

# **UPEI Student Union pleased with Federal Budget**



## *For Immediate Release*

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The UPEI Student Union is pleased to see significant investments in increasing accessibility and affordability as released in the Federal Government Budget announcement yesterday. In February, the UPEI Student Union took part in the Canadian Alliance of Student Association's (CASA) Advocacy Week along with students from 24 other schools to bring student issues to Parliament Hill and the UPEI Student Union is thrilled to see some of these issues being addressed.

Some of the Budget 2016 highlights:

- Enhancing the Canada Student Grant amounts by 50% for low to middle income families, and part-time students. An investment of \$1.53 billion over 5 years;
- Increasing the Repayment Assistance income threshold from \$20,000 to \$25,000 to better reflect the cost of living;
- An additional \$95 million going to the granting councils for research;
- \$165 million in a Youth Employment Strategy on top of the \$339 million announced earlier for the Canada Summer Jobs Program.

Vice-President Academic and External of the UPEI Student Union, Johnathan Rix said, "we are pleased to see that the Federal Government has delivered on its promises to students across the country in the 2015 election campaign. These changes made will help increase accessibility and affordability at UPEI and all other campuses across the country."

Rix noted that "the re-allocation of funds from the Education Tax Credit and Textbook Tax Credit into the Canada Student Grant and Repayment Assistance programs is an effective and progressive way to address financial need in post-secondary. These are things that the UPEI Student Union was proud to work on with many other student leaders across the country."

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