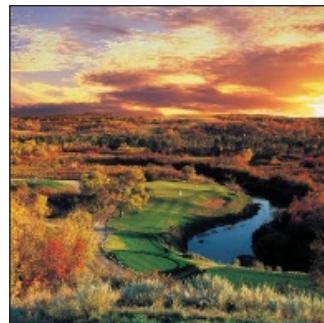


Ministry of Advanced Education



Plan for 2021-22

Saskatchewan 

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Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable
Gene Makowsky
Minister of
Advanced Education*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Advanced Education Plan for 2021-22.

Government Direction and Budget 2021-22 is focused on protecting Saskatchewan people through the remainder of the pandemic, building the infrastructure that a strong economy needs, and growing Saskatchewan to help ensure a strong economic recovery.

While the COVID-19 pandemic brought a multitude of challenges for Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions in 2020-21, the sector was remarkably resilient and successful in collaborating in innovative ways to continue providing students with a high quality education.

For the first time, the 2021-22 Budget provides a unique multi-year investment to assist the post-secondary sector with significant challenges created by the pandemic and to support the long-term financial sustainability of institutions. This funding commitment will pave the way for the sector to work together to achieve long-term sustainability, demonstrate performance, support growth and be accountable to the people of Saskatchewan.

The ministry will continue to make key investments to ensure post-secondary education is accessible and affordable through scholarships, loans and grants, including an increase to the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship. We will also continue to support student mental health and wellbeing through Healthy Campus Saskatchewan and its network.

Working in collaboration, we will foster an inclusive sector, with a focus on the enrolment and attainment of Indigenous students, students with disabilities, and international students. We will also work together to find new ways to partner to create a more integrated and sustainable post-secondary system with effective pathways for students, including providing new learning opportunities, such as micro-credentials.

To be successful, we will continue to enhance collaboration between post-secondary institutions and industry to ensure programming is aligned with the current and future needs of students, the economy and Saskatchewan communities.

The ministry will report on progress made toward this plan in the 2021-22 Annual Report.

Gene Makowsky
Minister of Advanced Education

Response to Government Direction

Protect. Build. Grow. The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to protecting Saskatchewan people through the rest of the pandemic as life returns to normal and our economy grows. Investing in infrastructure like hospitals, schools, and highways will help build a strong economy and create jobs for strong families, strong communities, and a better quality of life.

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 2021-22 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.

Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong 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 and accountability.

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 to ensure post-secondary education is accessible and affordable to students.
 - Funding a range of financial supports including student loans, grants, and scholarships. This includes an increase in the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship from \$500 to \$750 for eligible students.
- Continue to support Healthy Campus Saskatchewan and its network of post-secondary partners as they advance the priority of student mental health and wellbeing.
- Support students' access to seamless learner pathways and transitions.
 - Working in partnership with the Saskatchewan Transfer Credit and Learner Pathways Council, a partnership between government and post-secondary institutions, to encourage increased accessibility, mobility and academic success for students by promoting pathways within and outside the province.



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 enroll and succeed.

Key Actions

- Increase the enrolment and educational attainment of Indigenous students.
 - 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.
 - Enhancing the operating grant for Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies.
- Increase the enrolment and educational attainment of students with disabilities by administering program supports.
- Increase the enrolment and diversification of international students in Saskatchewan.

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, Dumont Technical Institute and Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies to better serve the needs of students through a new student interface.
 - Initiating a series of projects, labelled the 21st Century Learner Initiative, which will improve services for post-secondary learners and drive successful student outcomes.
- 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 50% by 2024-25 (baseline year is 2014-15). 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 receiving credentials, the target is to increase by 25% by 2021 (baseline year is 2013). For international student receiving credentials, 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 2021-22 target is a one 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

- Implement a multi-year funding strategy for the post-secondary education sector that helps institutions respond to a post-pandemic environment and improves financial sustainability.
- 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.
 - Engaging and supporting post-secondary institutions in their research and development functions to advance the province's innovation and sustainability goals.
- Support training programs that align with the economy and labour market trends.
 - Working with sector partners to advance micro-credential activity across the post-secondary sector in support of the labour market.
 - Providing financial support for Mitacs research internships, which equip Saskatchewan graduate students and postdoctoral fellows with work experience in Saskatchewan businesses.
 - Facilitating partnerships between employers, post-secondary, and community organizations to incorporate work-integrated learning opportunities for students.
- Improve connections between post-secondary international education and the economy.
 - Working 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 to ensure alignment with program and sector 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 and enhance reporting from the post-secondary institutions.

Performance Measures

Employment Rate by Credential

This measure changes slowly over time and is reflective of the economy and labour market. The 2021-22 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 demonstrate efficiencies that ensure the long-term sustainability of the post-secondary sector.

Key Actions

- Promote collaboration among post-secondary institutions to implement sector-wide initiatives.
- Support improvement and innovation efforts across the post-secondary sector.

