



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Post-Secondary Institutions Need Support to Meet Demand**

*EDMONTON* – The Alberta Post-Secondary Network (APSN) is releasing its 2023 election priorities document today entitled *Preparing the Next Generation*. This comprehensive document outlines the critical supports Alberta’s post-secondary institutions need to meet demand.

With more than 35,000 students expected to be added by 2030, we need to create spaces, repair infrastructure and provide adequate funding. Deferred maintenance, grant funding changes, and inflation have impacted post-secondary institutions' ability to grow capacity quickly enough to meet demand.

“Three year funding commitments help, but post-secondary institutions don’t hire faculty, build infrastructure or develop program capacity for just three years.” said Bill Werry, Executive Director of APSN. “We need increases to our base funding to build the spaces young Albertans are going to need.”

Without sufficient funding post-secondary institutions will fall behind and it will be young Albertans who pay the price. As demand increases and with insufficient new spaces the requirements to enter some programs will continue to rise. Some programs already require students to graduate high school with grades in the mid-90’s just to be considered.

If students are not able to get into post-secondary institutions in Alberta, they look at other provinces or countries. When this happens the risk of them not returning increases and we lose talented and skilled workers. This is at a time when Alberta is facing acute skill shortages which are hitting the economy hard, and the need for skilled workers is more critical than ever.

Post-secondary institutions across Alberta are prepared to do their part to grow spaces and keep young Albertans here, but we need adequate support to do so.

APSN has shared this document with all parties as an outline of the work we hope to do with the government to position the post-secondary system to continue to be a world-leader and critical to Alberta's future. A copy of *Preparing the Next Generation* can be found at APSN's website at [apsn.ca/election2023](https://apsn.ca/election2023).

**About:** *The Alberta Post-Secondary Network is an organization composed of the presidents of Alberta's 26 publicly funded, not-for-profit post-secondary institutions. As the foundation for collaboration, APSN provides support to Alberta's post-secondary leaders as they discuss common concerns and respond collectively to shared opportunities that strengthen research and teaching partnerships across the province for the benefit of their respective learners and communities as well as the province as a whole.*

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