



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **SAIT Students' Association Secures New Exemptions for UPass and Recreation Fees**

Calgary, Alberta (September 3, 2021) – Following persistent advocacy from the SAIT Students' Association (Saitsa), SAIT administration has confirmed a series of new exemptions from certain ancillary fees.

Students living 100 kilometres or more away from campus and taking courses fully online can apply to be exempt from paying campus recreation fees. Students may also apply for a UPass fee exemption if they are enrolled in 9 credits or more and all courses are fully online.

“We are pleased that SAIT administration recognized and rectified the unfairness of the situation. Forcing students to pay for services that they were unable or afraid to use due to the COVID-19 pandemic was untenable. While much remains to be done to improve the UPass program, we are appreciative of this decision, and we are grateful to all those members of the student community who brought their concerns forward to Saitsa.”

- Liam Hunter, President of Saitsa

Saitsa is surprised by administration's statement that students with disabilities have always been permitted to access exemptions from ancillary fees for the recreation fee and transit fee. Saitsa will continue to advocate that this policy is applied in a uniform manner so that no student with disabilities is financially penalized for services that cannot be used.

“Both the UPass Program and Campus Recreation Services are essential components of a vibrant student experience. While Saitsa remains steadfast in its support for both initiatives, we have consistently reminded administration of the need to recognize the unique circumstances posed by COVID-19. The creation of an exemption is good for students, good for student finances, and good for equity between all students.”

- Dawson Andrew Thomas, Vice-President of Saitsa

Over the next academic year, Saitsa will continue to pursue a constructive dialogue with SAIT administration on further improvements to student programs and services. Saitsa will consistently reiterate its position to administration that services such as Campus Recreation and the UPass program should be run for students, in consultation with students, and designed for students' needs.

SAIT Students' Association

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