



**Council of Alberta University Students**  
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## **Students excited about new government's commitment to post-secondary**

Edmonton, Alberta – Yesterday, Bill 3 was introduced in the Alberta Legislature. Should this bill pass, Alberta students will see tuition and mandatory non-instructional fees frozen for the next two years as the government undertakes a comprehensive review of the Campus Alberta funding framework. Bill 3 also reverses the 1.4 percent cut to post-secondary institutions made in Budget 2015, increases base funding by 2 percent, and cancels the market modifier tuition increases for 25 programs across Alberta approved in December by the previous government.

“This is an incredibly good day for Alberta students,” said Romy Garrido, Chair of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS). “While there is still a lot of work ahead of us in assisting to develop a sustainable vision for post-secondary education in our province, these changes will help to resolve several key issues that have plagued our system over the past several years. CAUS is committed to an affordable, accessible and high-quality post-secondary education system – students are prepared to continue to work towards these goals with a renewed optimism in light of these proposed changes.”

Earlier today, Deputy Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education, Marcia Nelson, took time to brief student leaders on the changes that will be occurring through Bill 3 as well as other related initiatives of the ministry. Student leaders were told that the intent of the new government is to not just cancel the most recent market modifiers, but to also completely remove the market modifier loophole in the Tuition and Fees Regulation, which currently allows institutions to implement them.

“CAUS has been advocating for the close of the market modifier loophole in the tuition regulation since it was first introduced in 2010,” explained Garrido. “It is an incredible relief to hear that this loophole will be closed and that the overall affordability of post-secondary education will be examined thoroughly and with proper consultation of students.”

CAUS is committed to working with government to create a stable, predictable framework for tuition and fees and to advocate that the government legislate these changes to ensure affordability in the long term.

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*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*

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