

Office of the Vice President, External Affairs

Report to Council, February 15th, 2023

Provincial Lobby Week

- Will be in Victoria from the 13th-16th
- Our main asks are: Expanding the BC Access Grant, Enabling Post-Secondary Institutions to Build More Student Housing, and Filling the Healthcare Worker Shortage
- We also have other asks dependent on who we're meeting with centered around: Student Employment, Supporting International Students, Fighting Sexualized Violence, Having Racialized Representation in Mental Health Services, and Free Prescription Contraceptives

BC Budget Lock-Up

- For the first time (to my knowledge), we've been invited as a stakeholder to the BC Budget Lock-Up :D
- This is when we get to preview the budget prior to the Minister of Finance's speech outlining it, they will be quite literally locking me up in a room. This is great news as they're acknowledging us as stakeholders and hopefully that means there's wins for students in the forthcoming budget

Post-Secondary Funding Formula Review

- Met with the FFR policy team alongside the Policy Advisor to get updates on the project
 - Due to the change in cabinet, project has been unfortunately delayed
 - We're still making a submission nonetheless and will be pushing them to accelerate timeline when in Victoria

Ukrainian Student Support Letter

- Finished the letter alongside the Ukrainian Student Union and have sent it to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education

UPass Term 2 Exemption

- Closed the AMS UPass Exemption and all exemptions are being processed