



March 4, 2021

Re: Budget Impacts on Post-Secondary Education

The cuts to post-secondary education announced in last week's Alberta budget, and the cuts that have already occurred over the last two years, will create a generational setback for this sector.

The 13 institutions ACIFA represents can only absorb these types of cutbacks by eliminating programs and people. This is happening at a time when the province of Alberta needs post-secondary to be an economic driver as we are in an economic decline and experiencing a pandemic.

The education that students receive at the various institutions that ACIFA represents is the key to the well-being of our economy and culture of this province. Ultimately, students will pay the price for these cutbacks as they experience higher tuition, higher fees, and fewer choices for education. Students will have to make tough choices on whether to attend an Alberta post-secondary institution and face a much greater debt load, or attend post-secondary in a different province.

ACIFA will be asking the minister of advanced education to reconsider these cuts and reinstate funding to post-secondary institutions for the betterment of the province today and in the future.

In Solidarity,

Ken Heather, ACIFA President