

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**ALBERTA POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS CALL ON
GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE "OUR FUTURES, OUR FORTUNES"**

February 11, 2010 - Calgary, AB - Students at SAIT, Mount Royal University, ACAD, Bow Valley College and three other institutes will hold a province-wide day of action to call on the government to re-prioritize post-secondary education. The "Our Futures, Our Fortunes" campaign, organized through the Alberta Students' Executive Council [ASEC], calls on the government to increase support for post-secondary education.

"With this budget, the government had an excellent opportunity to address the realities of increased demand, higher student debt loads, and more competition for student spaces. We are disappointed in the lack of strategic vision in this government's investments in post-secondary education. Many of the worst impacts won't be felt until years later," says Robert Jones, ASEC Chair.

The "Our Futures, Our Fortunes" campaign invites students handwrite messages to the Alberta government, contributing their thoughts on what steps need to be taken to improve the future and fortunes of Alberta post-secondary students. Selected messages from each participating campus will be baked inside giant fortune cookies and delivered to Minister of Advanced Education, Doug Horner.

The cuts in the 2010 provincial budget, coupled with looming tuition and mandatory fee increases leaves students deeply concerned about the quality, accessibility, and affordability of their education.

"Students at SAIT are concerned that the quality of their education will decline unless the government changes course," says Colin Rose, President at SAIT Students' Association. Markoshi Baladad, Vice-President Academic at the Students' Association of Bow Valley College adds, "Bow Valley College has seen dramatic increases in enrollment. It will be impossible to keep pace with demand for student services with these cuts." Says Sage Wheeler, President of the ACAD Students' Association "more debt won't increase opportunity for students; it will encourage them to go elsewhere".

Students from eight campuses across Alberta will take part in the event, including: Alberta College of Art and Design; Bow Valley College; Grant MacEwan University; Keyano College; Medicine Hat College; Mount Royal University; Red Deer College; and SAIT.

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For more information, location details or to set up an interview, contact:

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