

CAFA

**Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations
Association**

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ACIFA – Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties

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November 15, 2024

STATEMENT REGARDING THE REDUCTION OF FLAP FUNDING BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

The past summer, the Government of Alberta announced cuts to the [Foundational Learning Assistance Program \(FLAP\)](#). The FLAP program provides invaluable financial supports to students who are enrolled in foundational learning or skill development programs, and assists them with the development of English language skills, upgrading of high school grades, and the acquisition of skills to help with the transition to employment in Alberta.

Given that this program supports Albertans interested in advancing their skills and improving their economic situations, it is with great dismay that Faculty from across Alberta learned of the provincial government's decision to reduce the amount of FLAP funding it provides. As a result of these cuts, thousands of learners unexpectedly found themselves without the ability to pay for their education, and the subsequent decrease in enrollment resulted in the loss of many jobs at colleges and polytechnic institutes across Alberta.

The [resulting loss of economic activity](#) is compounded by the fact that many students enrolled in foundational programming have aspirations of continuing their education at the post-secondary level and of supporting themselves and their families through the attainment of jobs in industries currently facing a labour shortage in Alberta. Moreover, many of these students are among the most vulnerable of residents of our communities, and the loss of this educational opportunity (and limiting of future employment options) is a devastating blow to those who already have precious little that can afford to be lost. FLAP funding represents an investment in the people of Alberta by our provincial government, and the recent decision by the UCP government to reduce funding is an unfortunate example of how the material needs of people living and working in Alberta do not matter to our elected representatives

The Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association (ACIFA) represents approximately 7,000 Faculty who teach in foundational and post-secondary programs at community colleges and polytechnic institutions from across Alberta, and calls on the Government of Alberta to restore FLAP funding to its previous level. The Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA) joins this call, as doing so would demonstrate a commitment to protecting the vitality of our post-secondary sector and the economic well-being of vulnerable Albertans willing to do their part to ensure the long-term prosperity of our province.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Presidents' Council of ACIFA
The Executive Council of ACIFA
The Executive Council of CAFA