CANADIAN ALLIANCE OF STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

PRESENTATION TO: UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS’ UNION
AGENDA

• What is CASA?
• Why focus federally?
• CASA Advocacy
• How CASA achieves results
• Record of Success
• The current year
WHAT IS CASA?

• A collective of student unions and associations that represents and defends member interests to the federal government.

• A registered not-for-profit that consisting of 24 student unions and associations representing over 300,000 students.

• A member driven organization the promotes affordable, accessible, innovative post-secondary education of the highest quality.

BUT ISN’T EDUCATION A PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY?
WHY FOCUS FEDERALLY?

AREAS WHERE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS INVOLVED IN POST SECONDARY EDUCATION:

Employment and Social Development Canada
- Canada Student Loans Program
- Canada Social Transfer
- Youth Unemployment

Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Resident Visas for International Students
- Permanent residency for grads

Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development
- International Student Visas
- Study Abroad

Industry Canada
- NSERC
- SSHRC
- Copyright
- Intellectual Property

Department of Finance
- Tax policy
- Federal Budgets

Elections Canada
- Get out the vote campaigns
- Voting requirements for students

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Post Secondary Student Support Program
- On-reserve education

Statistics Canada
- Post Secondary Information Service

Health Canada
- Mental Health
- CIHR

Infrastructure Canada
- Knowledge infrastructure program
CASA’S PARTNERS AND THE FEDERAL PSE LANDSCAPE

CASA works with various stakeholders to help advance our members’ priorities
FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID FOR ALBERTA STUDENTS

Helping students pay for school

$275.8 million in federal loans supporting 49,882 students (Canada Student Loans Program)

Supporting those most in need

$74.28 million in non-repayable grants supporting 36,573 students (Canada Student Grants Program)

Helping Grads Repay their Loans

Protecting 12,507 grads in need (Repayment Assistance Plan)
The federal government provides a number of transfers and research funding to Alberta and University of Alberta.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Direct Federal Transfers</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Canada Social Transfer</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1.396 billion</strong> supporting provincial programs including Post Secondary Education</td>
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<th><strong>Research Funding</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council</strong></td>
<td><strong>$46.12 million</strong> to UofA including $806,000 awarded for undergraduate research</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Social Science and Humanities Research Council</strong></td>
<td><strong>$29.12 million</strong> awarded to students and faculty at UofA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Canadian Institutes of Health Research</strong></td>
<td><strong>$33.31 million</strong> awarded to researchers, institutes and students at UofA</td>
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<td><strong>Canada Research Chairs</strong></td>
<td>111 awards for UofA professors totaling <strong>$103 million</strong></td>
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CASA ADVOCACY

Member Priorities

Research

Advocacy

Results for students
ACHIEVING RESULTS THROUGH ADVOCACY: WHAT WE DO

- Media Engagement
- Consultations
- Partnerships
- Campaigns
- Local Outreach
- Meetings
- Research
A RECORD OF SUCCESS: OUR RECENT RESULTS

Investment in Students

- Multiple entry visas for International Students – FEB 6, 2014
- Vehicle exemption in Canada Student Loans asset assessment – BUDGET 2014
- Education as a component of Fair Dealing in the Copyright Act
- Increasing the income work exemption from $50 to $100
- Open Access reforms for Canada’s granting agencies

Influencing Policy Through Consultation

- Member of the government’s National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance
- Frequently invited to speak before House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance
- Participation on Advisory Panel on International Education
- Consultation with Assembly of First Nations
- Consultation with SSHRC on student representation
- Consultation with Elections Canada on student voting procedures

Presence and Pressure

- No significant federal cuts to financial aid since 1995
CURRENT PRIORITIES

- **Student Mental Health**
  - Federal government leadership in a pan-Canadian approach to mental health issues for post-secondary students
  - Funding for anti stigma campaign on campus

- **Canada Student Loans Program**
  - Increasing and indexing the value of needs based grants
  - Increasing the amount of loan dollars available to students
  - **Exempting all income earned while studying from a student loan assessment**
  - Elimination of parental contributions from needs assessment
  - **Eliminating vehicle asset assessment from CSLP criteria**

- **International Students**
  - Permit part-time students to work off-campus
  - **Ensure all visas for students are multiple-entry**

- **Funding for Aboriginal Education**
  - Adequate funding of the Post Secondary Student Support Program
  - Funding the backlog of unmet need and removing of the 2% funding cap

- **Open Educational Resources development**
  - Asking the government to study this issue, ultimately resulting in cheaper textbooks

- **Tri agency student representation**
  - Having student representatives partake in funding decisions of NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR
HOW UOFA SU BENEFITS FROM CASA

A student voice in Ottawa

Effective organization that gets results

Staff of five including two policy researchers

Networking, contacts and connections

National Campaigns
THANK YOU

Questions?

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