

Council of Alberta University Students 6-08 SUB 8900 114 Street Edmonton, AB T6G 2J7 780-297-4531



Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations 8909S 112 Street Edmonton, AB T6G 2C5 780-492-5630

## CAUS & CAFA Comparison of Cost per Student

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDMONTON, AB, December 8, 2021: As university students and faculty, we are dismayed by the fact the Government of Alberta continues to lay the blame of spiraling Advanced Education expenses at the universities' feet. Yesterday, Minister Nicolaides tweeted out that University of Alberta and University of Calgary were among the most expensive universities in the U15 group. He used data from 2017-18, which is over four years old, and we believe that there will be more cuts coming that will drive us to the bottom of the rankings. As university students and faculty, we believe that all cuts to Alberta's post-secondary education institutions need to stop—regardless of whether they are a college, a polytechnic, or a university.

This is despite the fact the universities cost Albertan taxpayers less per student than the community colleges and polytechnics (regardless of the former's costly research agendas). This fact is the product of previous governments' decisions that strengthen rural regions' economies and increase accessibility. As university students and faculty, we support these decisions because we believe in providing accessible higher education to all citizens regardless of where they live.

"As students, we believe that all Albertans should have a pathway into PSE," said Rachel Timmermans, CAUS Chair & VP External SAMRU. "All of these pathways deserve investment, but we need to talk about the real costs of these choices."

Alberta's universities cost on average \$11,365 per Full Load Equivalent (FLE): this is \$4,923 or 43% less than the cost per FLE for the community colleges and polytechnics. This is despite the fact that universities have larger research budgets, have higher faculty costs, and have longer degree requirements than the colleges and polytechnics. One factor in this higher cost is the role *economies of scale* play in the smaller rural colleges. But even the large urban polytechnics cost the Albertan taxpayer \$324 more per FLE than the universities.

This is a choice to favour colleges and polytechnics over our universities. In a recent Parkland Institute report, *Road Map or Road Kill?*, they use a slightly different metric to point out that while Alberta's universities' total expenditure per Full Time Equivalent (FTE) are slightly higher than the Canadian average, it is our colleges and vocational schools that vastly exceed the Canadian average (P. 18). This study demonstrates that Alberta spends more per FTE than our comparator provinces on our colleges and polytechnics, and these costs are 50% higher than the average province spends per FTE on their colleges and polytechnics.

We believe that Albertans would be shocked to learn that the private or religious universities receive more funding per FLE than some of the public institutions. For example, all of Athabasca University, Bow Valley College and Norquest College all receive less funding per student than the average of the private institutions—the average of these three institutions is 24%, or \$1,173, less per FLE than the average of the private or religious schools. These inequalities of funding are obvious, and any public policy discussion should at least include these facts.

"These discrepancies show that our institutions are not treated equally," notes Dr. Kevin Kane, CAFA President. "When the Government of Alberta talks about universities costs, they should be more transparent with the Alberta public."

As Albertan university students and faculty, we are not calling for more cuts at our colleges or at our polytechnics. We support all levels and pathways of higher education for the citizens of Alberta. As scholars of today and tomorrow, we hope to inject some of the facts of what Albertans spend on our universities and colleges into the discussion. We believe that together, all Albertans, can have reasonable policy discussions and plan for our collective futures.

## -30-

The Council of Alberta University Students and Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations represents the undergraduate and faculty from Athabasca University, Mount Royal University, Grant MacEwan University, the University of Alberta, the University of Lethbridge, and the undergraduate students from the University of Calgary.

Contact: Jon Mastel, Executive Director CAUS (780-297-4531) ed@caus.net and Brendan Bruce, Executive Director CAFA (780-913-5630) bbruce@ualberta.ca

