



**Council of Alberta University Students**  
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For immediate release

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## **Statement of Support: University of Calgary Students' Union ownership of MacHall**

Edmonton, Alberta – On behalf of over 100,000 undergraduate university students across Alberta, the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) condemns the University of Calgary's attempt to take over the MacEwan Student Centre – a building located on the U of C campus, but financed and governed by the institution's students through the University of Calgary Students' Union (UCSU).

The inexplicable decision of the university's administration, headed by President Elizabeth Cannon, to take over the management of the students' building will have a wide ranging impact on relationships between student associations and administrations, not just in Alberta, but across Canada.

Students' union buildings are a mainstay of student support in Alberta. They provide the required space that allows students' unions and associations to run a wide diversity of programs and services for students, often at a lower cost than the institution's administration would be able to offer for similar programs and services. This includes peer-based mental health support and campus orientation, which are essential to student life.

These buildings also empower students' unions to be effective advocates on their students' behalf. This move to take over the UCSU's student centre by President Cannon and her administration strikes at the very heart of this fundamental building block of campus life. This is a hostile, precedent setting takeover of student space and revenue by the University of Calgary, and CAUS fully supports the UCSU in their fight to maintain the rights of the students they represent.

Students from across Alberta are watching this event unfold carefully. Within the last year, students at MacEwan University in Edmonton decided to fund a building managed by their students' association – an investment that requires a close partnership between students, administration and the province. The actions of the University of Calgary casts a long shadow over similar relationships at other institutions that are needed to create successful student buildings on university campuses.

This Thursday, May 5th, CAUS representatives will be in attendance as the UCSU takes the U of C to court in order to get an injunction to keep students in control of the MacEwan Student Centre. On this day, a judge will decide whether students will continue to manage their own building. CAUS encourages any student free on Thursday to join us at the Calgary Courts Centre (601 - 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2P 5P7) and show support for the UCSU.

As the voice of its more than 100,000 members, The Council of Alberta University Students urges the University of Calgary to immediately stop this aggressive behaviour and to recognize student ownership of MacHall.

For more information on this issue visit:

<https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/category/mymachall-dispute/>

MacHall Court Date Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/109511662789933/>

UCSU Court Date Information:

<https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/court-date-set-to-block-machall-takeover/>

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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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