



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ADVOCAN 2016
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Student leaders from Canadian U15 schools are optimistic about the changes presented in today's federal budget.

This week, student representatives from several of the nation's largest, research-intensive universities are in Ottawa speaking with members of parliament about youth investments in the federal budget. Undergraduate student organizations have been advocating for changes to the Canada Student Loan Program (CSLP), specifically with thresholds for loans with true costs of living and studying.

These student organizations are pleased with increasing the repayment loans in the CSLP from the \$20,000 to \$25,000, as well as increasing per student grants by \$1,000 for low-income families. The growth of Canada Student Grants also shows promise for students managing debt from post-secondary study.

Student organizations have also been talking to MPs this week about youth unemployment. During their 2015 campaign, the Liberals made promises to youth concerning employment. Student leaders in Ottawa are pleased with the \$165.4 million allocated to Youth Employment and the Post-Secondary Industry Partnership and Co-operative Placement Initiative.

Tertiary benefits in the budget for students include major investments in public transit and affordable housing in some, but not all, of our university towns. Investing in First Nations education will also work to increase the number of Indigenous students entering post-secondary education and can make our campuses more reflective of real Canadian demographics.

Moving forward in this advocacy week, titled "ADOVCAN," the U15 student organizations will continue to advocate for international student access and employment opportunities for humanities and social science students – topics not being directly addressed in the 2016 budget.

For further inquiries or media requests with various student leaders, please contact: Kevin Hurren, Communications Officer, communications@westernusc.ca.

Participating student organizations include:



Alma Mater Society (University of British Columbia), University Saskatchewan Students' Union (Saskatchewan University), McMaster Students' Union (McMaster University), University Students' Council (Western University), University of Toronto Students' Union (University of Toronto), Alma Mater Society (Queen's University), Federation of Students (Waterloo University).