

**DATE: January 20, 2020**

**RE: FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE**

Today the Government of Alberta announced that a portion of annual post-secondary grant funding would be subject to performance-based criteria. For some time, the members of the Council of Post-Secondary Presidents of Alberta (COPPOA), have been raising the need for changes to the funding model. We welcome the opportunity to work with the Government of Alberta, as well as with students, faculty and staff associations and other stakeholders, to develop measureable performance criteria. These measures must be linked to the core mission of institutions, connected to an overall vision for the post-secondary system, and recognize the important role that this sector plays within the communities we serve.

Alberta's post-secondary system supports accessible, affordable and very high value learning opportunities. The system also supports research, innovation and skill development that are the core drivers for a diversified, thriving, and adaptable economy. Collectively, COPPOA serves hundreds of thousands of learners, preparing the next generation of entrepreneurs and employees. Alberta's universities, colleges and polytechnics educate and train the innovators and leaders who will ensure the continued success of the province's key sectors and establish the industries of the future. Maintaining the quality of this sector is critical.

The funding model that is developed must build on well-established system strengths and not generate unhealthy competition among Alberta post-secondary institutions. Throughout its history, Alberta has supported the development of one of the strongest and best-differentiated post-secondary systems in the country. Albertans deserve a funding model that protects this investment.

Planning must also take into the consideration recent cuts made to post-secondary funding, including the removal of \$117 million in 2019, representing a 5 percent reduction of the Campus Alberta Grant, and the elimination of capital maintenance funding retroactively. Further reductions to the grant are anticipated to reach 20% over a four-year period and relaxed tuition caps will naturally result in an increase of the percentage of system funding that comes from non-government sources.

Throughout this uncertain and complex process, COPPOA will honour the academic commitments made to students. We will continue to work together to find ways to reduce administrative spending, to grow enrolment, reduce overall costs on a per-student basis, and grow revenue from a wide variety of sources while keeping a strong commitment to the core mission of each institution. As we work together with the Government of Alberta and our stakeholders, COPPOA will remain steadfastly committed to building and sustaining the best possible post-secondary education system for Alberta.

For more information or media enquiries contact [info@coppoa.ca](mailto:info@coppoa.ca) or call 1780 492 9093.

COPPOA's 26 member organizations are all publicly supported post-secondary institutions that operate in the province of Alberta. For more information about COPPOA please visit our web site at [www.coppoa.ca](http://www.coppoa.ca) .