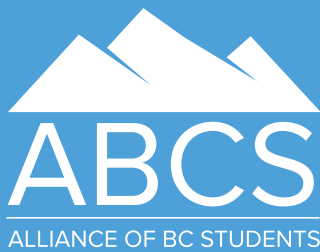


ABCS

ALLIANCE OF BC STUDENTS



SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS

Following up on Legislated Campus Policies

BACKGROUND

The Alliance of BC Students was happy to support legislation in 2017 that directed all post-secondary institutions to develop and implement sexual violence and misconduct policies. It is an important first step in addressing and preventing sexualized violence in post-secondary education.

One in five women on campus will be sexually assaulted, which is a statistic that has remained unchanged for 30 years. This number accounts for completed rapes only, excluding other forms of sexual misconduct.¹

Recognizing and addressing sexualized violence on campus starts with ensuring that students know what resources are available to them, supporting them during the reporting process, and developing resources to educate all students on consent. This cannot be done without fully understanding the depth of the issues.

In this light, it is imperative that institutions do more than simply create policies. In order to address the high rates of violence against women and other at-risk populations, there must be accountability beyond policies.

Using data to better understand how sexual violence and misconduct policies at post-secondary institutions are impacting or changing the experience is a first step to addressing where the gaps are and how they can be addressed.

Indigenous women
are nearly
3x
more likely to
experience violence ²

Racialized women
are
less likely
to report sexual
assault ³

Half
of all reports of
sexual assaults are
against people aged
15-24 ⁴

RECOMMENDATION

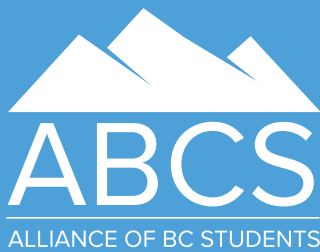
The Alliance of BC Students recommends that the Province of British Columbia direct post-secondary institutions to collect disaggregated data on reports, complaints, and outcomes for students who report sexual violence and misconduct on campus.

¹ Lindeman, Tracey. "Policy is not enough: Universities need a comprehensive approach to preventing sexual assault, experts say." 2018. Ottawa Citizen.

² Brennan, Shannon. "Violent victimization of Aboriginal women in the Canadian provinces." 2009. Statistics Canada.

³ "Developing a Response to Sexual Violence: A Resource Guide For Ontario's Colleges and Universities." 2013. Ontario Women's Directorate.

⁴ Perreault, Samuel and Brennan, Shannon. "Criminal victimization in Canada." 2009. Statistics Canada.



MENTAL HEALTH

Taking a Proactive Approach to Mental Health on Campus

The Canadian Association of College and University Student Services polled over 30,000 students across Canada and found:

89%
felt
overwhelmed

64%
felt overwhelming
anxiety

58%
felt that
life was hopeless

13%
considered
suicide

BACKGROUND

We are pleased to see the province invest resources into the establishment of the Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions, responding to issues such as the opioid crisis that impacts so many British Columbians. We encourage government to support proactive mental health initiatives.

Universities currently fund mental health resources out of their general budgets. With constrained finances and a need to deliver core education mandates, counseling services with limited budgets are often the first to feel the effect of budget shortfalls.

If post-secondary institutions could partner with the province to access financial resources designated specifically for counseling services, those funds would be protected from budget cuts, ensuring stability and reducing wait times.

“As the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, child and youth mental health and wellness is a top priority as we build a strategy for seamless and integrated mental health care in this province.”

– Judy Darcy
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
World Mental Health Day (October 10)

RECOMMENDATION

The Alliance of BC Students recommends that the Province of British Columbia mandate campuses to increase access to healthcare on campus, and to support this work with targeted funding.

Option 1: \$18 million per year to double counselling services at all post-secondary institutions

Option 2: \$2 million per year to add one full-time counsellor at all post-secondary institutions

¹ “National College Health Assessment survey,” 2016. Canadian Association of College and University Student Services.

DISABILITY AUDIT AND FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

Removing Barriers to Education

BACKGROUND

Federal and provincial grants for students with disabilities are only available to those who qualify for student loans. The National Educational Association of Disabled Students and the Council of Canadians with Disabilities have both asked the Government of Canada to separate the process of needs-based grants from student loans. This was requested because linking them together does not accurately reflect the impact of disability on students' equitable access to a post-secondary education. Regardless of income or savings, students with disabilities face much higher costs to education related to accessibility needs.

Students with disabilities often take longer to complete their undergraduate degrees, sometimes reaching their maximum student loan funding limits before entering graduate studies – precluding them from applying for access grants. As a result, graduate students may be forced to use personal funds to pay for accessibility software or equipment.

As many campuses struggle to meet the needs of students with disabilities, we recommend that the Province of British Columbia begin by directing an audit of post-secondary experiences for students with disabilities and initiating the development of consistent resources for students on all campuses.

42%

of Canadians with disabilities have had some post-secondary education¹

28%

of students with disabilities reported that their education had been interrupted for long periods of time²

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Alliance of BC Students recommends that the Province of British Columbia conduct an audit of the student experience for students with disabilities across the province, collecting disaggregated data including drop-out rates among students with disabilities.

