

AMS FEDERAL LOBBY TRIP





Our Partners

For federal lobbying, we collaborated with the Undergraduates of Research Intensive Universities (UCRU).

This is an informal group that mirrors the U15 membership for student unions of research-intensive universities to come together and advocate for students. We currently have 9/15 of the U15 schools as members of UCRU and we represented over 240,000 students across Canada on our lobby trip.



Our Five Recommendations

1. Reallocating the Tuition Tax Credit
2. Expanding Undergraduate Research Opportunities
3. Supporting Indigenous Students
4. Supporting International Students
5. Retaining Fair Dealing



Our Opportunities

- Following up on last year's advocacy
- Before an election year



Reallocating the Tuition Tax Credit

- The Government of Canada should eliminate the tuition tax credit and reallocate the \$1.5 billion used to needs-based up-front grants through the Canada Student Loan Program.
 - Families from the highest-income quintiles are the ones benefiting the most from tuition tax credits on a yearly basis



Expand Canadian Undergraduate Research

- Strengthen the Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) program by increasing funding and expanding the eligibility to include health science, social sciences and the humanities.
 - Increasing funding by \$67 million to increase wages and begin expansion to SSHRC and CIHR



Supporting Indigenous Students

- Increase funding for the Post-Secondary Student Support Program and initiate a broad consultation with Indigenous students, communities and organizations over how the Government can best implement the program.
 - Indigenous peoples are one of the fastest growing (and youngest) demographic groups in Canada and the PSSSP, while designed to support them, isn't growing to keep up with the pace.
 - Only \$90 million of the current government's promised \$200 million to the PSSSP has been added



Supporting International Students

- Fast-Tracking International Students into the Canadian Workforce by modifying the Canadian Experience Class Express Entry (CECEE) program to count university job experience.
 - Canada has become a destination for a high quality university degree for international students, but international students are facing hurdles when obtaining Permanent Residency.
 - With a small legislative modification, the CECEE program would be able to count skilled university work experiences (co-op, work learn and research posts) when applying through this program.



Retaining Fair Dealing under the Copyright Act

- Retain the Copyright Act's fair dealing exception for education.
 - Since 2013, educational use has been considered fair dealing under the Copyright Act, improving the quality, access and affordability of education.
 - Copyright materials are integral to providing students with low cost, relevant and effective resources in the classroom.



Opportunities & Outcomes

Met with over 52 MPs and multiple other important staffers and partners

- Following up on last year's advocacy
- Before a federal election year = platform opportunities
- Met with Liberal, Conservative, and NDP MPs
- Met with political staffers working on platforms, Research Council VPs/AVPs

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Any questions?