



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Budget provides relief for ABE and English Language training

VICTORIA, BC - The provincial government today put into their budget update the promise to eliminate tuition for adult basic education and english language training. These programs are vital tools for to help lift people out of poverty, and serve as a good step forward for improving accessibility in British Columbia.

“These programs are exactly the kind of programs the government should be expanding access to,” said Noah Berson, Vice President External of the Capilano Students’ Union. **“The decision by the previous government to charge for these programs was indefensible, and we are glad to see the new government fix this mistake.”**

Adult basic education and english language training are key tools for recent immigrants and those who, for whatever reason, failed to graduate high school to be able to put themselves on a path to success.

“Many of those in these programs are working service sector jobs for minimum wage, they can’t afford the cost and risk that comes with attempting to complete their high school” said Caitlin McCutchen, Chair of the Alliance of BC Students, **“we have been happy to see the this government has listened, and look forward to continuing what has been a very rewarding relationship.”**

Other budget changes of interest to students include an increase in capital spending for post-secondary institutions to expand academic buildings, an increase to the carbon tax to help combat climate change, increased funding for 1,700 new affordable rental units, and expanded enforcement of residential tenancy rights.

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For more information please contact:

Caitlin McCutchen, Chairperson
Alliance of BC Students
p 778.998.1539 | e chairperson@bcstudents.ca

The Alliance of British Columbia Students is a non-partisan society of 5 student associations representing over 60,000 students from across the province that exists to lobby on issues that affect post-secondary students in British Columbia.