
Office of the **VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL**

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Report: 2017 Student
Leaders' Orientation to
Government

As part of our commitments to our provincial advocacy group, the Council of Alberta University University Students' (CAUS), both me and Hailey attended the 2017 Student Leaders' Orientation to Government hosted at the Government House in Edmonton, AB from August 1st to August 2nd, by the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Day 1: August 1st

On the first day of this conference there were presentations and dialogue with ministry staff pertaining to the role of government and the ministry's business areas, and how they relate to students within the adult learning system and our role as student leaders. This was very informative, and we got to ask ministry staff questions about mental health funding, the Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP), the ongoing ABC review, Bill 7, and the ongoing funding framework review.

In the evening, the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), Ab-GPAC, and the Alberta Students Executive Council (ASEC) hosted a student leader social event. We were very grateful that the Minister of Advanced Education, the Honourable Marlin Schmidt, attended this event. I was able to talk with the Minister about mental health funding and parking/transit at the University of Lethbridge.

Day 2: August 2nd

During the day 2 sessions, we were joined by the Minister of Advanced Education, the Honourable Marlin Schmidt. All three student umbrella groups, CAUS, Ab-GPAC, and ASEC made presentations to the Minister on our priorities for the upcoming year. As Vice-Chair of CAUS, I presented CAUS' priorities to the Minister, alongside CAUS' Chair, Reed Larsen. After the presentations, we all had the chance to ask the Minister questions. I asked the Minister a question on the transition from tier 3 mental services to larger regional systems, and whether students from those tier 3 service institutions (U of A, U of C, and U of L) can expect

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consultation from the government during the transition period. The Minister stated that we can be voices together, although the transition to larger regional systems is a partnership between Advanced Ed and the Ministry of Health. He stated that students will be involved in the process. After the question and answer period, we all took a photo with the Minister.

The rest of the sessions were additional time to dialogue with Ministry staff on initiatives impacting students.

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