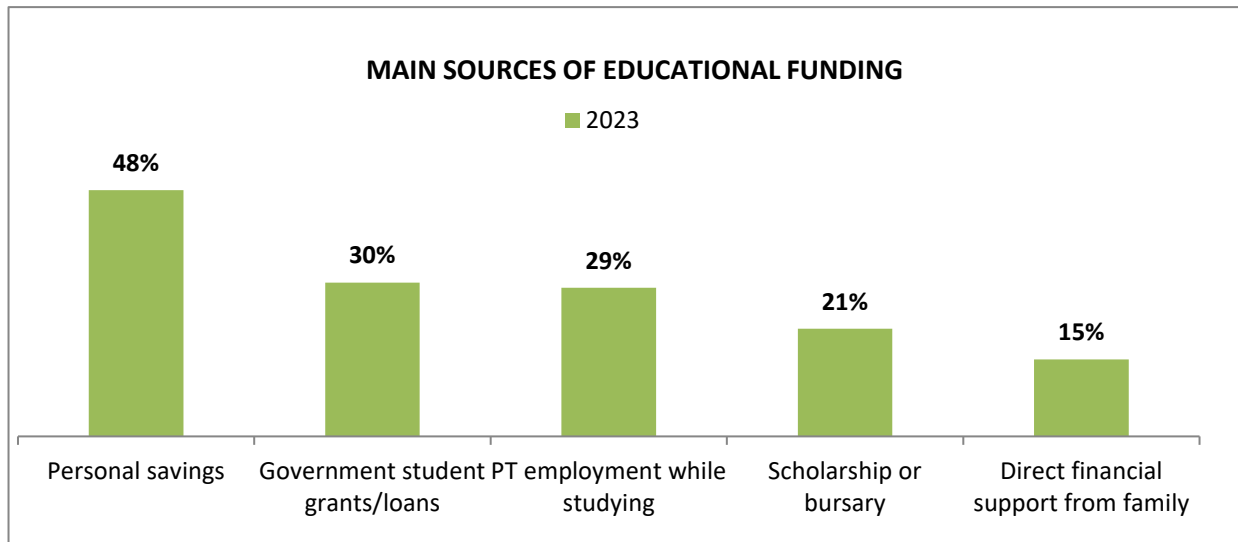
Tools or Information Used	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
Selkirk College website	38%	36%	36%	36%	37%	1%
Advice from parents or relatives	29%	25%	22%	25%	26%	1%
Advice from friends	25%	27%	26%	29%	25%	-4%
Advice from former students	27%	31%	27%	26%	25%	-1%
High school counselor or academic advisor	14%	13%	13%	14%	14%	0%
International agent	14%	16%	13%	12%	12%	0%
Social media	8%	11%	8%	9%	10%	1%
Selkirk College employee (recruiter, advisor, etc.)	10%	11%	11%	9%	9%	0%
Attended a Selkirk College event	8%	7%	8%	9%	8%	-1%
Selkirk College promotional print material	6%	6%	7%	6%	7%	1%
Employment Agency or Career Centre (KCDS, etc)	6%	7%	7%	4%	6%	2%
College representative visiting your high school	6%	5%	5%	4%	5%	1%



MAIN SOURCES OF EDUCATIONAL FUNDING

Select all that apply

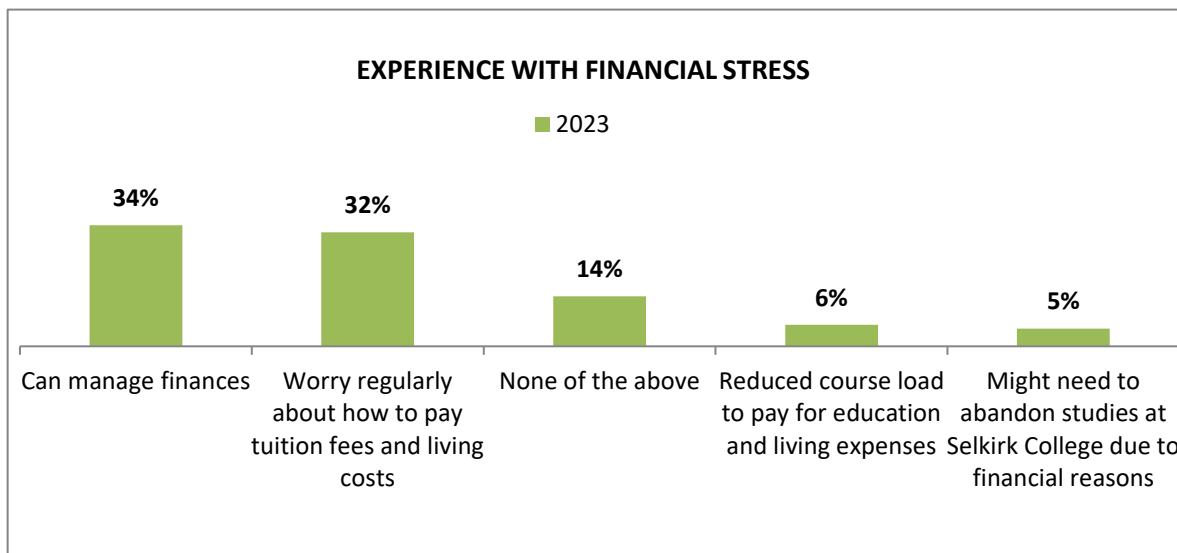
Main Sources of Funding						Change 2022 to
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023
Personal savings	54%	56%	53%	48%	48%	0%
Government student grants/loans	24%	28%	27%	27%	30%	3%
PT employment while studying	27%	30%	27%	27%	29%	2%
Scholarship or bursary	22%	19%	18%	18%	21%	3%
Direct financial support from family	20%	18%	15%	16%	15%	-1%
Employment during school breaks	17%	13%	9%	11%	11%	0%
Loan from family	15%	12%	10%	10%	10%	0%
Personal bank loan or credit card	11%	10%	7%	8%	8%	0%
Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP)	5%	6%	5%	7%	7%	0%
FT employment while studying	4%	4%	5%	4%	6%	2%
Employment Insurance	2%	4%	9%	5%	4%	-1%
Indigenous Sponsorship	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%



