



# The Alberta 2030 Post-Secondary Review Implications and History

# History: 1908-2019

- Alberta had an excellent, but very expensive, advanced education system
- Quality and access among the very best in the world
- In 2014, the price of oil fell over 70%, and the provincial budget deficit reached \$12 Billion
- Government continued to support existing spending through borrowing

# History: 2019-2020

- When the UCP was elected, they commissioned the [MacKinnon report](#) on Alberta's finances
- Looked only at ways to cut
- Questionable methodology
- Recommended large cuts to universities, tuition increases



# 2020-21: The Review

- Spring 2020: The Government decides to commission a complete review of the PSE system
  - Governance, funding, partnerships, etc.
- Consultant, McKinsey and Co., hired for \$3.7M
- Broad engagement and consultation



# The Review: Consultation

- Dozens of stakeholder submissions
  - Including the [UASU](#) and [CAUS](#)
- Roundtables and Interviews
  - All major student associations invited
- The Guiding Coalition
  - Including me and an ASEC representative
- The government published a [summary of what they heard](#) a couple weeks ago.

# The Review: Timeline

- Early 2020: McKinsey selected
- March 2020: Announcement of Review
- July 2020: Guiding coalition chosen
- August-October 2020: Submissions prepared and sent to McKinsey
- October '20-January '21: Guiding coalition, interviews, panel sessions
- May 2020: Recommendations announced

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# RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

# The Review: Recommendations

- The review recommendations were announced by Minister Nicolaides at the start of May.
- The [217-page summary powerpoint](#) has a lot of detail about plans for the system
- Overall assessment: Not terrible and moves in the right direction
  - Not enough money to get best results

# Key Recommendations: Sexual Violence

- Sexual Violence Response
  - Creation of a provincial sexual violence prevention committee, similar to Nova Scotia
  - Broad consultation to develop a provincial strategy
- Our take: A win, and basically what we asked for, though not as fast as would be ideal.



# Key Recommendations: Tuition

- Increase tuition flexibility
  - Nobody knows what flexible tuition means.
    - “market-based adjustments”
    - “limited programs”
    - “guardrails”
  - Not complete deregulation
  - Opportunities for continued advocacy
- Our take: Not great, but a lot better than it could have been.

# Key Recommendations: Student Aid

- Doubling needs-based grants to prevent higher tuition pricing students out (\$40-50 million)
  - Methodology: Estimate of amount in grants required to offset fall in student #
    - Flaws: 2020 is used as a baseline after tax credits cut, participation rate in 2020 is already low, we will still have the least grants in Canada
- Our take: What we asked for, but too little and too late

# Key Recommendations: Access for Indigenous Students

- Fund transition programs for Indigenous students, like the TYP at U of A
  - Work to determine \$ needed
- Possible performance metric for indigenous enrolment
- Our take: Depends on the specifics and needs more evaluation



# Key Recommendations: Mental Health

- Work to reassess the amount of money provided in the Mental Health Grant, potentially increasing it
- Our take: Probably good, but how good depends a lot on distribution and amount.



# Key Recommendations: Governance

- Establishing system-level “advisory councils”, not touching Boards of Governors
- Reducing government power over university boards
- Financial deconsolidation of U of A
- Our take: Generally good, could have been **WAY** worse

# Key Recommendations: Internationalization

- Mostly focused on recruitment of international students for financial reasons
- Creating an “Alberta Education Brand”
  - Unclear how this combines with current university branding and recruitment
- Our take: Skeptical about usefulness, but it’s not actively bad





ANY QUESTIONS?