



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

February 20, 2018

Students Thrilled with Historic Housing Investment

VICTORIA, BC Post-secondary students now have reason to believe that affordability is on the horizon. The Kwantlen Student Association (KSA) is thrilled with the budget announcement today that \$450 million will be invested in student housing over the next three years. This massive investment will go a long way to improving affordability and reducing barriers for our students. **“We have long called for this and we are happy to see a government listen.”** said Caitlin McCutchen, VP External Affairs at the KSA.

This is the first time that the provincial government will have a direct hand in the building of on-campus housing, including direct funding. **“This is a transformation in the way the provincial government views student housing and we have been working closely with them on this. We now have a government that is putting the focus on students, and that is a welcome benefit for access to education”** stated McCutchen. Outside of the University of British Columbia, very few institutions have been able to build on-campus housing in the past ten years, despite increasing numbers of students and the rise of the housing crisis.

On-campus housing, at below market rates, will help students find safe and affordable housing. Many students scour the rental market and may still end up spending up to 50% of their incomes on housing that is sometimes crowded, unsafe, or too far away from their place of study. The KSA is optimistic about seeing on-campus housing at KPU in the future. This would help make the City of Surrey a thriving community where people can live, work, and study.

“Moving students onto campus is an innovative solution to the housing crisis,” said McCutchen, **“this improves students’ lives, helps universities, and also frees market rental spaces for those that need it.”** The announced spaces will help students live closer to where they study, graduate with less debt, and work fewer hours while they are in school. On-campus housing is also beneficial for students who don’t live on campus, as it frees up space in the low cost rental market, reduces congestion on the overcrowded transit routes that service post-secondary institutions, and helps build campus culture.

-30-

For more information please contact:

Caitlin McCutchen, VP External Affairs
Kwantlen Student Association
p 778.998.1539 | e external@kusa.ca

Nicki Simpson, Policy and Political Affairs
Kwantlen Student Association
p 604.599.2869 | e policy@kusa.ca

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