



CREATING EQUITABLE AND ACCESSIBLE POST-SECONDARY  
EDUCATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

BCFS | UBC AMS | SFSS

# 2019 Advocacy Week



ams

— EST. 1915 —

## COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

### University of British Columbia Alma Mater Society

The Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia - Vancouver (AMS) represents over 54,000 undergraduate and graduate students and is incorporated under BC's Societies Act. In our efforts to improve the quality of students' educational, social, and personal lives, we advocate for affordable and accessible post-secondary education in BC.

### Simon Fraser Student Society

The Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) is a student-led organization that represents and advocates for the interests of the 25,000+ undergraduate students at SFU. We are a not-for-profit support network and voice at SFU that exists to improve the health and wellbeing, academic conditions, social experience, and financial conditions of our members.

### British Columbia Federation of Students

The British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS) represents over 170,000 college and university students from across all regions of the province. The Federation represents full- and part-time students at the college, undergraduate, and graduate levels. Together these students advocate for a well-funded system of post-secondary education in BC that is affordable and accessible for all students. The Federation's membership is comprised of:

University of British Columbia Students' Union Okanagan  
Camosun College Students' Society  
Coast Mountain Students' Union  
Douglas Students' Union  
Emily Carr Students' Union  
College of New Caledonia Students' Union  
University of Northern British Columbia Graduate Students' Society  
North Island Students' Union  
Okanagan College Students' Union  
Queen's University Students' Association (prospective members)  
Selkirk College Students' Union  
Thompson Rivers University Students' Union  
Students' Union of Vancouver Community College  
Vancouver Island University Students' Union

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# Second year of collaboration between

# AMS, BCFS, SFSS

# Together representing over 250,000 students

# Overview of our three asks

Ask 1

Increasing Student Financial Aid

Ask 2

Supporting International Students

Ask 3

Sexual Violence Prevention and  
Response Active Policy Review and  
Funding

# STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Recommendation: that the government increase non-repayable student financial assistance options for students from low- and middle-income backgrounds through the creation of a comprehensive up-front, needs-based grants program.

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

## Recommendations:

1. That the government amend the Tuition Fee Limit Policy to include regulation of fees for international students to create fairness, consistency, and predictability for international student tuition fees.
2. That the government develop a new BC international education strategy that will provide sufficient support for international students to assist in their cultural, social, and academic integration.

# SEXUAL VIOLENCE SUPPORT

## Recommendations:

1. That the government review the sexual violence and misconduct policies at the twenty-five public post-secondary institutions to ensure they use plain language, cover the necessary issues, and provide satisfactory responses.
2. That the government undertake a needs assessment amongst post-secondary institutions to determine the funding necessary to effectively implement sexual violence and misconduct policies.
3. That the government strengthen institutional frameworks and processes by developing an accountability mechanism that is external to institutions to address complaints that may arise regarding institutional implementation of sexual violence and misconduct policies.

# Inputs

- Met with over 50 Ministers, senior staff, and MLAs across the three parties to discuss our asks
- Collaborated with student organizations from all across BC
- Didn't have to introduce asks, focussed on following up

# Outputs

- Stronger relationship-building, knowing what's next for the Ministry of Av Ed, collaboration with student associations beyond Advocacy Week

## Highlights:

- Enthusiastic reception of our long-term, consistent advocacy
- Good feedback
- Clarification of the direction of govt on projects
- Connections within key ministries to do follow ups

