

Annual **REPORT**



Saitsa*

2022/23



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Advocacy & Research

Research Transparency & Reports

Saitsa continues to support our advocacy initiatives and Ends by conducting research and making the findings of that research easily available to the membership. Saitsa increased transparency by ensuring all public-facing reports are posted to our website and promoting those reports in our communications to members. The recent report “Student Well-Being: An Examination of the Issue & Programming” provides an

overview of the impact of COVID-19 on the well-being of students and discusses the most effective programs across post-secondary institutions to support students in improving their well-being.



Saitsa increased transparency by ensuring all public-facing reports are posted to our website, and promoting those reports in our communications to membership.

With the increased presence of international students at SAIT, Saitsa conducted a survey to better understand and support the well-being concerns of international students.

The following are some of the highlights of our surprising results:



56.1% of international students reported having enough savings to cover their housing, food, and tuition costs. The remaining 43.9% noted that they required additional financial assistance.



1 in 4 international students reported having unpaid debts before starting their studies at SAIT. The reasons for their debts vary from personal loans, credit card debts, or other financial obligations.



33.6% of international students reported working more than 20 hours weekly to support themselves while studying at SAIT.



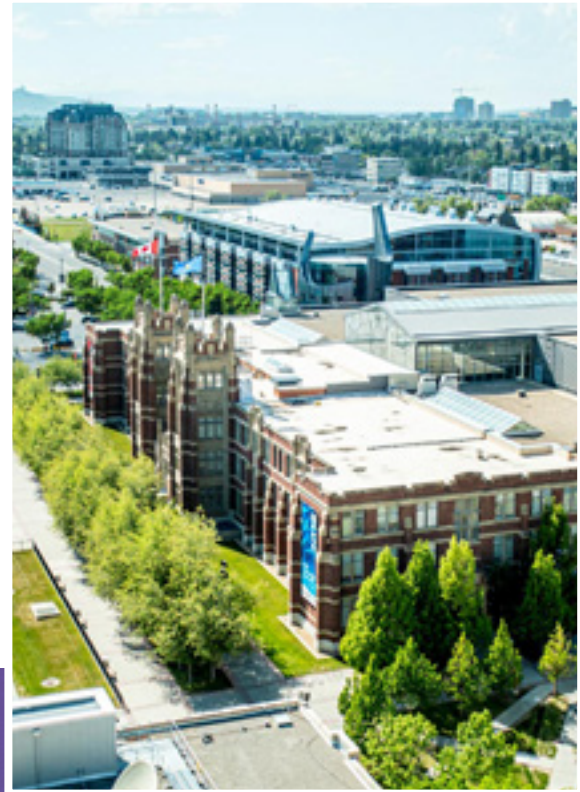
International students at SAIT are 79% less likely to report mental disability compared to domestic students.



Findings from this survey were used to advocate to SAIT to design more effective interventions to support international students' mental health and well-being.

Financial Highlights

Most full-and part-time students, and apprentices pay Saitsa fees. Our goal is to serve you, the students. We do this by collecting student fees, which are utilized to advocate for your rights, and to provide quality services and programs to students outside of the classroom. The Post-Secondary Learning Act grants authority to Saitsa to collect fees in order to fulfill its mandate to represent and serve students.



The student fees we collect are divided into three funds:

1

**GENERAL
FUND**

\$171

2

**RESTRICTED S.A.
BUILDING FUND**

\$120

3

**HEALTH & DENTAL
PLAN FUND**

\$262

1

GENERAL FUND

(\$171 fee) The SAIT Students' Association - General Fund was established to be Saitsa's operational fund. All of the business operations and all of the administrative and event expenditures of the Association are transacted through this fund. Operating funds are predominantly provided by student fees as determined by the Saitsa Board of Directors.

2

RESTRICTED SA BUILDING FUND

(\$120 fee) The SAIT Students' Association - Restricted SA Building Fund was established to accumulate funds to provide for the purchase of a building. Students will provide the direction for the expenditures through future student referendums. Revenue is allocated from Student Fees as determined by the Saitsa Students Board of Directors.

3

HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN FUND

(\$262 fee) The SAIT Students' Association - Health and Dental Plan Fund was established to operate the Student Health and Dental Plan. SAIT collects the students' health and dental plan fees on behalf of the Association. These fees are received from SAIT and deposited in the fund from which all contributions are paid to the benefits provider to adjudicate health and dental claims for the students. Contributions paid to the benefits provider are adjusted based on actual usage of the plan and any surpluses or losses at the end of the fiscal year will be reflected in the Health and Dental Plan Fund.

