

<b>Subject:</b> Federal Student Advocacy Alliance (FSAA)	<b>Policy Number:</b> EXT-6	<b>Last reviewed:</b> 2022 Aug. 21
<b>Approved by:</b> Council, via the Executive Board	<b>Managed by:</b> Advocacy & Policy Committee	<b>Next review:</b> 2025 May 31

### Policy Rationale:

The BCIT Student Association is not currently a member of any provincial or federal student organizations, and this flexibility has generally suited the Association. That being said, many of the movement's most notable successes have come about through coalitions and sustained advocacy, including the BC Access Grant and the elimination of interest on BC student loans.

The Federal Student Advocacy Alliance ([link](#)), founded in 2020 to represent Western Canadian students, has been an effective partner in advancing and amplifying BCITSA's policy priorities on federal issues. In particular, their flexible structure and lack of a membership fee have enabled them to build a broad coalition in Western Canada. The coming year will be critical in preventing the expiration of \$1.8 billion in federal student aid.<sup>1</sup> By affiliating with the Alliance, we can confront this challenge as part of a coalition of 340,000 students from 34 schools.

### External Policy Position:

1. The Student Association supports:

- A. Formal affiliation with the Federal Student Advocacy Alliance (FSAA) as the best option for pursuing federal policy objectives such as increased Canada Student Grant (CSG) funding;
- B. The vision, mission, and values of the Federal Student Advocacy Alliance, as outlined on their website and contained in the appendix of this policy;
- C. Maintenance of the CSG funding levels currently in force, which student associations have been urging consistently since the beginning of the pandemic;<sup>2</sup> and
- D. Collaboration, for the purposes of securing increased CSG funding, with all who represent post-secondary students, including the FSAA, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), the Undergraduates of Canadian Research Universities (UCRU), and any other student organizations sharing our objectives.

2. The Student Association opposes:

- A. The current federal policy trajectory, as outlined in Budget 2021, of reducing CSG funding levels by \$1.8 billion beginning in August 2023; and
- B. The federal government's abandonment of its 2019 commitment to increase the maximum CSG per year from \$3,000 to \$4,200 per student on a permanent basis.

<sup>1</sup> Page 124, Budget 2021. Government of Canada, April 2021 ([link](#)).

<sup>2</sup> "BCIT Student Association Issues Budget Recommendations." BCITSA, August 2020 ([link](#)).

## Appendix:

### “A VOICE FOR WESTERN CANADA”

The Federal Student Advocacy Alliance (FSAA) is a national coalition of more than 295,000 students at 33 universities, colleges, and institutes in Alberta, BC, and Saskatchewan. Together we work to provide Western Canadian students with a unified voice to influence national change.

#### Our Vision

An accessible, resilient, and world-class Canadian post-secondary education system that prioritizes the diverse needs of students today.

#### Our Mission

Empowering Western Canadian students to advance their unique national interests through collaboration, research, and advocacy.

#### Our Values

**Student-led:** The Alliance is led by elected Student Leaders and provides every member the opportunity to be involved in the governance, operations, and day-to-day work.

**Accessible:** The Alliance is open to membership from all student associations and provincial advocacy organizations in Canada, strives to eliminate financial and other barriers to participation, and is easy to join and easy to leave.

**Focused:** The Alliance focuses exclusively on post-secondary student issues and is committed to advancing realistic solutions to these issues.

**Non-partisan:** The Alliance is committed to non-partisanship and strives to work constructively with all politicians and political parties in Canada.

