



Working Condition are Learning Conditions

<https://www.stoppsecuts.ca/>

Hello Faculty and Attn, Hon. Demetrios Nicolaides, Minister of Advanced Education

SAFA stands in solidarity with all the faculty associations of the colleges and universities in the province of Alberta and mirrors the statements of the [Public Interest Alberta](#) campaign to stop the cuts to Alberta's post-secondary education system. Post-secondary institutions are important to students an *Alberta* community and have a significant economic impact on their region's prosperity.

We ask the provincial government to:

- **stop further budget cuts *to* post-secondary education for the coming budget year, including the planned cuts to operating grants,**
- **stop the drastic tuition increases for undergraduate and graduate students.**
- **remove performance-based funding metrics, especially the one's focused *on labour* market outcomes,**
- **immediately freeze support staff layoffs and return position numbers to reasonable levels,**
- **end the hiring freeze of tenure track professors,**
- **end the precarious terms and nature of long-term sessional positions.**
- **SAFA mirrors the rational of ACIFA below.**

Cuts to the Campus Alberta Grants by the Government of Alberta have placed severe strain on students, faculty, and staff who are trying to maintain quality post-secondary education in Alberta's universities, colleges, and polytechnics.

These cuts will have a drastic and long-term impact on the culture and economy of our province and the well-being of our citizens. We must communicate how important postsecondary education is to the very fabric of this province.

Provincial Government cuts have resulted in an unprecedented number of layoffs and a refusal by post-secondary institutions to replace retiring staff. These actions have resulted in Students now having to navigating their post-secondary educational experiences without adequate support and faculty have now lost important technical and research supports necessary to meet their teaching and research objectives.

The recent and proposed cuts to faculty and staff place research and economic goals in jeopardy. This is simply short-term thinking at a moment when the province is looking to both diversify and restart our economy as we come out of the COVID-19 crisis.

Increases in tuitions and fees have placed increasing stress on students and their families, meaning there will be less money for them to spend at local businesses to help restart our struggling economy.

Layoffs and redundancies (elimination of positions when staff retire) mean fewer employed Albertans across the entire province. This is a major issue in big cities, but even more so in smaller municipalities where post-secondary institutions are often one of the community's biggest employers.

We cannot cut our way to prosperity.

PSE is a major economic engine of Alberta, employing thousands of Albertans, and driving spending to local businesses (both from students and from staff/faculty).

SAFA supports the goals of accessibility, affordability, and quality post-secondary education. To achieve them, however, all three goals must be balanced.

The Mackinnon report contained data now out-of-date and should no longer be considered in the new, bleak economy that Alberta faces.

Working Condition are Learning Conditions.

Always, in service of membership, and in solidarity with all faculty associations in the province of Alberta

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blair Howes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Blair Howes
SAFA President