Services Highlights

Student Experience

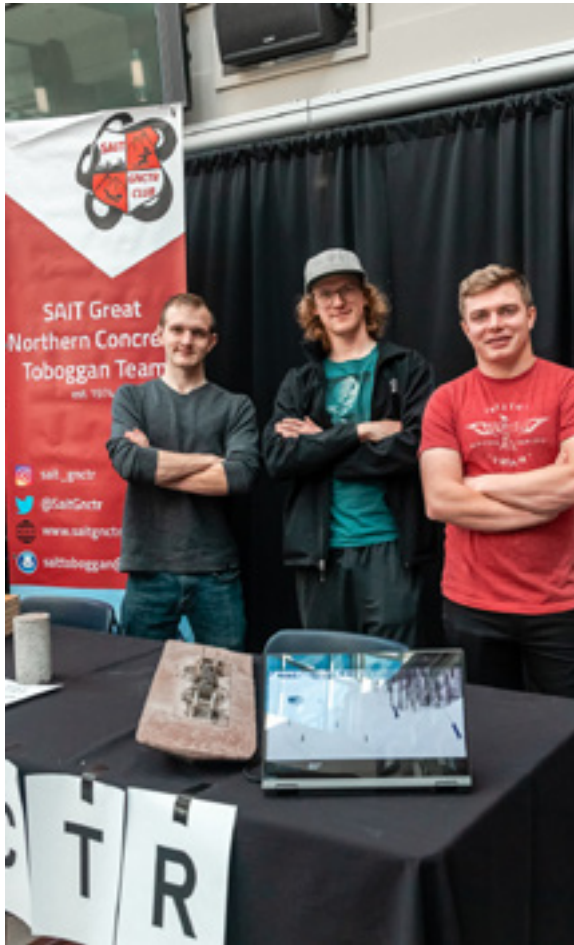
With a new year, the Student Experience department underwent new changes and improvements.

The Student Experience team re-shifted their programming and initiatives to better serve SAIT students upon their return to campus throughout the semester.

Lets explore the highlights of the year, where Student Experience exceeded expectations in areas such as student clubs, philanthropy, tackling food insecurity, the Tax Program, and volunteering initiatives.



* Services Highlights



CLUBS

Through a diverse range of programming and initiatives, Saita Clubs fostered a sense of community among the SAIT students and broader community, integrating both academic and social aspects into their efforts.

Student Experience 2022/2023 Highlights:



Two Saita Club events were Worldwide events! These were World Water Day and World Student Games. These events were organized by the Student Water Club, Chemical Engineering Club, Environmental Technology Club, and Instrumentation Technology Student's Association of McPhail School of Energy. They have invited students from around the world, and they hosted an event at SAIT, with the support of Saita Clubs Funding.



24 Academic Industry Nights! Saita Club Executives were able to host these industry nights with an average of 150 attendees.



13 Office and Facility Tours for McPhail School of Energy and School of Construction!

55

Active Clubs

63

Lunch & Learns,
Resume Building &
LinkedIn Workshops

33

Socials, Volunteering
& Fundraising Events



ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Through the ongoing generosity of the SAIT community, Saitsa was able to “adopt” 53 SAIT student families, with 38 sponsors generously supporting the initiative. Adopt-a-Family supports students and their families with funds to ensure that the cheer is spread far and wide among students and their families. They received wish list items along with a grocery store gift card, ensuring a holiday meal and allowing them to spread joy during the holiday season.

53

Families
Adopted

38

Sponsors

Adopt-a-Family Highlights:



Revamped the application process for Sponsors and Families to be adopted.



92 dependents under the age of 18 had their wish list items shopped for.



Over 2/3 were newcomers to Canada.



43 families applied for the reasons of cost of tuition, cost of living and having lost a job.

✳ Services Highlights



TEDI MARKET

Saitsa's Tedi Market emerged as a pivotal resource for students navigating challenging economic circumstances, specifically targeting food insecurity. Through its pay-what-you-can approach, the initiative ensures all students have access to groceries and personal care items.

379
Students Served *

* Ran from Feb/23 - Apr/23

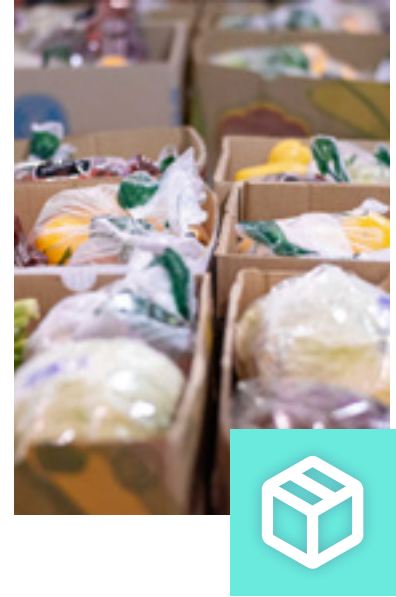


FREE BREAKFAST

Saitsa's FREE Breakfast events play a crucial role in supporting SAIT students. To further tackle food insecurity, these events provide nutritious breakfasts at no cost. There's a variety of offerings from fruit and granola bars to toast, bagel, parfait and cereal bars.

