



Council of Alberta University Students
#2, 9908 – 109 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1H5
780-297-4531
www.caus.net

For immediate release

April 28, 2014

Students optimistic about proposed new employment program

Edmonton, Alberta – Representatives from the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) met with Thomas Lukaszuk, Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour, this morning to discuss the future of a new student employment program in Alberta. In the meeting Minister Lukaszuk committed to involving CAUS in the development of a new student employment program to replace the Student Temporary Employment Program, known as STEP, which was cut in Budget 2013. Late last week, Minister Lukaszuk stated that he plans to introduce a new student employment program.

“While it is unfortunate that a new student employment program won’t be rolled out in time to help students find jobs this summer, we are optimistic that its development will provide opportunities for future students to gain employment and build skills in areas related to their program of study,” said Adam Woods, vice chair of the Council of Alberta University Students and VP External at the University of Alberta Students' Union, who attended the morning meeting.

CAUS members have met with nearly all Alberta MLAs throughout the past year and have raised the need to replace STEP at every opportunity. The idea of creating a new program that builds off of the successes of STEP while refocusing on creating opportunities for students to get real world experience in their chosen field of study has been well received in virtually every meeting.

“It is encouraging to see that student concerns are being listened to and that the province is committed to action,” said Woods. “A robust student employment program not only helps students, but also makes sense for taxpayers by maximizing the value for their investments in education.”

Alberta is currently the only province in Canada without a student employment program. CAUS is committed to working with the Ministry of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour to develop a new employment program that will benefit students and all Albertans.

- 30 -

The Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) represents the interests of students at the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, the University of Lethbridge, Mount Royal University, and MacEwan University.

For more information contact:

Beverly Eastham, Executive Director
cell: 780-297-4531
e-mail: beverly@caus.net

Adam Woods, Vice Chair
cell: 780-850-4372
e-mail: vp.external@su.ualberta.ca