

Date: 2022-11-09

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President External 2022/23 Report #13

Dear Council,

Below is a summary of recent activities and duties I have undertaken these past two weeks.

Student Financial Aid Teach-In

Last Wednesday was the first teach-in event on student financial aid. I was pleased by the engagement and perspectives shared around the table. Students shared their perspectives from the issues surrounding parental income requirements to lack of awareness surrounding types of support. We will be having more teach-ins in the future, our next teach-in is scheduled to be on November 16th, from 4-5 PM in Cascade room, I hope to see you all there soon.



Meeting Jo-Anne King Henry

Last week, President Monteiro and I had the opportunity to meet Jo-Anne Henry, daughter of Violet King Henry. Violet King Henry was a former SU Vice-President, but also the first black woman lawyer in Canada, the first black person to graduate law in Alberta and the first black person to be admitted to the Alberta Bar. It was an honor to highlight to Jo-Anne some of the accomplishments and work her mother would have done as an SU executive.

Federal Fall Economic Statement - Elimination of Interest and More.

The federal budget, usually tabled early in the year, is generally preceded in the fall by another major statement, the Fall Economic Statement. This is where the government provides a fiscal update on new spending. Last Thursday, the government released its fall economic statement with new, positive spending announcements for students.

To name the major wins here: After years of advocacy, the federal government announced the permanent elimination of interest on federal student loans. They also announced more funding to programs and services such as

- 301.4 million over two years for the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy, starting in 2023-24;
- \$400.5 million over two years for the Canada Summer Jobs, starting in 2023-24;
- \$50 million in 2022-23 for Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada to address ongoing application backlogs, and to speed up processing times.

These are great investments to support students, but we also know that other supports are much needed to support students right now who are struggling to afford the rising cost of living. This is why we and our

counterparts across the country will continue to push for the permanent doubling of the Canadian student rant.

Tuition Town Hall

Please share and bring your friends to the tuition town hall. It is incredibly important that we can mobilize and inform as many students about what is happening

As always, thank you for taking the time to go through this report. I look forward to your questions and comments.

Cheers,



Christian Fotang

Vice President External

University of Alberta Students' Union