2,526
Students Served *

* Ran from Feb/23 - Jun/23



GOOD FOOD BOX

The Good Food Box program provides fresh, affordable produce to SAIT students. An initiative by the Community Kitchen Program of Calgary, helps fill student kitchens with healthy fruits and vegetables without emptying their bank accounts.

388
Boxes Sold

* Services Highlights



EMERGENCY FOOD FUND

To support students experiencing financial hardships, the Emergency Food Fund provided student with grocery store gift cards to help ensure that securing a meal was not an additional stressor.

147

Students Accessed
the Program



WELLNESS BANK

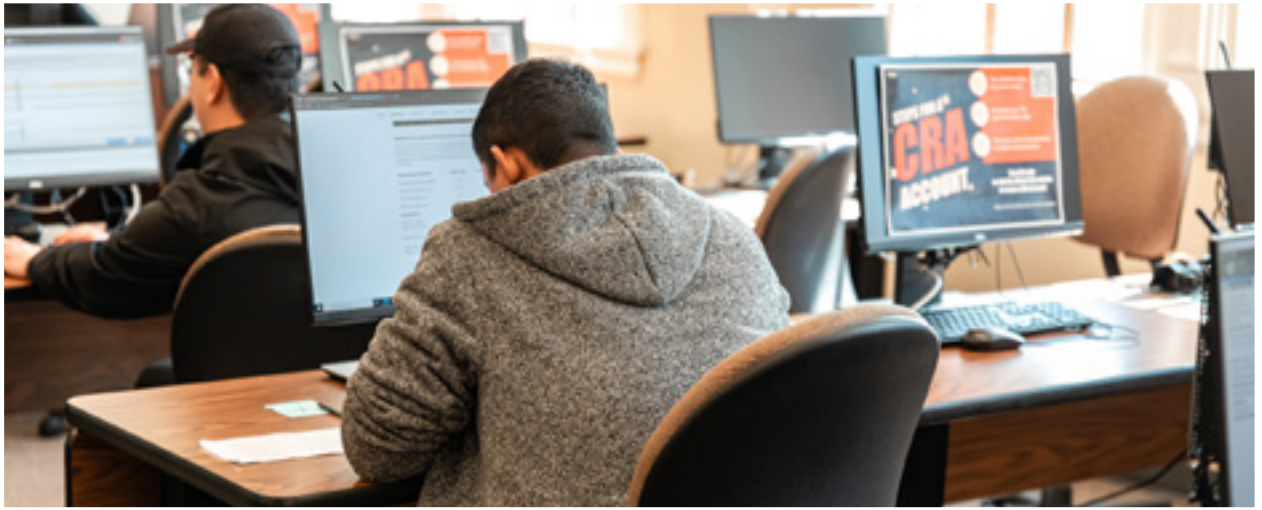
The Wellness Bank helps provide access to household items and hygiene items to SAIT students. Saita believes hygiene is a right, and not a luxury. Through this initiative, students have one less factor to consider during their student life journey.

270

Students Accessed
the Program

Check out some other great initiatives that support students!

[Saita.com/ResourceCentre](https://saita.com/ResourceCentre)



TAX PROGRAM

Saitsa's Tax Program provides practical experience for students to have training through Canada Revenue Agency's Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP). This opportunity allows for student volunteers to complete fellow students or community members' taxes for free. This is a completely free service and allows for volunteers to gain valuable experience while serving their community and peers.



30

volunteers participated in the Tax Program 2023



1,445

tax returns submitted



751

total number of volunteer hours for the Tax Program



VOLUNTEERS

Saitsa's volunteering program provides opportunities for students to gain skills and experiences while providing meaningful interactions with those in the SAIT community. From our Expos and events, to our daily programming, Saitsa relies on our dedicated and compassionate volunteers to improve the student experience.

154
Volunteers

Volunteer Experience Highlights:



Several volunteers had multiple positions



27 hours (average) per volunteer



4,210 Total hours for Volunteer Services Program (Fall 2022/ Winter 2023)

Governance

Saitsa continued our efforts to adjust and improve the governance of the association to ensure that our student leaders can focus on what's most important – student-led advocacy initiatives and the strategic leadership of Saitsa.

Our new governance structure has resulted in some extremely positive benefits to the student-leaders' experience, the governance of the organization, and the operationalization of the Board's vision. Under our new Policy Governance model, Saitsa methodically developed and amended policies and Ends Goals to best meet the needs of Saitsa and our members.



2023 Board of Directors Election Candidates

As the governance structure changes have been significant, the Board recognizes that it will take 2-4 more years for Saitsa to adapt to this new direction; as research on our members is conducted it is expected that the Ends will continue to be reviewed and amended to reflect current needs of SAIT students.

