



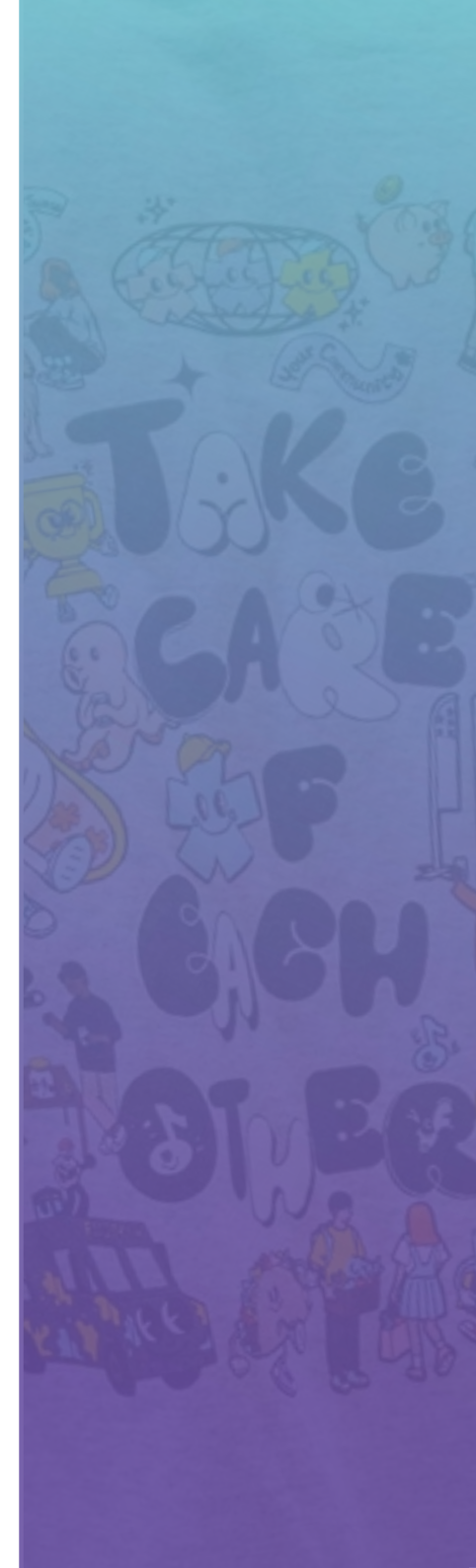
Saitsa*

2023/24
Annual Report

Saitsa.com

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Advocacy & Research



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 ensures transparency by posting all reports to our website and promoting those reports in our communications to members.

We conduct research to better understand student needs and advocate for positive changes at SAIT.

This year saw the release of three reports:



Tackling the Post-Secondary Affordability Crisis: In a post-COVID world



The Role of Student Associations in Addressing Student Mental Health



Supporting International Students in Alberta's Post-Secondary Institutions

The following are some highlights from our findings and discussion within these reports:

1

Housing Cost Strain

Housing costs represent a major expense, potentially doubling total education costs for students who can't live at home.

2

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity affects approx. 41% of the student population, with minority & international students experiencing higher rates.

3

Financial Hardships

International students face disproportionate financial hardship: 67.81% lacking access to emergency financial support and paying up to triple the tuition of domestic students.

4

Wages Fall Short

Current minimum wage (\$15/hour in Alberta) falls short of the calculated living wage requirement of \$22.40/hour.

5

Education Costs Triple

The cost of post-secondary education has tripled since the 1990s, while government funding has decreased from 90% to 50%

6

Support Services Demand

Post-COVID recovery has shown increased demand for student support services, particularly food assistance programs.

Finances



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.

Each fee is collected once per semester:

\$146

Student Association Fee

Less than 9 credits \$16.23/credit

\$86

Health Fee

Annual maximum of \$172

\$79

Dental Fee

Annual maximum of \$158

Services Highlights

Student Experience

With a new year, the Student Experience department continued to evolve and improve programming and initiatives to better serve SAIT students throughout the semester. This further shaped the student experience through exciting events and invaluable student services that enhance life on campus.



Highlights of this year include exceeding expectations in areas such as student clubs, philanthropy, tackling food insecurity, the Tax Program, and volunteering initiatives.

CLUBS

2023-2024 was a year of growth, impact and community, celebrating student organizations' collective achievements and student leaders' dedication.



Some highlights from the year that exemplify this include:

- * **Two Saitsa Clubs received SAIT's 2024 President's Student Leadership Award** | The Student Petroleum Society (SPS) for fostering industry connections, and the Environmental Technology Students Organization (ETSO) for promoting sustainable initiatives.
- * **Professional Development** | Delivered 140+ career workshops and mentorship programs serving 1000+ students
- * **Cultural Events** | Organized 113+ social gatherings including 5 multicultural festival
- * **Community Service** | Led 15+ charity initiatives raising \$10,000+
- * **Sustainability** | Implemented reusable bottle programs and composting stations
- * **Arts** | Hosted 10 concerts and art exhibitions showcasing student talent

CLUBS



77

Active Clubs

148

**Professional
Development Events**

133

**Socials, Volunteering
or Fundraising Events**

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

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Through the ongoing generosity of the SAIT community, Saitsa was able to “adopt” 82 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.