EXPERIENCE WITH FINANCIAL STRESS

Select all that apply

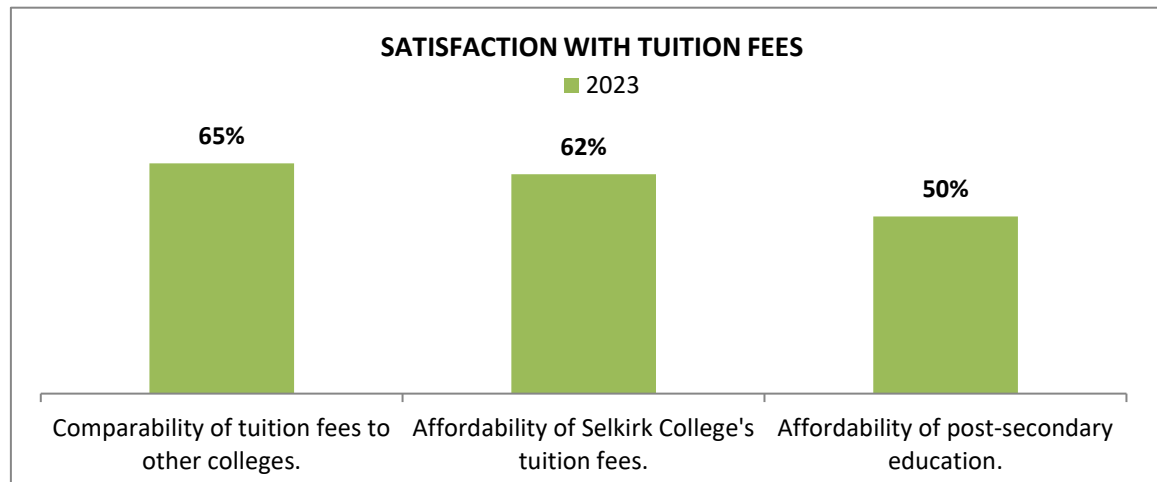
Have you experienced any financial stress this year?	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to
						2023
Can manage finances	~	~	~	~	34%	~
Worry regularly about how to pay tuition fees and living costs	~	~	~	~	32%	~
None of the above	~	~	~	~	14%	~
Reduced course load to pay for education and living expenses	~	~	~	~	6%	~
Might need to abandon studies at Selkirk College due to financial reasons	~	~	~	~	5%	~



SATISFACTION WITH TUITION FEES

% Very Satisfied or Somewhat Satisfied

Satisfaction with Tuition Fees	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023
Comparability of tuition fees to other colleges.	63%	69%	70%	64%	65%	1%
Affordability of Selkirk College's tuition fees.	57%	66%	67%	60%	62%	2%
Affordability of post-secondary education.	45%	54%	56%	50%	50%	0%



CAMPUS CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

Various scales

% Strongly Agree or Agree	2022	2023
I am treated with respect at Selkirk.	87%	87%
Selkirk has a strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.	76%	81%
I feel all students at Selkirk College are treated with respect regardless of their background.	~	80%
I feel I belong and am valued as an individual at Selkirk.	77%	78%
Selkirk College works to remove barriers to provide equitable opportunities for success.	~	78%
I have found one or more communities/groups at Selkirk where I feel I belong.	54%	62%
I have opportunities to engage in reconciliation at Selkirk College.	~	60%
My opportunities for academic success at Selkirk are similar to those of my peers.	82%	~
Selkirk provides sufficient programs/resources to foster success.	65%	~
Selkirk puts too much emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues.	18%	~
I have to work harder than others to be valued equally at Selkirk.	18%	~
I have considered leaving Selkirk due to feeling isolated/unwelcomed.	14%	~
I feel others don't value my opinions at Selkirk.	12%	~

How often have you had discussions with people from the following groups?		
% Very Often or Often	2022	2023
From a different social class.	47%	58%
Of a different race or ethnicity than your own.	47%	56%
Political opinions are different from your own.	36%	42%
Religious beliefs are different than your own.	37%	40%
Gender is different than your own.	65%	~
Of a different nationality than your own.	51%	~
Immigrants or from an immigrant family.	42%	~
Sexual orientation is different than your own.	42%	~
Have learning, psychological, or other disabilities that are not readily apparent.	32%	~
Have physical or other observable disabilities.	23%	~