

**Date:** 2021/05/018

**To:** Students' Union Council

**Re:** Vice President External 2021/22 Report 2

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Dear Council,

I hope you have all been taking good care of yourselves, staying safe and enjoying the start of your summer. A significant portion of my week was spent at the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) Change over retreat, as well as engaging in bilateral meetings with our counterparts from around the province.

### **CAUS Changeover Retreat**

From May 7th-10th, President Ley and I participated in the CAUS virtual changeover retreat alongside the external advocacy teams of Students' Association of Mount Royal University, Students' Association of Macewan University, University of Lethbridge Students' Union, University of Calgary Students' Union and Athabasca University Students' Union. Those four days were filled with workshops, training and presentations to sharpen our external advocacy skills, and ensure that all incoming externals are properly equipped to navigate the provincial advocacy terrain. We also had some interesting presentations from Alberta Counsel, CAUS' government relations firm, and returning executives. These presentations were incredibly informative and despite the virtual nature of the retreat, we did our best to connect and have fun through virtual social events in the evening.

During this retreat, we also elected the new CAUS Chair and Vice Chair. I am pleased to announce that SAMRU's VP External Rachel Timmermans, was elected Chair and SAMU's VP External Mathew Yannish, Vice Chair. I have full confidence in Rachel's leadership and believe that she will do an excellent job in navigating CAUS and fellow external executive leaders through what will be a challenging year for Post-Secondary Education advocacy. I have already had the chance to meet one on one with Rachel, and we share similar priorities for what we want to see out of CAUS this year and the greater student movement in Alberta.

### **Post Secondary Institution Immunization Information Session with Dr. Hinshaw**

Last Tuesday, I attended an immunization information session organized by the Ministry of Advanced Education in tandem with Alberta Health Services. This session offered the chance for community members in post secondary to ask Dr. Hinshaw questions they had regarding vaccine rollout as well as being informed about how we can help increase vaccine uptake within our respective institutions. Some of the key takeaways:

- As of May 9th:
  - 1,916,957 doses have been administered

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- 44.5% over 16 have been vaccinated with at least one dose
- 8.9% have been fully immunized (2 doses)
- Currently enrolled international students are not required to have an Alberta Personal Health Number to get vaccinated. Instead, international students living in Alberta can call 811, or contact any Alberta Health Service Centre directly to set up a vaccination appointment!
- Soon, the current 3-month residency requirement will be waived for international students as well.

**Meeting with Mayor Don Iveson**

President Ley and I joined a video conference call with counterparts from SAMU, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology Students' Association (NAITSA) and Mayor Don Iveson. We discussed transit, housing and ways to increase student engagement in municipal politics. Mayor Iveson explained the steps the city has taken to increase safety on transit. He was in agreement that there is a larger role for students to play in planning and zoning as well as neighbourhood renewals, and offered advice on how we as student leaders can connect with candidates and other key stakeholder groups in the community to get our advocacy priorities under their radar.

**Upcoming Events: CASA Foundations Conference**

President Ley and I will be attending the CASA Foundations conference on Zoom in two weeks time. The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), is our federal advocacy group. This conference will provide us a chance to experience development seminars, learn from outgoing student leaders from across Canada, and elect the new leadership of this year's CASA!

I look forward to returning with the report and outcomes of this event.

Once again, I wish you all a great rest of your week and all best in committee work for the next two weeks.

Yours Externally,



University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President External  
**Christian Fotang**