

One-time boost, long-term cuts: Alberta's ailing post-secondary system needs more than symptomatic relief

EDMONTON, AB - August 7, 2025 \$8.4 million for small lab equipment won't address years of underfunding and cuts to Post-Secondary Education (PSE), Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA) President, Dr. Lee Easton said today.

"Even small amounts of money like this are welcome in a system that is as badly underfunded as ours," Dr. Easton said, pointing out that the announcement averages out to only \$250,000 per lab.

"But let's be clear: it's a drop in the bucket compared to the damage Albertan Science has suffered since the UCP government began cutting post-secondary budgets."

Dr. Easton pointed out that the Government of Alberta has cut over 31% from the province's post-secondary education budget since 2019:

"After six years of lost opportunities for Albertan students, cancelled programs, defunded research, and crumbling infrastructure, we need more than a couple of extra centrifuges or microscopes," Dr. Easton said, pointing to an expected surge in Post-Secondary students expected in the next decade.

"When it comes to PSE, we gave up the 'Alberta Advantage' years ago," Dr. Easton said. "If we want to keep our kids in this province, we have to reinvest in our crumbling system."

"This means stable and predictable funding across the sector and a substantial commitment to undo the damage of the last half-decade."

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