38

Sponsors

82

Families Adopted

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.

1100

Students Served



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.

9096

Students Served



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.

333

Boxes Sold



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.

383

Students Served



WELLNESS BANK

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

234

Students Served



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 is a completely free service and allows for volunteers to gain valuable experience while serving their community and peers.

44

**Volunteers
Participated**

1776

**Tax Returns
Submitted**

1156

**Number of
Volunteer Hours**

FRESH ROUTES MARKET

Fresh Routes is a mobile grocery service making healthy food accessible and affordable. Operating from the Saitsa Peer Support Centre, they offer a variety of fresh produce to students and staff. Customers are encouraged to bring reusable bags. This on-campus service helps community members save money while accessing essential groceries conveniently.

269

Students Served



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.

161

Volunteers

30

**Hours Per Volunteer
(Average)**

4874

**Volunteer Services
Program Total Hours**



Governance

Within Alberta, all student associations and unions are regulated by the Post-Secondary Learning Act; section 95(1). The act prescribes that Saitsa is managed by a board that is elected by and from the members of the association.

This board is made up of 9 directors that are elected in the winter semester, and known as the Saitsa Board of Directors. Their term officially starts in May and finishes in May of the following year.

The Saitsa Board of Directors remain focused on advancing the organization's End goals, ensuring they reflect the evolving needs of SAIT students. Through ongoing research, strategic oversight and student-led advocacy, the Board continues to advance Saitsa's long-term vision.

The Board's End Goals:

- * Students maintain a sense of overall wellbeing throughout their academic career.
- * Students are able to successfully navigate their post-secondary educational experience.



(L-R , Top Row) Mansoor Ali, Jatin Joshi, Aaron Ramos
(Bottom Row) Gurnoor Brar, Ryan Ng, Auginne Bunado
(Not Pictured) Benjamin Nwachukwu

2023 Board of Directors

Aaron Ramos

President

Mansoor Ali

Vice President

Gurnoor Brar

Auginne Bunado

Jatin Joshi

Ryan Ng

Benjamin Nwachukwu

ELECTIONS

Voting opened for the 2024 Saitsa General Election on March 3, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. and closed on March 7, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Voting was conducted by way of Single Transferable Voting using the Droop Formula calculated by an independent third-party system.

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.

Chief Returning Officer

- * Ilene Burns

2024 Elections Oversight Panel

- * David McIntyre – Chair
- * Michael Watterston – Panel Member
- * Sandra Penner – Panel Member

2024 Elections Highlights:

14

Eligible Candidates

13.8%

Voter Turn Out

15

Rounds of counting

Operations

As your students' association, we've continuously adapted our campus operations to deliver affordable, accessible services that align with your changing needs. By maintaining flexibility and strategically adjusting our delivery methods, we've successfully expanded our reach both on and off campus while keeping the enhanced student experience at the forefront of our mission.



ODYSSEY MARKET



During the 2023-2024 academic year, 'The Odyssey' re-branded to 'Odyssey Market' and began plans to undergo renovations to enhance the student experience and better integrate with campus life. We refined our product selection for consistency, introduced seasonal beverages and loyalty cards, and expanded our merchandise offerings with new branded items.

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



This past year, we expanded our food truck operations by joining YYC Food Trucks and serving as a featured vendor at Friendly Fest. Our team also gave back to the campus community by serving over 700 students complimentary poutine and chili at various Saitsa events throughout the year.



GATEWAY EVENTS



Gateway Events continued its renewed focus on larger-scale off-campus events. We collaborated with top-tier talent in entertainment and music, delivering a diverse range of exciting performances across Calgary. Audio and visual services continued to be a vital offering for our clients within the entertainment sector, and our vast catalogue of rental equipment provided a valuable resource to SAIT students and staff, as well as the public.

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 the SAIT and Saitsa communities, through a diverse array of 7 awards.

For the 2023-2024 academic year, we proudly recognized and celebrated the following students for their noteworthy contributions to enhancing the overall SAIT student experience:



We believe outstanding students, and apprentices should be rewarded for their dedication and hard work at SAIT.

Club of the Year Award
SAIT Accounting Society

DC Fleming Award
Aaron Ramos

Disruptor Award
Amir Sadri

JM Parker Award
Aaron Ramos

Supporter Award
Alyssa Eunice Sangum

Therese Murray Award
Ken Ticguingan



Saitsa*

Get Connected!



Saitsa

   | @SaitsaLife



The Odyssey Market

 | @OdysseyCoffee
 | @TheOdysseyCafe

Gateway Food Truck

 | @Gateway.FoodTruck
 | @GatewayFoodTruckYYC

Gateway Events

 | @Events.Gateway
 | @Events.Gateway.YYC