



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta Students call for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Working Group

EDMONTON, AB - The Alberta Students' Executive Council (ASEC) is disheartened by the results of the Report on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Alberta Post-Secondary Education released on August 30 which shared that half of all respondents reported experiencing some form of sexual or gender-based violence while attending post-secondary. ASEC has a track record of advocating for safe and healthy campus experiences, free from violence, and standardized survivor-centric policies. The survey data, which all 17 ASEC members participated in, confirms the gravity of the issue, of which student leaders have long been advocates.

While institutions were mandated to develop sexual violence policies by 2022, these survey results from earlier this year show us that more action is required urgently. Given the consistently high figures across institutions and demographic groups with even higher incidences in gender non-conforming groups, it is clear that the government needs to lead a province-wide culture shift. ASEC calls for a working group including students, institutions, government and other community stakeholders to work collaboratively towards needs-based solutions that will make a meaningful difference.

"Beyond the staggering statistics around survivor experiences, this report illuminates overwhelming gaps in consent awareness. ASEC is committed to taking action with allies and decision makers to address these cultural deficiencies to create a safer environment for post-secondary students in Alberta."

Celia Sutton, ASEC Chair

ASEC members believe all students have the right to a safe post-secondary education free of fear or risk of sexual and/or gender-based violence. We believe survivors of violence and will work to create needs-based solutions that make a measurable impact within all campus communities.

- 30 -

The Alberta Students' Executive Council (ASEC) represents more than 110,000 college, polytechnic, and university students from 17 member associations across Alberta.

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