

For immediate release

August 19, 2022

Student Association welcomes 2023 BC Budget Report

Burnaby, B.C. — The BCIT Student Association is pleased to see so many positive recommendations in the 2023 Budget Consultation Report, issued last week by the BC Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.

The Committee holds annual consultations with British Columbians to solicit their views on the government's budget. The BCITSA's presentation can be found [here](#); as in previous years, the submission focused on affordability issues, especially the regulation of international tuition and adequate funding for student financial assistance.

Among the Committee's official recommendations is the creation of a provincial strategy on international education that would include greater predictability around tuition fees, something that many in the student movement have long called for.

"We've observed a growing disparity in recent years between international and domestic tuition in BC," said Nolan Nordwall, BCITSA VP External. "We don't want the province to remain on a trajectory where institutions are constantly covering financial shortfalls with more fee hikes. Properly regulating international tuition levels would promote fairness and provide tens of thousands of students with peace of mind."

The Committee's recommendations would address the challenges faced by students, including mental health services, affordable on-campus housing, and supports for under-represented groups. These also align with many of the proposals submitted by the Student Association ([here](#)) to the Government's post-secondary funding review.

Further investments in the BC Access Grant was another highlight in the report. The Committee noted BCITSA's concern that provincial grants have only increased \$15 million since 2020, while federal spending in BC has gone up \$150 million.

"As somebody who struggles to pay for school, having proper supports in place for students is something I'm deeply passionate about," continued Mr. Nordwall. "The confidence and security that students get when they're financially secure reduces stress and increases academic performance, giving everybody a chance to succeed."

The Committee's report can be found [here](#). For additional comment, please contact:

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