

Ministry of Advanced Education



Plan for 2020-21

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Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable
Tina Beaudry-Mellor
Minister of
Advanced Education*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Advanced Education Plan for 2020-21.

Government Direction and Budget 2020-21 is focused on growth for a better quality of life – fostering a strong economy, creating strong communities and strong families – and Building a Strong Saskatchewan.

The Ministry will work with our stakeholders to meet the post-secondary needs of all Saskatchewan learners so everyone can succeed in our growing province. We will continue to remove barriers to inclusion and support access to post-secondary education through scholarships, grants and loans.

Transitions between education, training and employment are important. Working with our partners to create life-long learning pathways that span from secondary school through post-secondary education to a career is a priority.

Our Ministry will continue to facilitate participation in international education so our students can excel locally, nationally and abroad. International students and local students with experience abroad help employers engage in international relationships, build a stronger sense of global citizenship and connect Saskatchewan to the world; benefitting trade, competitiveness and the provincial economy.

Increasing partnerships with post-secondary institutions is vital to supporting growth and diversification in our economy. By channeling the talents and ideas of our students and researchers, post-secondary institutions can help solve problems and create innovative solutions. We will also continue to encourage educational approaches that are focused on preparing students for success in employment and self-employment, meeting the hiring needs of employers, adapting to rapid changes in technology and responding to local economic opportunities.

Saskatchewan's post-secondary sector strives to improve accountability and sustainability. We will engage with our institutions as partners in identifying opportunities for cross-sector collaboration and managing costs.

The Ministry will report on progress made toward this plan in the 2020-21 Annual Report.

Tina Beaudry-Mellor
Minister of Advanced Education

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Building a Strong Saskatchewan*. Investing in strong communities and strong families creates opportunities for a better quality of life for the people of our province. Maintaining a strong economy will enable us to build upon the past decade of growth and continue to provide the services, jobs and infrastructure that meets Saskatchewan's needs.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Saskatchewan's vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2020-21 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry is responsible for the post-secondary education sector that supports a growing Saskatchewan and that leads to a higher quality of life. The Ministry places a high priority on meeting the needs of students by ensuring that our post-secondary sector is accessible, responsive, sustainable, accountable, and provides quality education. Working with our post-secondary institutions, the Ministry is focused on providing opportunities for all students, especially First Nations and Métis people, to prepare them to live, work and learn in Saskatchewan.

Mission Statement

The Ministry provides leadership and resources to foster a high-quality post-secondary education and training system that responds to the needs of Saskatchewan's people and economy.

The Ministry is also home to the Status of Women Office.

Government Goals

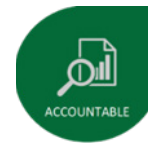
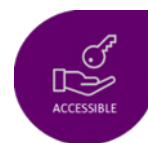
**A Strong Economy**Strong CommunitiesStrong Families

This Ministry goal supports the government direction from *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan 2020-2030*; improving student outcomes by building the knowledge, skills and competencies needed to succeed in the labour market.

This goal aligns with the Ministry's post-secondary sector expectations of accessibility, responsiveness, accountability and high quality.

Meeting these expectations means that the post-secondary sector is:

- **Accessible** because it offers qualified people the opportunity to attend and succeed;
- **Responsive** because it meets the needs of students, communities and the economy; and,
- **Accountable** because it achieves expected outcomes and is transparent.



Ministry Goal

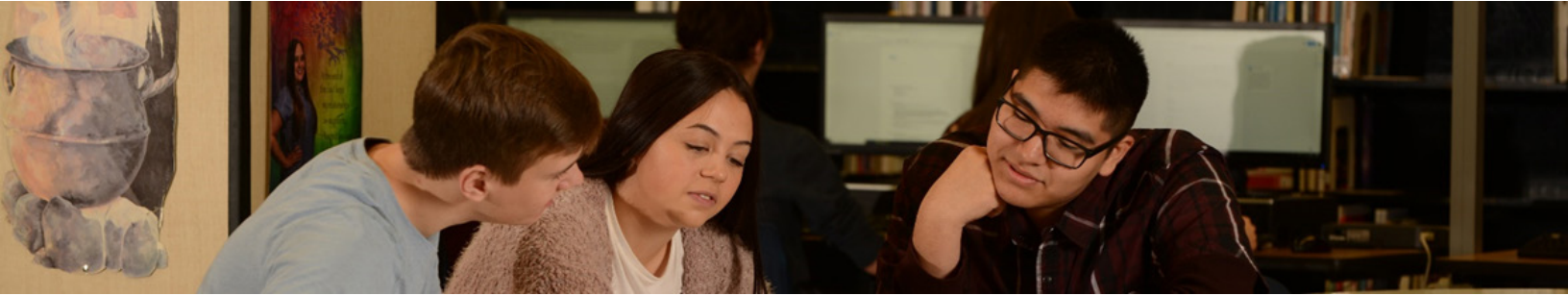
Students succeed in post-secondary education.

