

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SUPPORTING ALBERTA POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS DURING THE STUDENT AID FUNDING BACKLOG

Saitsa, a dedicated advocate for Alberta students and education, is deeply concerned about the challenges post-secondary students face as they endure significant delays in processing student aid applications. This backlog has left many students in precarious financial positions as they await the critical funding needed to cover tuition, rent, and essential living expenses.

“We stand in solidarity with the thousands of Alberta students currently affected by these delays,” said Saitsa President Ahmad Baker. “No student should be forced to choose between paying rent or tuition. Alberta’s future leaders deserve timely access to the resources necessary for their success, both academically and beyond.”

While we acknowledge the efforts of Alberta Advanced Education to allocate additional resources and address the processing delays, we urge the government to make students’ needs a top priority and ensure that future backlogs are prevented. The pressures are especially intense for students with dependents or disabilities, who require additional support during these delays.

Saitsa calls on Alberta Student Aid and the Alberta government to:

- **Increase transparency** by providing regular updates to students on the status of their applications.
- **Accelerate aid distribution** by exploring further solutions to expedite the processing of pending applications.
- **Extend emergency support** by offering temporary financial assistance to students facing immediate hardship due to the delay in aid distribution.

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The unprecedented volume of applications highlights the growing financial pressures Alberta's post-secondary students are under. It is essential that the government takes immediate, decisive action to ensure aid reaches students without unnecessary delay.

"We will continue to advocate for and support these students during this challenging time. A well-educated, empowered workforce is vital to Alberta's future, and it starts with supporting our students today," added Saitsa VP Launce Santiago.

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