



# MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Feb 7, 2018

## BC Remains the only Province in Canada without Student Grants

**SURREY, BC** – The Kwantlen Student Association (KSA) has just wrapped up a successful campaign calling for the BC government to bring back a comprehensive system of needs-based grants for post-secondary students. BC remains the only province in Canada to not provide needs-based non-repayable grants for education.

Throughout the Grants Now campaign we heard overwhelmingly from students that we need to catch up with the rest of the country in funding education. **“While campaigning, countless students from all of four campuses would often mention the impact that high tuition rates has on their lives”** said David Piraquive, chair of the external affairs committee. More than 750 students from Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) signed the petition calling for the BC government to immediately implement a comprehensive needs-based grants program for students.

Financial barriers and the costs associated with studying are consistently cited by people as the reason that they were not able to attend a post-secondary institution. The failure to provide grants to those from low or middle-income households is creating a barrier to accessing education. **“Grants are not a partisan issue, every other province has a system of needs-based grants, and these systems have been in place under various parties.”** said Caitlin McCutchen, VP External **“This is just a matter of the Province properly funding education.”**

In 2013, the NDP election platform proposed a \$100 million dollar grants program. BC students need these grants more than ever. A comprehensive system of needs-based grants, like the one proposed by the NDP in 2013, would support prospective students, reduce the debt that is debilitating for so many young people, and give everyone in the province equal access to education.

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The Kwantlen Student Association represents over 19,000 students enrolled at the four Metro Vancouver campuses of Kwantlen Polytechnic University.