Strategy

Provide supports to promote student success.

Key Actions

- Invest in supports that ensure post-secondary education is accessible and affordable to students.
 - Funding a range of financial supports including student loans, grants, and scholarships.
- Support students' mental health and wellbeing.
- Improve opportunities for a more seamless experience for students while transitioning into post-secondary education and during their studies by:
 - Working in partnership to help secondary students transition to post-secondary education; and,
 - Increasing learning and development options for employees to upskill while in the workforce.



Strategy

Foster an inclusive post-secondary sector where a diversity of students (including youth, lifelong learners, Indigenous people, newcomers, international students and persons with disabilities) can enrol and succeed.

Key Actions

- Increase the enrolment and educational attainment of Indigenous students by:
 - Providing targeted funding for Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies for its Student Support Services Model and to Saskatchewan Polytechnic to support its Indigenous Student Success Strategy.
- Increase the enrolment and educational attainment of students with a disability by administering program supports for students with disabilities.
- Increase the number of international students studying in Saskatchewan by:
 - Working across Government and with the post-secondary sector to renew the Post-Secondary International Education Strategy;
 - Maintaining the international reputation of Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions through monitoring and implementation of the federal government's International Student Program designation standards; and,
 - Extending Saskatchewan's post-secondary's footprint into global markets to provide Saskatchewan-developed international education and training.

Strategy

Provide programs, services and technology that evolve in response to client needs.

Key Actions

- Ensure technology and digital services continuously respond to client needs.
 - Working with regional colleges to better serve the needs of students through a new student interface.
- Solicit client input and feedback on programs, services and the technology used to deliver programs and services and make adjustments based on the results.

Performance Measures

Enrolment

Annual Number of Students in Credentialed Programs

Enrolment indicators demonstrate sector capacity and uptake. This student head count data is used to monitor trends and inform planning for the sector. For Indigenous students, the target is to increase enrolment by 60% by 2021 (baseline year is 2013). For international students, a new target will be developed as part of a new Post-Secondary International Education Strategy.

Credentials

Number of Credentials Awarded

The number of credentials awarded demonstrates student outcomes. This data is used to monitor trends, inform planning and support sector responsiveness. For Indigenous students, the target is to increase by 80% by 2021 (baseline year is 2013). For international students, a new target will be developed as part of a new Post-Secondary International Education Strategy.



Educational Attainment

Post-secondary Educational Attainment of Population Aged 15 Years and Over

This measure changes slowly over time. The 2020-21 target is a 1 percentage point annual increase in the number of Saskatchewan residents, 15 years and over, who have a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or university degree. The long term target is to match the national percentage of population with post-secondary education.

Educational Attainment of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Populations Aged 15 Years and Over by Credential

Educational attainment measures change slowly over time. The long-term target is to match the attainment level of the Indigenous population with the attainment rate of the overall Saskatchewan population.

International

Number of Saskatchewan Students Studying Abroad

A new target will be developed as part of a new post-secondary international education strategy.

Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

This Ministry goal supports the government direction from *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan 2020-2030*: developing an agile and integrated education and training system that is responsive to economic opportunities for businesses and prepares people for careers in Saskatchewan.

This goal aligns with the Ministry's post-secondary sector expectations of responsiveness, quality and accountability. Meeting these expectations means that the post-secondary sector is:

- **Responsive** because it meets the needs of students, communities and the economy;
- **High quality** because it meets required standards and maintains public confidence in the programs and services provided; and,
- **Accountable** because it achieves expected outcomes and is transparent.



Ministry Goal

Meet the post-secondary education needs of the province.

Strategy

Ensure post-secondary funding supports Ministry and sector goals.

Key Actions

- Engage with post-secondary institutions on goals, strategies and financial requests to help inform decision-making and provide leadership and direction to the sector.
- Work with post-secondary institutions to develop and annually update capital plans to inform government investments in infrastructure.



Strategy

Support post-secondary institutions to provide education, training and research to meet the needs of Saskatchewan's economy and communities.

Key Actions

- Encourage post-secondary institutions to engage in education and research that generates innovative ideas and technologies that support Saskatchewan's future economic development.
 - Partner with post-secondary institutions on research and development projects to advance the province's innovation and sustainability goals.
- Identify training needs and support programs that align with the economy and labour market trends.
 - Advancing micro-credential recognition to support career development through lifelong learning.
 - Support partnerships between employers, post-secondary, and community organizations to incorporate work-integrated learning opportunities for students.
 - Ensuring regular engagement with employers, industry associations, training institutions, and chambers of commerce to identify and address emerging labour force trends.
- Improve connections between post-secondary international education and the economy.
 - Work across government and with post-secondary institutions to identify opportunities in existing international trade relationships to promote Saskatchewan post-secondary programming

Strategy

Strengthen program quality and responsiveness to Saskatchewan's economic and social needs.

