



*SAIT STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION*

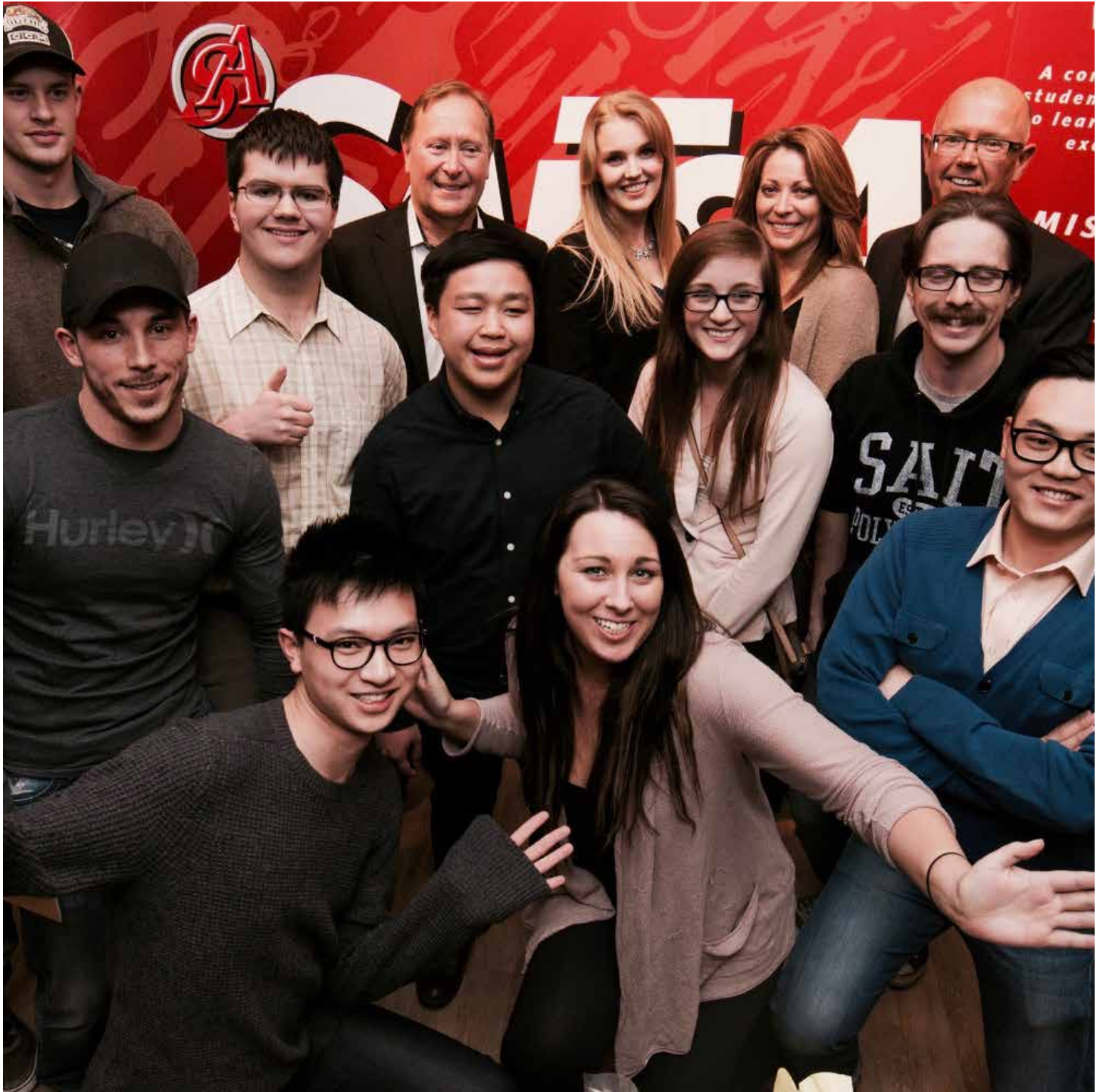
ANNUAL REPORT  
2015-2016



SAIT donates to the SAITSA Food Bank

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SAITSA Leadership Exchange

## STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

Driven by our Strategic Plan, SAITSA took the three pillars of the 2015-2018 plan and made sure to apply a local perspective to all of them.

### Student Space Expansion

While it's imperative that students have space on campus to learn and develop their skills, SAITSA recognizes that there's more to a SAIT student experience than classrooms and computers; SAITSA strives to provide space to students that doesn't have a purely academic focus. This year SAITSA worked to re-think our spaces and develop programs that effectively utilized our operations for the benefit of students and stakeholders.

In November 2015, the SAITSA Board of Directors (BOD) called a referendum to let the members decide on whether SAITSA should access the Restricted Building Fund to initiate the planning, development and construction of a new student centre on campus. The students spoke 88% in favour of accessing the funds! 2018 will see a new building on campus designed by students for students.

### Organizational Sustainability

Sustainability can mean a lot of things to a lot of people, but to SAITSA it means making sure that our impact on the environment is minimal while our impact on students is considerable! Whether it's ordering products from local suppliers, diverting waste products to compost, or reducing administration costs and printing, SAITSA has been around for almost 100 years and we want to make sure we and the planet are around for a long time to come!

