



## **Alberta Students Disappointed in Further Funding Cuts, Destabilizing Future for Students**

Alberta's students have collectively called for sustainable funding, mental health supports, and affordable tuition throughout the course of this government's term. The Government of Alberta today delivered a budget that provides students with some supports but again fails to fund the system in a sustainable fashion.

"It was encouraging to see the increased investments announced in the budget today. However, if this system is to meet the needs of the province and the intent of this administration to lead Alberta to balance, the Government must be brave and invest in its people now. It is not enough to simply fund niche areas and hope the system transforms, it must *be* transformed. Alberta can show the world what accessible, affordable, high quality education can mean."

**Rachel Timmermans, Chair, Council of Alberta University Students**

Alberta student leaders are appreciative of the commitment towards addressing campus sexual violence which will go a long way towards making our campus protections survivor-centric, as well as the continued funding for on-campus mental health supports, which have been, and continue to be, vital for students. Alberta students regard these investments as critical to their safety and academic success.

"The changes around campus sexual violence prevention were sorely needed and are only the first step down a long path towards a truly safe and healthy learning environment. Campus sexual violence prevention, paired with strong mental health supports, are important components in making Alberta's campuses welcoming to all. A post-secondary experience where students feel safe and supported should be a given, not an advocacy win."

**Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa, Vice-Chair, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council**

Despite this progress, Alberta's potential remains limited. Investments in Indigenous learner supports, targeted enrolment growth, and low income bursaries are all appreciated and necessary, but fail to tackle the problem head on. The budget identifies skills gaps and labour shortages, which are a real problem facing Alberta right now. A problem that can be solved through sustainable funding and a commitment to the students of the province.

"This government has made it clear that it believes Advanced Education is a key piece to Alberta's recovery. However, when given the opportunity to future proof Alberta's post-secondary system, the government has failed to fully capitalize on it. The future of Alberta's economy hangs on this government's ability to see dynamic growth across all sectors - but we cannot hope to attract new industries without supplying them with a population of skilled workers."

**Liam Hunter, Chair, Alberta Students' Executive Council**

Collectively ab-GPAC, ASEC, and CAUS represent over 270,000 undergraduate and graduate students from the publicly funded University, Polytechnic, and College students' associations and unions in Alberta. We work with all orders of government and call upon them to provide sustainable funding, affordable tuition, and an accessible advanced education system for all Albertans.

For more information please contact:

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