

Date: 04/04/2019  
To: Students' Union Council  
Re: VP(X) 2018/19 Report

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Cher Conseil,

Je vous écris du Québec où je rends visite à l'Union Étudiante du Québec au nom de CASA! For those that don't speak French, I am writing from Quebec where I am attending a Quebec Student Union conference on behalf of CASA. Today, we are travelling to Rouyn-Noranda which is about a 7 hour drive north-west of Montreal.

### 1. Updates

- **Federal budget presentation:** On March 27th, VP Bhatnagar, EAA Nelson, VP-Elect Larsen and I attended a luncheon hosted by the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce where Finance Minister Bill Morneau presented his perspectives on the federal budget and also took questions from the audience. While I was not able to ask my question during the lunch, I did speak with the Minister briefly afterwards. I articulated that we were pleased with the budget overall, but asked how he expects Canada to achieve 100% work-integrated learning for students by 2023. He responded that the spending patterns that his government has been putting in place are putting Canada on track to meet that goal, however that is a rather unpredictable and speculative assumption in my view.
- **Quebec trip:** As mentioned, I am in Quebec for the last QSU caucus meeting of the year. Similar to the CASA AGM conference, the focus of these meetings will largely be to wrap up much of the work completed this year. They will also be electing their new provincial executive. At CASA AGM, the membership voted to extend the existing partnership agreement we have with the QSU for another year while negotiations (which I am a part of) continue. There were simply some timing barriers that meant we were not able to complete the renegotiations of a new modified agreement, but I am confident that it is something that can be done by November at the latest.
- **CASA AGM:** President Larsen, EAA Nelson and I attended the CASA Annual General Meeting conference in Halifax hosted by the Saint Mary's University Students' Association. It was lovely to explore their campus and learn more about their SA and advocacy in Nova Scotia. At the conference, committees wrapped up any remaining work and recommended topics that next year's membership should address. We also engaged in a long discussion about voluntary student unionism and what role CASA as an organization can play in addressing the issue (being that CASA only advocates to the federal government). Overall it was a very successful and bittersweet conference, and I will miss all delegates who will not be returning very much.
- **Provincial election & GOTV:** As we head into the last 2 weeks of the provincial election, the United Conservative Party and New Democratic Party have both released their full

platforms. They both contain certain measures on post-secondary education, so I highly recommend Council review what the parties are proposing. We expect the Alberta Party and Alberta Liberals to unveil their full platforms in the coming days. We have also begun to allocate more resources into the GOTV campaign, so keep an eye out for exciting things on campus when advance polling is in SUB! A reminder that students can vote in whichever constituency they come from at the SUB advanced polls, making it extremely easy and accessible for all eligible students to vote.

- **Strathcona County Transit:** I met with Strathcona County Councillor Robert Parks who informed me that Strathcona County Transit is implementing new schedules in the fall that will have more frequent stops on North Campus in the evenings that are also better planned around the times that classes finish. I hope this will make transit more accessible for students living in the County.

## 2. Coming up

- **Advance polls in SUB:** PLEASE VOTE! They will be open from April 9-13! There is also an election results night event being planned for April 16th, more details to come.

Don't forget to vote, tell your friends to vote, and make sure everyone votes!

Kind regards,



**UASU VP (External)**

Adam Brown