



GRADUATE STUDENTS WELCOME FUNDING MODEL DELAY

June 5, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Calgary, AB - The Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) welcomes the recently announced delayed implementation of Alberta's new post-secondary funding model. ab-GPAC, as well its partner organizations, had advocated to the Minister of Advanced Education in recent meetings to pause implementing the new outcome-based funding model, due to the COVID-19 crisis and its short-term impacts. This delay will allow time for post-secondary institutions to adjust to new operating realities, while also providing an opportunity to further refine the new funding model.

Though the new funding model has been delayed, institutions are still expected to not only absorb significant funding reductions, but also separately reduce their expenditures. As such, ab-GPAC remains concerned over the fiscal health of Alberta's universities, colleges, and polytechnics. "Provincial funding reductions are being implemented very quickly, and our institutions are struggling to respond. While efficiencies can certainly be found in Alberta's post-secondary sector, the pace of these funding changes could impair our institutions' ability to contribute to Alberta's recovery, following the COVID-19 crisis. Additionally, we want to ensure that the student experience doesn't suffer as a result," said Evan Wong, Chair of ab-GPAC.

"We look forward to continuing to work with the Government of Alberta, as well as our respective institutions, to ensure a fiscally responsible post-secondary sector that meets Alberta's long-term economic needs." Wong continued.

- 30 -

The Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) advances the interests of over 16,000 Master's and PhD students at Athabasca University, the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, and Concordia University of Edmonton.

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