



REPORT

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

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Maya Hobbs, Vice-President (Education)
SUBJECT: CASA Foundations Conference
DATE: June 9th, 2024

Dear Members of the Assembly,

On May 14th-17th, Jovan (MSU President) and I attended the Canadian Alliance of Student Association (CASA) Foundations Conference in Ottawa. This is the first conference that CASA hosts every year. The goal of this conference is to bring student leaders together and provide an introduction to the organization.

CASA Membership

The McMaster Students Union currently holds observer status with CASA, which will expire in March 2025. This year with CASA allows us to determine if it benefits us to join the organization. At this point in time, it is not clear whether or not the MSU will attempt to join CASA.

Conference Itinerary

The conference included several information and training sessions that were beneficial. We did not attend the first day of the conference, however, we did not miss anything crucial. A downfall of our position as observers is the inability to participate in the plenaries and board elections. Below is a list of some of the key sessions that we participated in throughout Foundations:

- Union Etudiante de Québec (UEQ) Overview
- Federal Political Climate Overview
- Elections Canada Information Session
- CASA Policy Overview
- National Indigenous Advocacy Committee Session
- Cultural Competency Training
- Overview of Government Relations
- Advocacy Meeting Training
- Student Union Priorities Discussion

- Observer Roundtable

CASA Next Steps

Following the conference, I have been and will continue to be in conversation with CASA's home office to discuss our membership status and the potential of the MSU joining. CASA has offered to do a campus visit to inform students about the organization and the federal advocacy they do. Another opportunity to further our federal advocacy and assess the benefit of CASA will be at the Policy and Strategy Conference on July 15th-19th.

If you have any questions about CASA, please reach out. I will also be delivering Advocacy Training during SRA training on June 8th which will explain more about CASA and the other organizations we are a part of.

Best,

Maya Hobbs

Vice-President (Education)

McMaster Students Union

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