



## **Kwantlen Students Outraged at Provincial Cuts**

*BC cuts 16\$ million in student aid funding, while other provinces work to increase access*

**Surrey BC** – Students looking for financial aid to attend post-secondary education this fall will face 16\$ million less funding, thanks to a round of unannounced cuts being implemented by the BC government. Students in nursing, health care and home-support-worker programs will be hit hard by the cuts, and many such students attend Kwantlen University.

Among the cuts – **which represent almost 20% of the total student aid budget** – the BC Government plans to eliminate the Permanent Disability Benefits program, Debt Reduction in repayment, Loan Reduction for Residential Care Aide and Home Support Workers programs, and the Health Care Bursary.

**“At a time when BC should be investing in its future, the BC government has instead chosen to slash access to education,”** said Ashley Fehr, KSA Chairperson, **“other provinces are heading the exact opposite direction, and these types of cuts undermine BC’s competitive edge.”** This month, Newfoundland and Labrador have completely eliminated interest on their student loans. Last month, the province of Saskatchewan announced over 25\$ million in new knowledge and infrastructure funding, including \$2.2 million in student loan enhancements. Even Alberta has increased its post-secondary budget spending by 88\$ million this year, and is devoting 170\$ million to financial aid. In contrast, BC’s financial aid budget – after the cuts – will only total 100\$ million, despite BC’s larger population compared to Alberta.

**“Slashing student aid funding during an economic downturn is short-sighted and wrong-headed”** said Ken McIntyre, KSA Disability Liaison, **“but cutting funding for students on disability is simply diabolical.”**

In this year’s throne speech, the BC government promised not to cut healthcare or education. Despite this promise, BC has already seen significant cuts in both areas.

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*The Kwantlen Student Association represents over 18,000 students enrolled at the four Metro Vancouver campuses of Kwantlen Polytechnic University.*

For more information on the KSA’s position on BC’s financial aid cuts, please contact:

**Ashley Fehr, KSA Chairperson**  
604.319.4906 (cell)    academics@kusa.ca (email)

**Ken McIntyre, KSA Disability Liaison**  
604.781.3770 (cell)    disability@kusa.ca (email)

**Desmond Rodenbour, KSA Media Advisor**  
604.512.4487 (cell)    gm@kusa.ca (email)