

May 4, 2023

Delivered Via email

TO: Demetrios Nicolaides, MLA
David Eggen, MLA

The Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA) is deeply concerned with the surprise announcement that the Government of Alberta has granted Independent Academic Institutional (IAI) status to a for-profit company in MaKami College Inc. This is the first time in any Canadian jurisdiction that a government has paved the way for a for-profit company to be incorporated in the provincial post-secondary education system; making MaKami College Inc. both eligible for taxpayers' dollars and in direct competition with existing publicly funded not-for-profit Alberta post-secondary institutions.

CAFA is concerned with how this policy change was made without proper legislative debate or public discussion. Since there is an election in roughly a month, CAFA believes that this is an opportunity for all Albertans to take part in this policy discussion that will shape our post-secondary education system going forward.

CAFA would like to know what your party's position is on whether for-profit companies should be delivering post-secondary education and whether these corporations should be receiving government funding to do so?

According to a recent news article the Government of Alberta states that IAI status for MaKami College Inc. is needed to reduce red tape and increase enrollment. CAFA would like to understand how increasing government reporting (a requirement of all IAIs) is going to reduce red tape? We would also like to understand what barriers IAI status would remove to allow a private corporation to increase the number of PSE seats offered by those corporations?

Most importantly, CAFA is concerned with how this policy change will affect our students. Given that virtually all MaKami College Inc. programs are already offered at existing public institutions, why add a new private for-profit provider rather than expand these programs in the public institutions? This is an important question since MaKami College Inc. charges between 2 to 10 times as much in tuition as comparable programs at our public universities, polytechnics, and colleges. Does your party support these excessive tuition costs that our students will have to pay?

CAFA looks forward to hearing your response to these vital questions. Albertan students and their families are facing a significant cost of living crisis and opening government status and possible funding to private for-profit education companies will do nothing but increase higher education costs for many Albertans across this province.

Thank you for your time,



Jon Doan,
CAFA President