



MEMO

From the office of the...
Vice-President (Education)

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Elizabeth Wong, Vice-President (Education) & Corporate Officer
SUBJECT: OUSA Student Advocacy Conference (Provincial Lobby Week)
DATE: November 22, 2022

Dear Members of the Assembly,

Last week, President Simranjeet Singh and I participated in OUSA's Student Advocacy Conference (Provincial Lobby Week). We spent the week in Toronto at Queen's Park lobbying MPPs about different issues affecting post-secondary students. Our lobbying priorities for this year are Gender-Based and Sexual Violence, Affordability, Sector Sustainability, and Rural & Northern Students (Health & Transit).

We were in separate lobbying groups to ensure that there would be a variety of student voice from different universities speaking to MPPs. I had 8 meetings with MPPs and Sim had 6 meetings. I have two more rescheduled meetings that are coming up this month as well. It was a hectic week but showed just a glimpse of what provincial politics looks like daily. I will be highlighting a few meetings within this memo as well.

I had the opportunity to meet with Minister Jill Dunlop, who is the Minister of Colleges and Universities. We had a good conversation about Bill-26, Strengthening Post-Secondary Institutions and Students Act, 2022. This bill is currently going through a Second Reading Consideration of a Bill. It recently went to Standing Committee where President of OUSA, Jessica Look delegated on behalf of OUSA on certain areas of concerns around the bill. Our meeting with MPP Kristyn Wong-Tam also gave us a lot of insights into how Bill-26 may be applied and how it would look implemented within post-secondary institutions.

My lobby group also had great conversations around food insecurity and mental health concerns with MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy. We also had great discussions around survivor centric and trauma informed approaches to address gender-based & sexual violence with House Leader MPP Peggy Sattler and MPP Terence Kernaghan. We also had a productive conversation with MPP Jeff Burch around housing and general student affordability.

Sim's lobby group had the opportunity to meet with MPP Mike Schreiner (Leader of Green Party Ontario) and discuss our lobbying priorities. Sim's group was also invited to the Member's Gallery by MPP Guy Bourgouin after a productive discussion around Rural & Northern Students and the impacts of financial insecurity as well as lack of transit and access to health.

I also ran a series of social media engagement through the MSU_Advocacy account on Instagram. We did a series of stories recapping each day of Provincial Lobby Week. I

enlisted the help of my fellow group and Steering Committee members to provide more information on what the week entailed. We got great engagement and will be doing the same for our upcoming federal lobbying week.

All in all, we had a very successful week. We were able to get commitments from different MPPs to write letters to Ministers, give Member's Statements, and to ask questions during Question Period. We were very pleased with the discussions we had with MPPs and look forward to working with them in the near future.

If there are any questions or inquiries around Student Advocacy Conference, please email me.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Wong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Elizabeth Wong
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