



POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Category:	Funding
Policy Title:	Part-Time Bursary
Effective Date:	November 10 th , 2007

Whereas the Government of Alberta stated in the *Affordability Framework for Post-secondary Education*, released in November 2006, that a key component of their vision to create “a world class affordable system that promotes access for all Albertans” is an “increase in financial support for part-time learners.”

Whereas the *Affordability Framework for Post-secondary Education* states that an increase in financial support for part-time learners can be achieved through the reduction of “eligibility barriers”;

Whereas the Government of Alberta states that the intention of Financing Options for Part-Time Post-Secondary Students is to help cover the cost of tuition, books, travel and daycare;

Whereas minimum wage has increased from \$5.00 per hour in 1995 to \$8 per hour in 2007 thereby increasing the minimum wage earners gross income;

Whereas the income threshold used to determine eligibility for the Part-Time Bursary was established in 1995 to correspond with the Canada Student Financial Assistance Act, but is no longer an appropriate assessment criteria for Albertans because of changes in the minimum wage and cost of living that have occurred over the past 12 years.

BIRT the Government of Alberta increase the Part-Time Bursary amount from \$600 per semester to an amount not less than \$800 per semester so that it addresses the costs that are intended to be cover.

BIFRT the Government of Alberta annually review the Part-Time Bursary to ensure that it accurately reflects the costs being faced by Part-time Students;

BIFRT the Government of Alberta establish a new income threshold to evaluate applications for the Part-Time Bursary and determine eligibility;



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BIFRT the Government of Alberta use an index formula, taking into consideration changes in Alberta's Consumer Price Index (CPI), to perform an annual review of the income threshold categorization and ensure that it reflects Alberta's current economic situation and that it does not obstruct part-time students from accessing needed funding.