

# **UPEI SU Disappointed by Budget 2014**



*For Immediate Release*

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The UPEI Student Union is disappointed that the Provincial Government has chosen not to prioritize student concerns in the 2014 Budget. The budget, delivered on April 8th 2014 by Provincial Treasurer Wes Sheridan, offers no solutions to the issues that are facing students. The University of Prince Edward Island's total funding from government this year has decreased by just over \$2 million. Prince Edward Island's student aid budget has been cut by over \$500,000.

"With continued decline in funding and a decrease in the student aid budget, we're concerned about the quality of education and how students will foot the bill." said UPEI SU President, Anastasia Smallwood. "It is unfortunate that this government has chosen not to prioritize the concerns of PSE students in Prince Edward Island."

The UPEI SU has been active over the past year in engaging with key decision-makers on Prince Edward Island. This included a presentation at the Department of Finance's Pre-Budget Consultation and a presentation to the PEI Liberal Caucus. Engagement has also included meetings with individual MLAs, Ministers, and departmental staff.

"Despite the lack of commitment of this government in the 2014 Budget to student concerns, we remain committed going forward to working with key stakeholders, including government, to ensure that students concerns are addressed." added Smallwood. "As an organization representing University students in the province, we look forward to continually engaging to ensure students have access to the best possible education here in Prince Edward Island."

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