### Connecting Students with Stakeholders

Students are our first priority, but members aren't the only ones who benefit from SAITSA achieving our mission and vision; from the SAIT community, to Calgary to the country, SAITSA's impact can be felt far and wide. From building new relationships to strengthening established ones, SAITSA connected thousands of students with one another and community and industry leaders. We strive to connect members to stakeholders through our support of Clubs, Leadership Exchanges, Good Food Box and Food Bank programs, free income tax filing services and much more.



**Hosted the  
first Earth Expo  
showcasing  
earth-friendly  
businesses**



SAITSA HQ referendum announcement

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

What a year for SAITSA!  
We had a successful referendum to initiate the development of a new student centre and we also lowered student fees!

### Referendum & SAITSA HQ

At the end of the 2014/2015 fiscal year, SAITSA reached \$6.4 million in the Restricted Building Fund; this restricted fund was established in 2010 with the long-term goal of saving funds to build a student centre. It was estimated that the fund would reach \$7.9 million at the end of the 2015/2016 fiscal year. Seeing as "Student Space Expansion" was one of the objectives of the strategic plan, in October of 2015 the SAITSA Board of Directors (BOD) felt it was the right time to call a referendum to see if students wanted SAITSA to access the restricted fund with the intention of building a student centre. Students had the opportunity to vote on whether SAITSA should start the process of planning, developing and eventually building a student centre - for students by students.

With an overwhelming 88% of students in favour, the referendum started the momentous task of planning and developing plans for a student centre that would incorporate space for students to be students; no classrooms, just space for them to relax and gather, and bookable space for club events and activities.

### SAITSA Fees

Member fees go towards providing a variety of opportunities, services and programs for students. Foremost is the Health and Dental plan; SAITSA works with Gallivan & Associates to provide a comprehensive plan that works for students. Students have the opportunity to purchase optional coverage, add family members or opt-out of the plan.

In 2015/2016 the Board of Directors voted to lower the SA fee by ten dollars; the decreased revenue from SA fees will be offset by increased efforts to generate revenue from our operations, as well as cut costs across SAITSA.



**Odyssey  
Coffeehouse  
served over 144K  
customers!**



Hot wing eating contest



Reduced the SAITSA fee  
by \$10 for the 2016/2017  
academic year!

## SAITSA FEE BREAKDOWN

### YOUR FEES ARE FOR YOU

Our goal is to serve students. The Post-Secondary Learning Act grants authority to the SAIT Students' Association (SAITSA) to collect fees in order to fulfill its mandate to represent and serve students. SAITSA fees are divided into SAITSA Building Fund and SAITSA General Operations. See diagram 1.

### WHO PAYS SAITSA FEES?

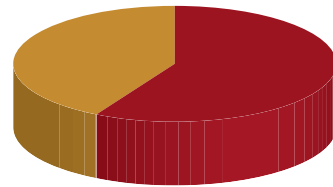
All full and part-time students, apprentices, and in certain cases, earned revenue students pay SAITSA fees. The actual fee assessment depends on the number of credit hours or apprentice weeks in which a student is enrolled. For details see the SAIT fee table at [sait.ca](http://sait.ca).

### HOW MUCH?

A full fee paying member is assessed at \$287.77. See diagram 2 to see where the fee goes. Students falling outside this classification will be assessed according to the SAIT fee table.

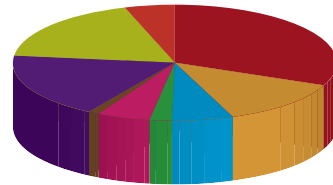
**Partnered with SAIT  
to support 45 SAIT  
student families at  
Christmas.**

Diagram 1



**Total SAITSA Fees: \$287.77/year**  
SAITSA Fee: \$167.77  
SAITSA BUILDING FUND Fee: \$120

Diagram 2



**Where does your \$167.77 SAITSA Fee go?**  
ADVOCACY & GOVERNANCE 31.5%  
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS 13%  
ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS 6.2%  
AWARDS 2%  
PUBLICATIONS 5.5%  
CAPITAL ASSET FUND 1.1%  
STUDENT EXPERIENCE 18.1%  
ADMINISTRATION 17.7%  
SUMMER CONTINGENCY FUND 4.9%



Free breakfasb

## OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

SAITSA aims to serve: our members, our community and the planet. This past year we've seen that small actions have big impacts.

### SAITSA App

2014/2015 marked the launch of our SAITSA app; with over six thousand downloads, that means nearly one in two SAIT students used our app to connect and find out about events and opportunities offered through SAITSA! The app offers connections to The Weal, campus maps, special offers, virtual tours, student clubs and opportunities for students to connect with other students. Over fifty clubs were active on the app in 2014/2015, clubs was the second most used tile on the app. Events was the most popular tile, in fact, over eighteen hundred events were scheduled through the app this year!

