



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

For immediate release

December 22, 2014

## **PCs break promise by approving tuition increases**

Edmonton, Alberta – Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education, Don Scott, has approved 25 of the 26 market modifier proposals submitted by 10 post-secondary institutions across Alberta, despite PC promises that tuition would not go up past the rate of inflation. Of the 26 submitted proposals, over half were from institutions whose students are represented by the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS). CAUS has not once been granted a meeting with Minister Scott to directly express the concerns of the over 100,000 undergraduate university students we represent.

“This was the wrong promise to backtrack on; it’s going to hurt accessibility in a province where we already have the lowest participation rate in post-secondary,” explained Navneet Khinda, CAUS chair and VP External at the University of Alberta Students’ Union, “Students are a critical stakeholder in discussions about post-secondary and tuition. It is difficult for us to understand why Minister Scott would finalize his decision without first meeting with student representatives from CAUS.”

As nearly every proposal was approved, CAUS is concerned that market modifiers are likely to become a more consistent part of the tuition calculation and are now viewed by the government as a legitimate tool for institutions to use in adjusting tuition. When the first round of market modifiers were introduced in 2010, students were promised that they would be a “one-time only adjustment.” While tuition increases in Alberta remain restricted to rising at the rate of inflation, students believe that until the loopholes that allow for the use of market modifiers and mandatory non-instructional fees are closed, the “tuition cap” is not a tool that keeps education affordable or costs predictable in Alberta.

“The ministry undertook a great deal of work on reviewing tuition and fees regulations this summer, during which student consultation and transparency were said to be at the forefront of the values of government,” said Khinda. “It is disappointing to see a decision made on market modifiers that embodies neither of these values, and that will put education further out of reach for many Albertans.”

- 30 -

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

**For more information contact:**

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

Navneet Khinda, Chair  
cell: 780-236-4949  
e-mail: vp.external@su.ualberta.ca