

## **Alberta's 2025 Budget: Funding seats but not support leaves MRU students behind**

**Calgary, AB – February 28, 2025** – The Representation Executive Council (REC) of the Students' Association of Mount Royal University (SAMRU) is deeply concerned about Alberta's 2025 Budget, which they say fails to provide adequate support for post-secondary students.

SAMRU REC believes the provincial government is prioritizing new student seats but is not investing in the infrastructure and support services required for student success in the post-secondary realm. "The government is funding seats without considering the entire system," stated Tala Abu Hayyaneh, SAMRU REC President. "Targeted enrollment expansion funding is futile if most students lack the necessary spaces and support for their needs."

Objective 2 of the 2025 budget emphasizes "meeting the evolving needs of learners", but this hasn't translated into funding. Mount Royal University (MRU) is seeing a growing number of students who require academic accommodations, yet the budget does not provide adequate funding for these needs. "There is a clear disconnect between the budget's stated goals and what students are really facing," said Fiona Chetty, the SAMRU REC VP Academic. "We appreciate MRU's efforts to provide accommodations, but the government must step up to invest in supporting students throughout their entire educational journey, not just K-12."

Another major concern to students is the forecasted reduction in student aid combined with recent retroactive eligibility changes implemented in Fall 2024. "These decisions were made without consulting students or universities, leading to a projected increase in student aid ineligibility that will push more students into financial hardship," Abu Hayyaneh explained. "According to Objective 1 of the 2025/2026 Advanced Education Business Plan, the government clearly understands that financial support is crucial to achieving learning outcomes. And with record-high youth unemployment rates, students need more financial support, not less."

SAMRU urges the Alberta government to fully support post-secondary students, ensuring they have the funding and resources needed to succeed. Supporting the success of post-secondary students means supporting the success of our province's future.