Key Actions

- Examine Ministry legislation, regulations and policies so that they align with program and service needs.
- Ensure all new degree programs meet Saskatchewan's social, economic and quality standards according to *The Degree Authorization Act*.
- Monitor post-secondary institutions' compliance with all legislative, regulatory and policy requirements.
- Streamline reporting from our post-secondary institutions and reduce red tape.

Performance Measures

Employment Rate by Credential

This measure changes slowly over time and is reflective of the economy and labour market. The 2020-21 target is for Saskatchewan's employment rate to remain higher than the national average.

Quality of Educational Experience

This measure demonstrates levels of graduate satisfaction with the overall quality of their educational experience. It is collected every five years in the [Ministry of Advanced Education Post-Secondary Graduate Outcomes Study](#).

Relatedness of Program to Current Job

This measure demonstrates the relatedness of the post-secondary program to the current job for recent graduates. It is collected every five years in the [Ministry of Advanced Education Post-Secondary Graduate Outcomes Study](#).



Government Goals

A Strong Economy

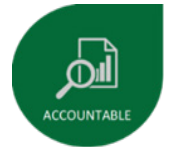
Strong Communities

Strong Families

This Ministry goal supports the government direction from *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan 2020-2030*: keeping finances strong, building a sustainable province and improving outcomes.

This goal aligns with the Ministry's post-secondary sector expectations of sustainability and accountability. Meeting these expectations means that the post-secondary sector is:

- **Sustainable** because it operates within available resources; and,
- **Accountable** because it achieves expected outcomes and is transparent.



Ministry Goal

Saskatchewan's post-secondary sector is accountable and sustainable.

Strategy

Encourage Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions to operate efficiently.

Key Actions

- Identify opportunities to encourage collaboration and manage costs.
 - Engage the post-secondary sector in efficiency and cost saving initiatives.
- Support continuous improvement efforts across the post-secondary sector.

Strategy

Strengthen mechanisms that demonstrate accountability for public investments.

Key Actions

- Promote sector performance through government's five student-focused expectations framework for the post-secondary sector and monitor institutional progress toward meeting the five expectations.
- Advance the Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project to ensure consistent, comparable, sector-wide data is collected and available to inform planning, monitoring and reporting.

Performance Measures

Expenditure to Revenue Comparison

The expenditures to revenue comparison demonstrates efficiency and long-term sustainability. It is used to inform planning for the sector, to compare with other jurisdictions and review trends.

Reliance on Revenue Source Comparison

Measures the composition of the sector's revenue sources and provides a measure for assessing the sustainability of the sector if the proportion or distribution of revenue sources changes.



Status of Women Office

Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

The Status of Women Office is the sole branch in government that reports on the status of women. The Office acts as a catalyst within government to raise awareness of issues affecting women to ensure gender considerations are integrated into government policy-making, legislation and program development.

Goal

Raise awareness of issues affecting women ensuring gender considerations are integrated into government decision making processes.

Strategy

The Status of Women Office does not directly deliver programs and services to Saskatchewan residents. Instead, the Office works within government and with partners across the province to identify and address gender equality gaps.

Key Actions

- Work with internal and external stakeholders to ensure gender considerations and gender-based analysis are integrated into government decision-making.
- Conduct research and report on equality indicators.
- Identify priority areas of concern and test solutions for Saskatchewan women.
- Focus training and awareness activities in targeted areas.

Performance Measures

Economic Prosperity

These measures capture the economic participation of women in Saskatchewan. Performance measures include:

- The employment rate of Saskatchewan women;
- The average weekly earnings of Saskatchewan women;
- The employment rate of Saskatchewan Indigenous women with: a post-secondary certificate or diploma, a bachelor's degree, and a university degree above a bachelor's degree.

Engagement with Stakeholders

This measure holds the Status of Women Office accountable in a responsive and responsible manner by measuring the number of interactions the Office has with internal and external stakeholders over the course of the year. The target for 2020-21 is to increase our support for stakeholders and partnering Ministries.

Highlights

2020-21 Budget Highlights:

The Ministry of Advanced Education's 2020-21 budget totals \$739M, which is \$11.2M (1.5%) higher than 2019-20. This level of funding reflects the Government's commitment to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the post-secondary education sector, given continued fiscal challenges, balanced with supporting students and the post-secondary sector's ability to provide access to high-quality programs that are responsive to students.

Key highlights include:

- Increasing funding for universities, federated and affiliated colleges, technical institutes and regional colleges;
- Increasing the funding for the student loan program; and,
- Reducing administrative expenses due to efficiencies achieved by the Ministry.

