



# REPORT

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

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Abigail Samuels, Vice-President (Education)  
SUBJECT: SRA 23L, CASA Advocacy Week Report  
DATE: Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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Hello SRA,

Welcome back to Hamilton!

From November 17 to the 24th, I was on Parliament Hill with the Canadian Alliance of Student Association to meet with Members of Parliaments (MPs), Ministers, Senators, public servants and stakeholders to press for improvements to Canada's post-secondary education system.

CASA secured 72 meetings with various government officials, including NDP leader Jagmeet Singh and the Office of the Prime Minister. I had the pleasure of meeting with Senator Jane Macadams, Annie Barrette (Director of Policy and External Relations for Universities Canada), and our local MP Filomena Tassi.

CASA members developed a list of recommendations to address the identified needs of Canadian post-secondary students. Our meetings focused on the following advocacy points and their accompanying recommendation(s):

**Easing financial pressures of cost of living on students:** Invest \$813.6 million annually to permanently set Canada Student Grant maximums at \$4,200 per year and maintain weekly loan maximums at \$300/week.

**Supporting On-Campus Student Mental Health within Diverse Student Populations:** Invest \$500 million over 4 years to hire 1,200 new post-secondary counsellors across Canada to address the ongoing mental health crisis in Canada's post-secondary institutions.

**Creating solutions for the Nation-Wide Housing Shortage:** Unlock housing supply by investing \$3.25 billion dollars to support the addition of student-oriented units to be completed within six years.

**Increasing Indigenous Access to Post-Secondary Education:** Increase investments to the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) and Métis and Inuit Post-Secondary Education Strategies to support Indigenous students in attending post-secondary education.

**Protecting the Future of Canadian Research, Development and Talent Retention:** Protect Canadian talent creation by increasing the value of Canada Graduate Scholarships and Post-Doctoral Fellowships by 50%, and doubling the number of these competitive research awards.

**International Student Working Hours:** Permanently lift the limit on off-campus working hours for international students.

**Preserving Educational Fair Dealing and Access to Educational resource:** Preserve the current balanced approach to educational fair dealing to continue to support high-quality and affordable post-secondary education.

On top of my duties as VP Education, I also take my responsibility in continuing the MSU tradition to take 0.5x selfies after lobby meetings very seriously. See below!



Left to right: Senator Jane MacAdam, Minister Jenica Atwin.

Best,

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