Date: 2022-09-16  
To: Students' Union Council  
Re: Vice President External 2022/23 Report #9

Dear Council,

⚠️ PLEASE REGISTER NOW FOR BTR. TELL YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR FRIENDS FRIENDS, YOUR NEIGHBOURS, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR LOVED ONES. RSVP NOW OR NEVER⚠️

🌸 Also, Below is a summary of recent activities and duties I have undertaken these past two weeks. 🌸

**City Council-Regional Transit**

Last week, I spoke in front of City Council Executive Committee in support of a need and solution for a reliable regional transit system that could address the needs of demands of students. This was an opportunity to share with City Council the data and responses we gathered from students in regards to their issues and concerns with the current regional transit system. The Committee's discussion specifically surrounding if the City of Edmonton should support the first phase of the EMTSC model was eventually sent to City Council for approval which passed 10-3.

The first phase of the plan would see 11 lines that include transit to and from St. Albert, Fort Saskatchewan, Spruce Grove, Leduc, Beaumont, Stony Plain, Devon, and Edmonton. It is set to cost $7.2 million dollars. Meaning that this will be up for approval again in the fall budget deliberations. We will have more action items to speak about specifically for the budget and how student councillors can get involved in supporting this project. Until then here is an article you can read about the proposed routes, [HERE](#).

I also want to give a shoutout to Councillor Regmi for his vocal support on these project. His remarks were highlighted in the Journak which folks can see [HERE](#).

**Student Leader Orientation**

Last Friday was Student Leader Orientation. This is an event organized by the Ministry of Advanced Education to update student leaders on the plans and projects that are a priority for the ministry as well as updates on various files relevant to PSE.

During this meeting we asked the Minister questions surrounding SFA, tuition, WIL and GBV. What we know is that going forward, the government intends to cap tuition to CPI.

Christian Fotang, Vice President External

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In regards to SFA, we asked the minister how many students have been recipients of the grant since the changes to the ABGFTS were announced. The Ministry said they would follow up on that and we are still waiting.

This was also an opportunity for groups like CAUS and ASEC to provide their own priorities to the ministry. The minister took a keen interest in mental health and asked if we had specific data on wait times as well as other outcomes that students face when going through mental health problems.

**Student Leader Orientation**

We were invited to the City’s update on Downtown and Transit safety. I was not able to attend due to a scheduling conflict however Vps Fogue and Villosa attended in my stead. (Massive thank you and shoutout) and I will be integrating their notes into an update soon.

Cheers.

As always, thank you for taking the time to go through this report. I look forward to your questions and comments.

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**Christian Fotang**
Vice President External
University of Alberta Students’ Union