\$684M will be provided in operating and capital funding to post-secondary institutions, including:

- \$472M to the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina and the federated and affiliated colleges;
- \$158M to Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, and Gabriel Dumont Institute;
- \$31M to Saskatchewan's regional colleges; and,
- \$23M for capital repairs and maintenance throughout the post-secondary sector.

\$34M in financial supports will be provided to students, including:

- \$27M to support the student loan program, which will provide repayable and non-repayable financial assistance to an estimated 19,000 students;
- Continuing our transparent system of up-front grants for students which will see learners in a typical eight-month program receive about \$4,000 in combined federal and Saskatchewan grants per year of study; and,
- \$7M for scholarships, such as the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship and the Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship.

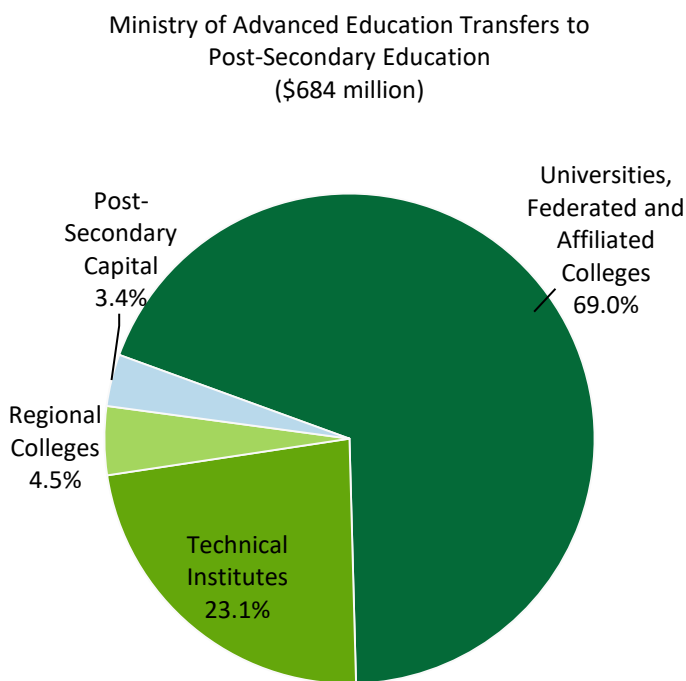
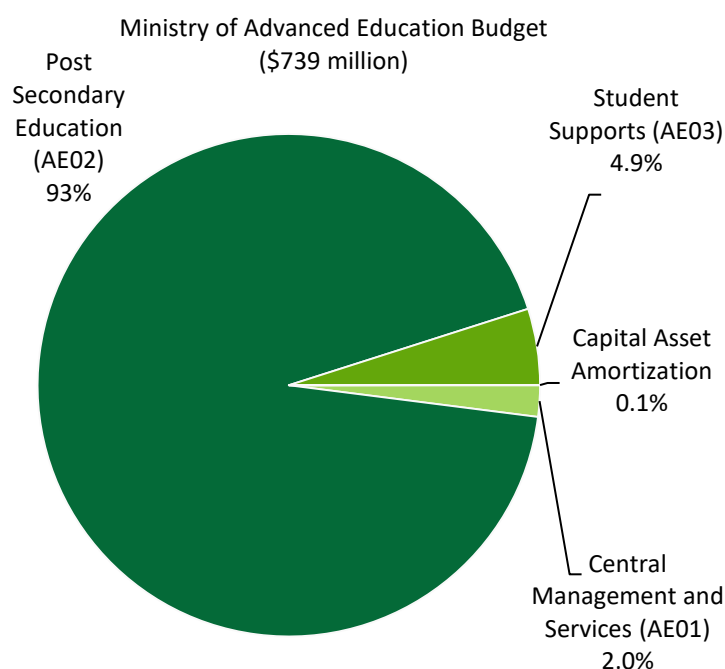
The Ministry's budget also includes \$0.4M of funding for the Status of Women Office to support efforts to raise awareness of issues affecting women and their families and to ensure gender considerations are integrated into government decision making.

Financial Summary

Advanced Education 2020-21 Estimates (\$739 million)		(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services		\$ 14,893
Post-Secondary Education		\$ 687,769
Student Supports		\$ 36,215
Major Capital Asset Acquisitions		\$ -
Total Appropriation		\$ 738,877
Capital Asset Acquisitions		\$ -
Capital Asset Amortization		\$ 138
Total Expense		\$739,015

Advanced Education Transfers to Post-Secondary Institutions (\$684 million)		(in thousands of dollars)
Universities, Federated and Affiliated Colleges		\$472,058
Technical Institutes		\$ 157,570
Regional Colleges		\$ 30,956
Post-Secondary Capital		\$ 23,400
Total		\$683,984

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget>



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/advanced-education>