



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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NDP-Green Agreement includes wins for students

SURREY, BC – The Kwantlen Student Association (KSA) commends the BC NDP and the BC Green party on collaborating in a meaningful way to draft a supply and confidence agreement laying out priorities for the next four years. **"I am extremely excited that many sections of the NDP-Green Agreement are wins for youth and students"** said Caitlin McCutchen, Vice President External Affairs at the KSA.

The announcement to restore Adult Basic Education as a tuition free program is long overdue, and will contribute to removing barriers to education. The KSA is disappointed that the agreement did not include more specific measures to reduce the burden of debt for post secondary students and make education accessible to all, but is optimistic that the Provincial government will work to make this happen. Prior promises from the NDP to remove interest on student loans, and from the Green party to move towards needs-based grants are welcome and reassuring.

The KSA is excited to see the plan to move the date of the Provincial election to the fall. Holding the election in early May, between the end of exams in April and the beginning of summer jobs and semesters in May, poses a variety of barriers to students and young people. Moving the election to the fall will remove these, and allow for students to be more engaged on campus in the leadup to the election. The KSA is also glad to see movement towards electoral reform and a more proportional electoral system.

Both parties' support for job training initiatives is welcome. **"Committing to a four year investment into co-ops, work experience, and internships for undergrads will help to improve employment options and reduce the likelihood of precarious work situations faced by most new graduates"** said McCutchen. The KSA is excited to work with the new government to make post secondary education accessible and ensure students can access available, affordable housing, and accessible, convenient public transit.

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The Kwantlen Student Association represents over 18,000 students enrolled at the four Metro Vancouver campuses of Kwantlen Polytechnic University.