



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Post-Secondary Funding Update

Edmonton, Alberta – The recent announcements from the Ministry of Advanced Education have come as a relief to universities and their students across the province. First, we heard the announcement that performance based funding (PBF) will not come into play for 2020/21. This was followed by the news that expenditure targets had been scrapped from the government’s plans. Without the change, we would’ve seen:

- Expenditure Targets: our expenses as a university capped this year,
- PBF: metrics from this year impacting our budget next year.

This is a welcome decision from the ministry since PBF would not have accounted for such an abnormal year. Expenditure targets would have forced students to pay more to get less from their education. For these reasons, we are encouraged by this change in direction and we are relieved that the ministry responded to our concerns.

However, post-secondary funding will still continue to be a problem. MacEwan’s Campus Alberta Grant has already been cut by 10.1% over the last two provincial budgets, and we expect these cuts to continue in the next budget even without PBF. We are also expecting PBF to make a comeback in 2021/22.

Ultimately, both the expenditure targets and PBF would have meant fewer resources for universities, and therefore higher tuition & fees for students. Although we are relieved to see both waived, we remain adamant that the recent budget cuts are destructive to students’ experiences on campus and detrimental to the costs of their education. SAMU will continue to oppose cuts of this nature.

About SAMU: The Students’ Association of MacEwan University (SAMU) is a student-centered organization governed by students, for students. Providing many programs and services that serve the student body including but not limited to the food bank, peer support, breakfast club, and emergency loan program. Acting within MacEwan, while maintaining independence from the University. It is an organization, serving students, inspired by students. [For more information visit www.samu.ca.](http://www.samu.ca)

For media inquiries:

Ruan Bouwer | SAMU Vice President External
(780) 633-3763 | savpexternal@macewan.ca