



BUDGET 2025: Alberta Students' Executive Council (ASEC) Response

Presented to Albertans on Thursday, Budget 2025 celebrated the promised personal income tax cuts two years ahead of schedule alongside a \$5.2B deficit and looming tariffs south of the border. As it relates to Advanced Education, ASEC acknowledges positive investments including capital for post-secondaries, a bump in the available funds for the Alberta Student Grant, support of First Nations Colleges, and the continuation of student aid and tuition policy introduced in 2023.

While the investments are not insignificant, students remain concerned with no known increase to the Campus Mental Health Grant and no added support for Foundational Learning Assistance funding after last year's trickle-down federal cuts. Students are most distressed with the further decline in percent government revenue received by post-secondary institutions. The government has been transparent with its plan to decrease funds to post-secondary since 2019. The target in last year's budget was for government to fund public institutions at only 42% by next fiscal year, but Budget 2025 meets this target a year early.

In February, ASEC was among signatories representing 290,000 Alberta students in an [open letter](#) to the province pleading for a stop to institutional funding cuts. This coordinated message was motivated from students across the province feeling the pinch by way of dwindling student services, sparse course offerings, and class sizes impacting course quality to name a just a few symptoms of an underfunded system. These challenges continue to worsen as institutions project declining international student enrollment for the Fall; students who out-pay their domestic counterparts, often shelling out three or four times the tuition fees.

We understand there are many uncertainties and demands facing our province, but we re-iterate our messaging from last month's open letter, that our future cannot afford to leave post-secondaries behind. We cannot let our once top-ranked system fall so far into disrepair that it cannot be saved. We are committed to continuing our advocacy for base funding that reflects a public post-secondary system and empowers world class education in Alberta. We look forward to sharing how critical operational funding is to the panel led by Dr. Mintz and decision-makers over the next year.

The Alberta Students' Executive Council (ASEC) represents 90,000 students across fifteen post-secondaries in Alberta including polytechnics, colleges, and universities in rural, urban, and online campuses. Learn more about ASEC advocacy priorities at albertastudents.ca/priorities.