The Alliance of BC Students also recommends that the Province of British Columbia separate the student loans application process from the grants application process.

¹ "Post-Secondary Students With Disabilities: Their Experience Past and Present: An Analysis of the Statistics Canada 2012 Canadian Survey on Disability" National Educational Association of Disabled Students.

² Ibid.

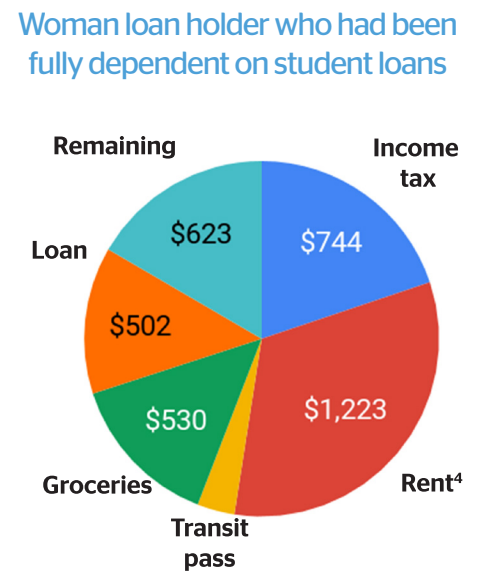
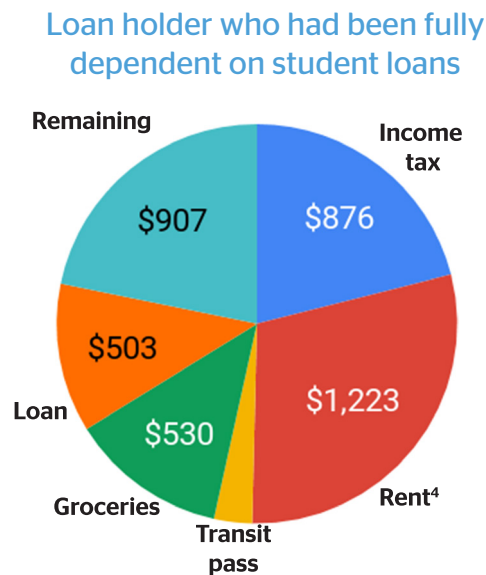
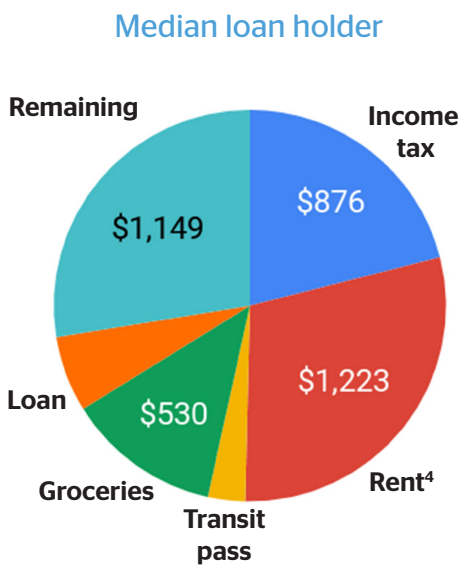
BACKGROUND

British Columbia is still the only province without grants specifically targeted at students from low- and middle-incomes access post-secondary education.

If a prospective British Columbia grants program were to match the Canada Student Grants program, a low-income student that had been fully dependent on student loans would have the proportion of their income (after basic living costs such as income tax, food, shelter and transportation) that is spent on loan repayment reduced by 16 percent, leaving them with \$1,200 per month to afford clothes, recreation, a social life, savings for a mortgage, and possibly raising a family.

The median bachelor's degree holder earns \$50,000 annually two years after graduation.¹ Women are likely earn 90% of what a man will with the same education.² After basic living costs³, student loan holders are often left with little additional income.

Monthly expenses projection under current system



RECOMMENDATIONS

The Alliance of BC Students recommends that the Province of British Columbia match the Canada Student Grants program in order to improve low- and middle-income students' access to education and quality of life after graduation. This ask is projected to cost the government \$80 million per year.

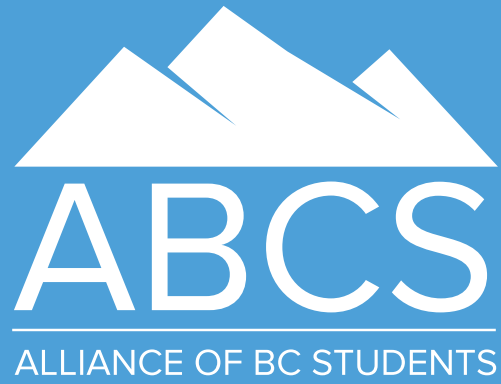
¹ "2015 Baccalaureate Graduates Survey." 2015. BC Student Outcomes.

² Moyser, Melissa. "Women and Paid Work." 2017. Statistics Canada.

³ "Detailed food spending, Canada, regions and provinces." 2016. Statistics Canada.

⁴ "Rental Market Reports - Major Centres." 2017. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

⁵ Student loan monthly contribution estimate have been calculated using the StudentAidBC Loan Repayment calculator.



GRADUATE
STUDENT SOCIETY
UBC VANCOUVER



The Alliance of BC Students is 70,000 students strong.