



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Students' Association of Olds College commends the Government of Alberta for stabilizing tuition increases and making other improvements to the affordability of post-secondary education.

RE: Enhancing affordability for Alberta's students

Alberta's students have been struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living as increases to tuition, intended by this government to relieve inflationary pressures on institutions, resulted in increased financial burden on post-secondary learners concurrent with cuts to the Campus Operational Grant. As these pressures continue to mount, any relief to the future innovators of this province should be applauded.

Today's announcement by the Minister of Advanced Education committing post-secondary institutions to limit further tuition increases at two per cent beginning in the 2024-25 academic year is one such relief. After years of advocacy by the SAOC and its partners through the Alberta Students' Executive Council, this recognition of the importance of predictability for Alberta learners is well-received and long-anticipated.

"It is heartening to see, in the run-up to an election, that the voices of Alberta's students have finally been heard by this government. This constitutes a reasonable step toward addressing the affordability crisis we are seeing across campuses throughout our province."

-Liam Hunter, SAOC Executive Director

In addition to this cap on tuition, the Ministry further announces a reduction of interest rates and doubling of the interest-free grace period for student loans. Improvements to the Repayment Assistance Plan will further increase accessibility by softening the impact of debt on students.

The SAOC congratulates the Ministry in reaching this point of recognition and calls upon this government and all future governments of Alberta to continue to prioritize stability in the advanced education system through reliable funding at an institutional level.

For more information, contact:
Celia Sutton - SAOC President
saocpres@oldscollege.ca
(403) 507-7903