



# AMS Decides to Stay in CASA

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## **For immediate release**

After reviewing its federal lobbying priorities, the Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver (AMS) has decided to stay in the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) as an Associate Member for one more year. Since the AMS' decision to leave CASA on October 21, 2009, CASA has made numerous procedural and institutional changes to better accommodate the AMS and other schools that had concerns. These include adopting a new voting system that recognizes not only each student association, but each school's relative size. Additionally, CASA has taken significant steps forward in graduate student advocacy and childcare policy, both of which were issues raised by the AMS.

Furthermore, CASA has adopted a formal Board of Directors who will oversee full-time staff and be responsible for decision making outside of plenary, which is a great step forward in keeping CASA an accountable, member-driven organization. The AMS has decided to continue as an Associate Member for one more year to ensure that these changes remain in place, and that CASA continues to evolve and adapt to the changing needs of Canada's students. At the end of that year, the AMS will review its membership status and vote on how to proceed.

Jeremy McElroy, AMS VP External, stated "I'm really glad that the AMS has decided to remain in CASA because I still see a great deal of value in our membership. CASA has been earnest in their efforts to address AMS concerns and as one of the founding groups, I am pleased that we were able to work towards strengthening our relationship."

AMS President, Bijan Ahmadian, added "The recent reforms in CASA make it a great fit for the AMS. By leveraging our membership, we can bring great value for our students through more effective federal lobbying."

**To schedule an interview, please contact Kelli Seepaul, Communications Manager at 604.822.1961 or [communications@ams.ubc.ca](mailto:communications@ams.ubc.ca)**

## **About the AMS (Student Society of UBC Vancouver)**

The AMS represents over 45,000 students on the Point Grey Campus. Our mission statement is "to improve the educational, social and personal lives of the students at UBC." In addition to standing up for students rights through lobbying the different levels of government and the University Administration, the AMS also runs 14 businesses, hosts student events, oversees approximately 300 clubs and provides many student services and resources.

**[www.ams.ubc.ca](http://www.ams.ubc.ca)**