### The Odyssey Coffeehouse

Not only did the Odyssey get a fresh coat of paint, they also created new menu items that use locally sourced ingredients and are quicker to make to better serve students with tight schedules. The Odyssey also hosted Open Mic, Kraft & Craft, Speed Dating, Leadership Exchange, participated in YYC Hot Chocolate Fest and started the process to get LEAF certification.

### The Gateway

Not just a great place to grab some lunch, The Gateway is one of the leading venues for small concerts in Calgary. Specializing in indie music, The Gateway hosts a variety of concerts, events and private bookings; in 2014/2015 The Gateway saw almost thirteen thousand concert goers walk through their doors, and gave away nearly eight hundred free tickets to students.

### Saving Students Money

As a social enterprise SAITSA strives to ensure our operations are generating revenue to support our programs and services; however, we recognize that our operations' most frequent customers are students, so how do we ensure that we generate revenue but also save students money? Student friendly pricing combined with purposeful change in the way we run our operations. SAITSA's operations also strive to hire SAIT students first, and also run a variety of different contests with prizes in order to reward our faithful customers.

SAITSA's operations include: The Odyssey Coffeehouse, The Gateway Restaurant and Bar, Station Market and Express convenience stores.



**Our discounted  
ski-lift tickets  
saved students  
\$181,567!**



Puppy day at the Student Support Centre

## OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS con't

### Mental Health Initiatives

Across Canada, mental health awareness and supports are being identified as priorities for post-secondaries; SAITSA recognizes the need to support students and to give them the tools they need to be successful in all aspects of life. For many students, being away from home for the first time, and/or managing the stresses of daily life with demands of a SAIT education can be extremely stressful.

In recognizing that students need more than just a great education, SAITSA provides students a home away from home, a place where they can make friends and find support. Home-grown initiatives through SAITSA have helped thousands of students find support when the stresses of life become too much. Funding provided through the Alberta Campus Mental Health Innovation (ACMHI) has enabled SAITSA to provide a variety of services and programs aimed at decreasing the stigma around mental illness while increasing the tools and supports for students.

Thanks to the ACMHI funding, our dedicated staff and partners, and of course our enthusiastic and engaged students, SAITSA was able to serve over 2,800 free breakfasts, 1,200 free massages, and a number of other successful events. Puppy days, yoga, meditation, and tea and learns were just a few of the Wellness Wednesday events SAITSA hosted throughout the year to which over three-thousand students attended. For more information on ACMHI and our efforts to support our members, please see this short video: <http://bit.ly/2qbhJct>.

SAITSA partnered with the Reg Erhardt Library, Student Development & Counselling and Learner Services to bring Sheldon Kennedy to speak to students, resources to the Mental Health Expo and De-stress Fest during final exams.

### Awards

SAITSA's Awards Banquet is SAITSA's opportunity to award and recognize those in the SAIT community who demonstrate exceptional dedication and leadership to SAITSA's mission and vision. Each year SAITSA distributes over eighteen-thousand dollars in awards to students and recognize their significant impact at our banquet. Flip the page to see who won.



**Partnered with  
MaKami College to  
provide students  
with 300+ hours of  
free massages.**



**STUDENT AWARD WINNERS**

**DC Fleming Award**  
Alexander Ho

**JM Parker Award**  
Connor Goodfellow

**Therese Murray Award**  
Lorie Tran

**Laurence Decore Award**  
Tommy Lieu

**Silver Awards**  
Dianne Templeton  
Israel Camacho Maya  
Parker Gavey

**Gold Awards**  
James Vy  
Cassandra Hepp

**Bronze Awards**  
Diana Rodriguez  
Rebekka Lenz  
Denis Koryakin  
Jacy Letendre

**Entrepreneur Awards**  
Braydon Ross  
Lambie Carruthers  
Brice-Joel Djomani

**International Awards**

Nadia Javed  
Alessandro Stoppa  
ShuEn Lin  
Hector Flores  
Alyrah Lobo

**Caregiver Awards**

Ya Jing Wang  
Shuang Li  
Deborah Benstead

**Perseverance Awards**

Jafar Ahmed  
Jeremy Deleff  
Robegiene Farinas  
Justin Doherty  
Camille Salvador  
Ashley Smith

**Memorial Scholarship**

Antuaneth Rodriguez

**Industry Engagement Awards**

Connor Ferster  
Travis Braddell

**Club of the Year Award**

Supply Chain Management

**Industry Engagement Club Award**

SAIT Student Accounting Association

**Marcel Carpenter Award**

Melanie Simmons

**INSTRUCTOR AWARD WINNERS**

George Gavelis  
School of Manufacturing & Automation

Richard Stroobant  
School of Information & Comm. Tech.

Milan Niksic  
School of Construction

Jim Esposito  
MacPhail School of Energy

Aron Weber  
School of Hospitality & Tourism

Liam Riley  
School of Business

Rob Wall  
School of Transportation

Micheline Courtney  
School of Health and Public Safety

Keri deMille  
Academic Services

## LOOKING FORWARD



Message from our Executive Director

Insert text here.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blair McCormick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Blair" being larger and more prominent than the last name "McCormick".

Blair McCormick  
Executive Director

**SAITSA**

SAIT STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION