



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 15, 2021

RE: Saitsa Disappointed in Continuing Rise of Tuition and Further Cuts to Postsecondary Education

SAIT Students' Association (Saitsa) is incredibly disappointed by the most recent announcements regarding post-secondary education. Last year, an approximate 3% cut was made to post-secondary education. This year, a further cut of 6.5% has been confirmed, in addition to the ongoing implementation of a 7% rise in average tuition per year from 2020-23. By 2023, students will be paying a total of 22.4% more in tuition than they did in 2019.

"Albertan students have made their eagerness to participate in Alberta's economic recovery clear. We are willing to pay our fair share, but higher tuition and further cuts are bitter pills to swallow as student – one of the hardest hit groups by the pandemic's economic repercussions. It's especially hard to hear this year, as students received less services and (sometimes) lower-quality instruction for a higher price."

- **Liam Hunter, VP External**

Saitsa believes that our post-secondary institutions hold the key to the province's future economic success, but these cuts and tuition increases make education less affordable and will handcuff our youth with debt that will follow them years after graduating. Institutions are raising their tuition and introducing new Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees to make up for provincial budget cuts; with these cuts the province has determined that it is completely acceptable for students to accumulate considerable debt to simply participate in the economy.

"This province needs graduates to service its plan for economic diversification and recovery. Post-secondary is the factory to make that change, and it requires investment. Without appropriate investment in those looking to better themselves and their communities, Alberta will continue to lose a young, ambitious, and vital demographic of our population."

- **Ryan Morstad, President**

We believe that our post-secondary institutions are the ideal place to cultivate, mold and encourage our future innovators, thought leaders and entrepreneurs, who will collectively work to ensure the province's markets' future success and stability. It is only through investment, support and deliberate thought for these future innovators that we can create thriving cities, campuses and communities to ensure a better Alberta for all.

SAIT Students' Association

For additional inquires please visit:
saitsa.com/mediainquiries