2020\$/FLE	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		
AU	\$5,680	\$6,030	\$5,814	\$5,472	\$5,469	\$5,202	\$5,049	\$5,019	\$5,157	\$5,410	\$4,416	\$4,078		
U of A	\$19,407	\$20,195	\$19,610	\$19,185	\$19,587	\$18,257	\$17,910	\$18,414	\$19,769	\$19,079	\$16,496	\$14,057		
U of C	\$18,252	\$18,974	\$17,811	\$18,527	\$18,838	\$17,846	\$17,582	\$17,535	\$17,841	\$16,799	\$14,557	\$13,042		
U of L	\$15,978	\$16,209	\$16,386	\$17,153	\$16,865	\$15,805	\$15,583	\$15,553	\$15,991	\$15,870	\$14,764	\$13,703		
												Research Average	\$11,220	
Alberta University of Arts	\$14,076	\$13,503	\$13,791	\$14,726	\$15,320	\$14,682	\$13,857	\$16,430	\$17,591	\$18,525	\$18,461	\$17,979		
GMU	\$10,908	\$9,834	\$9,963	\$10,175	\$10,098	\$9,394	\$8,872	\$9,109	\$9,069	\$9,260	\$8,716	\$8,213		
MRU	\$10,911	\$9,092	\$9,934	\$9,405	\$10,595	\$10,543	\$10,078	\$10,554	\$10,530	\$10,383	\$9,526	\$8,482		
												Undergrad Average	\$11,558	
												University Average	\$11,365	
Bow Valley College	\$8,392	\$8,703	\$7,593	\$9,029	\$8,202	\$7,300	\$6,679	\$6,900	\$6,080	\$6,037	\$4,900	\$5,275		
Keyano College	\$24,947	\$30,680	\$33.364	\$33.591	\$33,916	\$31.678	\$35,786	\$41,489	\$38.691	\$37.195	\$30,553	\$31,367		
Lake Land College	\$17,596	\$16,490	\$17,576	\$19,030	\$20,875	\$19,743	\$20,705	\$18,620	\$17,811	\$17,565	\$16,078	\$16,612		
Lethbridge College	\$11,915	\$12,168	\$11,425	\$12.978	\$13.397	\$12,552	\$13.215	\$12.656	\$12,460	\$10.919	\$9,746	\$9.820	Uni - College	\$4,923
Medicine Hat College	\$13,597	\$13,374	\$13,740	\$14,812	\$17,400	\$16,963	\$16,553	\$16.947	\$17,089	\$17,896	\$16,767	\$16,657	Uni - College	43.32%
Norquest College	\$7.630	\$9,555	\$10,285	\$13,533	\$17,400	\$10,903	\$9.738	\$8,795	\$7.969	\$8.133	\$5.896	\$5.597	Uni - College	40.0270
Northern Lakes College	\$32,105	\$27,024	\$30,280	\$26,862	\$13,741	\$28,720	\$30,445	\$28,316	\$26,173	\$28,100	\$23,105	\$20,747	Uni - Poly	\$324
Old College	\$22,570	\$21,921	\$22,029	\$24,998	\$25,438	\$23,539	\$24,711	\$26,580	\$25,870	\$22,432	\$22,370	\$20,010	Uni - Poly	2.85%
Portage College	\$23.082	\$21,921	\$22,023	\$27,179	\$23,438	\$20,000	\$27,851	\$28,035	\$26,643	\$27,156	\$25,902	\$24,784	Offit - P Oly	2.0370
Grande Prairie Regional College	\$14,063	\$22,208	\$23,727	\$25,701	\$26,435	\$25,859	\$26,211	\$20,000	\$20,043	\$29,463	\$23,502	\$25,803	Ath-BVC-NQ Ave	\$4,983
Grande Frane Regional College	\$14,003	\$22,200	\$24,000	\$25,701	\$20,435	\$25,659	\$20,211	\$27,442	\$29,103	\$29,403	\$27,592	\$25,605 College Average	\$17,667 Ath-BVC-NQ Private Diff	\$4,963
NAIT	\$16.306	\$14.552	\$14.469	\$14.617	\$15,997	\$15.202	\$13.773	\$14.209	\$14.584	\$14.562	\$12.723	\$11.752	Ath-BVC-NQ Private Diff	23.55%
SAIT	\$15,065	\$14,631	\$14,064	\$13,815	\$13,215	\$11,818	\$12.022	\$12.693	\$13,216	\$13,047	\$10,997	\$10.742	All BYONG THVICE BII	20.0070
Red Deer Polytech	\$16,270	\$13,653	\$15,444	\$16,928	\$16,790	\$15,747	\$14,674	\$14,635	\$14,997	\$15,311	\$13,616	\$12,570		
	\$10,270	φ10,000	ψ10, <del>111</del>	\$10,320	¢10,750	ψ13,747	\$14,074	φ14,000	ψ1 <del>4</del> ,557	ψ10,011	φ10,010	Polytech Average	\$11.688	
												College-TI Average	\$16,288	
												College-11 Average	φ10,200	
Ambrose University	\$7,935	\$7,940	\$6,779	\$6,409	\$7,457	\$6,685	\$5,989	\$5,621	\$5,697	\$6,142	\$6,108	\$5,605		
Burman University	\$9,284	\$7,812	\$7,062	\$6,424	\$7,277	\$8,181	\$7,581	\$7,881	\$8,384	\$8,328	\$7,930	\$9,147		
Concordia University of Edm	\$9,916	\$10,601	\$10,219	\$11,025	\$11,477	\$10,503	\$9,141	\$8,172	\$7,931	\$7,038	\$5,595	\$4,958		
St. Mary's University	\$8,125	\$8,071	\$7,205	\$74,866	\$6,609	\$5,784	\$5,626	\$5,756	\$5,134	\$4,949	\$4,528	\$4,157		
The King's University	\$10,177	\$9,047	\$8,724	\$8,843	\$8,640	\$8,544	\$7,709	\$7,789	\$7,510	\$7,270	\$7,073	\$6,917		
												Independent Average	\$6,157	
The Banff Centre	\$32,671	\$34,064	\$33,818	\$38,240	\$34,574									