The Board's End Goals are:



Students maintain a sense of overall wellbeing throughout their academic career.



Students are able to successfully navigate their post-secondary educational experience.

SAITSA ELECTION

Across Canada Student Unions and Student Associations' hold elections for their student-led Board of Directors to act as a voice for students.

The 2023 Saitsa General Election was the first on-campus election without restrictions since the winter semester of 2020. Voting opened on March 8th, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. and closed on March 9th, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

The Directors worked tirelessly to represent students to all levels of government and continue their advocacy efforts on issues that matter to students.

Directors sat on a variety of SAIT councils, committees and working groups to support campus-wide initiatives and strategies that work towards supporting and improving the SAIT student experience. By contributing their student voice to these different groups, Saitsa's Directors helped to bring important student issues to the attention of administrators, support staff and faculty to enact change.

Saitsa Election Highlights:

- ✓ 27 eligible candidates (New record)
- ✓ 12.8% Voter Turn Out
- ✓ Voting was conducted by way of Single Transferable Voting, and it took 28 rounds of counting to fill the nine positions (New record)

2023 ELECTION OVERSIGHT PANEL

Ilene Burns – Chief Returning Officer

David McIntyre – Chair

Michael Watterston – Panel Member

Cherry Sham – Panel Member

✳ Services Highlights



Operations

In the 2022-2023 academic year, Saitsa ramped up operations with increased student presence on campus. Our commitment to providing valuable services to students remained and Saitsa laid the groundwork for the future of its operations.

ODYSSEY MARKET

During the 2022-2023 Academic year, the Odyssey and Station Market joined forces to become the Odyssey Market! Combining both cafe and convenience store in one, it's SAIT students' go-to spot for delicious custom-roast coffee, hot food, baked goods, snacks, drinks and so much more! The Odyssey Market is proud to represent sustainability, free-trade, and of course, student-friendly pricing.



STATION EXPRESS

The Station Express remains SAIT students' one-stop convenience shop. Offerings include an array of snacks, drinks, drip coffee, popcorn, cards and more!



GATEWAY FOOD TRUCK

The Gateway, the restaurant, bar and concert venue that SAIT students came to know and love opened (and closed) its doors for the last time during the 2021-2022 academic year.

In light of this, with the new 2022-2023 year, the Gateway Food Truck was born! It staged a successful soft launch over the summer of 2023 and can now be found at various locations across the city. The Food Truck features iconic handheld “pockets” and poutines. Follow us on Instagram [@gateway_foodtruck](https://www.instagram.com/gateway_foodtruck) for locations and updates.



GATEWAY EVENTS

Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, Gateway Events continued frequency of larger-scale events off campus, demonstrating a sustained commitment to external event promotion. The audio and visual side also experienced a notable surge in demand. With this increased revenue, Gateway Events contributed to the well-being of SAIT students by orchestrating engaging campus events and programming.

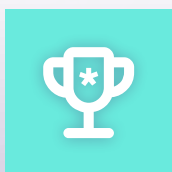
Check out the Gateway Food Truck menu, click here:

**The Gateway has
GONE MOBILE!**

Awards

Student Experience Awards

Annually, Saitsa acknowledges students in the community who demonstrate excellence and support for others. We honour those who embody the spirit of SAIT and Saitsa communities, acknowledging their valuable contributions to the student experience, through a diverse array of 7 awards. For the 2022-2023 academic year, we proudly recognized and celebrated the following students for their noteworthy contributions to enhancing the overall SAIT student experience.



2022-2023 Recipients:

- * **Club of the Year Award**
BGIS Club
- * **DC Fleming Award**
Ankit Poddar
- * **Disruptor Award**
Vincent Mondiguing
- * **JM Parker Award**
Paul John Martinez
- * **Marcel Carpenter Award**
Kelly Kennedy
- * **Supporter Award**
Bernardes Toledo
- * **Therese Murray Award**
Wilasinee Thongchalerm

Instructor Excellence Awards

A long-standing tradition at SAIT is Saitsa's Instructor Excellence Awards; Saitsa encourages students to nominate instructors who have gone above and beyond and demonstrated excellence in teaching. Saitsa received a record-breaking number of nominations this year as SAIT students showed their appreciation by nominating over 200 instructors!



2022-2023 Recipients:

✳ **Academic Services**

Limei Wang

✳ **MacPhail School of Energy**

Chuck Cheng

✳ **School for Advanced Digital Technology**

Ali Moussa

✳ **School of Business**

Dan Wong

✳ **School of Manufacturing & Automation**

Stephen Kenny

✳ **School of Construction**

Jay Reid

✳ **School of Health & Public Safety**

Rodel Padua

✳ **School of Hospitality & Tourism**

Michael Allemeier

✳ **School of Transportation**

Harley Breadner