



# ASEC

*Alberta Students' Executive Council*

For Immediate Release: February 14, 2022

## **Alberta Students Call for Healthy and Safe Campuses**

In response to the Minister of Advanced Education's letter released February 9, 2022, the Alberta Students' Executive Council (ASEC) calls on the Government of Alberta and all Alberta Post-Secondary Institutions' Boards of Governors to ensure the health and safety of all Alberta students.

ASEC recognizes the extreme pressures that have been placed on the advanced education system throughout the pandemic. Institutions have been forced to do more with less and faculty have had to work tirelessly to transition to an online environment. We appreciate the challenges and efforts faced by everyone trying to cope during the pandemic. However, the students of this province have borne the brunt of the damage and continue to do so.

"Shifting classroom environments, predatory proctoring software, and the loss of reading week are just some examples of the extra burdens being placed on students. These challenges, coupled with declining campus funding, unsustainable tuition increases, and the expectation of campuses to reopen fully by March 1, regardless of ability, are weakening the advanced education sector and doing a disservice to our students."

**Liam Hunter**

Chair, Alberta Students' Executive Council

ASEC fears that the continued chaotic environment has damaged the trust of the public in Alberta's post-secondary system. ASEC also worries if Alberta's post-secondary institutions will be able to ensure the health and safety of all students, staff, and faculty on campus with such a rapid timeline. ASEC calls on the Government of Alberta to provide greater autonomy and flexibility to post-secondary institutions to allow for re-entry plans that make sense on each campus.

"The needs of our institutions and student bodies vary from campus to campus. A proper back-to-campus plan should be tailored to each institution, include significant meaningful consultation with the students' association to ensure the needs of students are being heard, and be done on a timeline that ensures the health and safety of the campus community."

**Jonathan Bilodeau**

Executive Director, Alberta Students' Executive Council

ASEC exists to support post-secondary student leaders by providing advocacy, networking, and professional development. We represent over 110,000 students from 17 university, college, and polytechnic students' associations. We work with all orders of government and call upon them to provide a healthy, safe, and sustainable campus experience for all students.

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