Strategy

Strengthen mechanisms that demonstrate accountability for public investments.

Key Actions

- Enhance accountability through a performance framework for the post-secondary sector that demonstrates institutional progress toward meeting the government's five student-focused expectations.
- Demonstrate sector-wide efforts aimed at ensuring the post-secondary sector is financially sustainable and operates in line with the province's fiscal capacity.
- Maintain and enhance 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.

Highlights

2021-22 Budget Highlights:

The Ministry of Advanced Education's 2021-22 budget totals \$735M, which is \$34.2M (4.9%) higher than 2020-21. 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:

- Beyond the base budget, an additional \$30M is being invested as a multi-year funding commitment to the sector to focus on shared priorities, including: COVID-19 recovery, revenue generation, sector collaboration, and achieving Growth Plan priorities;
- \$6M for the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Moose Jaw Campus mezzanine replacement project, which will include extensive upgrades to spaces used for offices, classrooms and storage;
- \$3.6M for IT projects, including the replacement of the student financial assistance system, as well as enterprise resource planning and a student information system for Dumont Technical Institute, regional colleges, and Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies;
- \$2.9M to secure up to 106 spaces for Saskatchewan learners to attend high demand health sciences programs that are not available in the province;
- \$550,000 to support the Mitacs Program, which helps ensure Saskatchewan businesses continue to grow while students gain research and development skills; and,
- \$150,000 to support the ongoing development and delivery of a training program to provide employees at all designated institutions to become certified international education practitioners.

\$674M will be provided in operating and capital funding to post-secondary institutions, including:

- \$447M to the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina and the federated and affiliated colleges;
- \$164M to Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, and Gabriel Dumont Institute;
- \$34M to Saskatchewan's regional colleges; and,
- \$29M for capital projects and preventative maintenance and renewal throughout the post-secondary sector.

\$38M in financial supports will be provided to students, including:

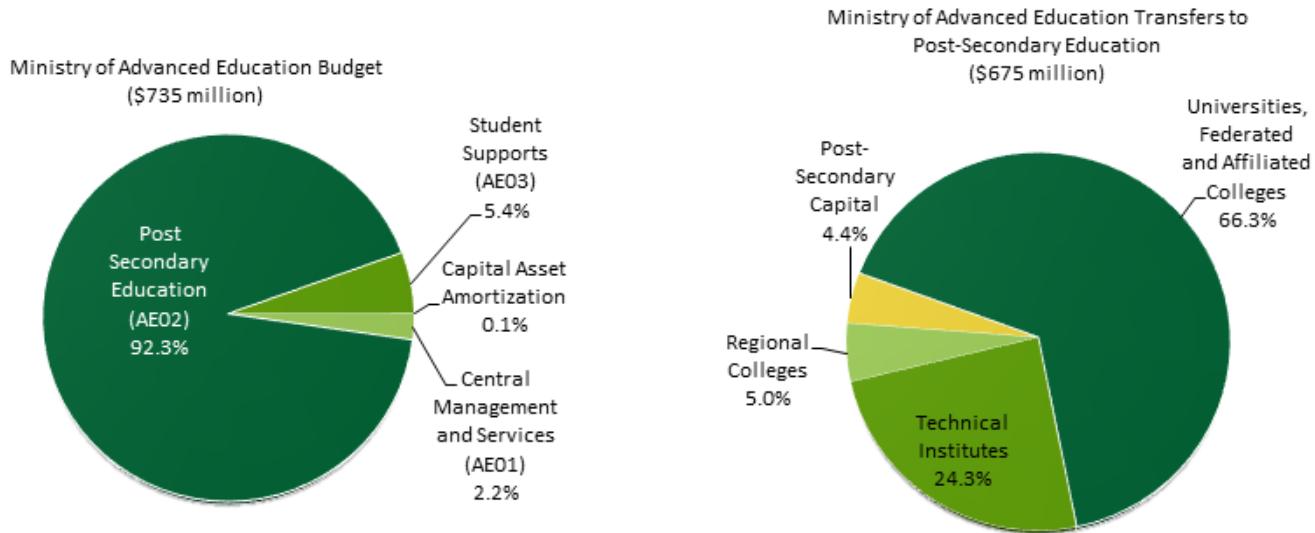
- \$27M to support the student loan program, which will provide repayable and non-repayable financial assistance to more than 18,000 students; and,
- \$10.6M for scholarships, including \$7.1M for the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship to increase the annual scholarship from \$500 to \$750 for eligible students.

Financial Summary

Advanced Education 2021-22 Estimates (\$735 million)	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	\$ 16,621
Post-Secondary Education	\$ 678,542
Student Supports	\$ 39,840
Major Capital Asset Acquisitions	\$ -
Total Appropriation	\$ 735,003
Capital Asset Acquisitions	\$ -
Capital Asset Amortization	\$ 138
Total Expense	\$735,141

Advanced Education Transfers to Post-Secondary Institutions (\$675 million) (in thousands of dollars)	
Universities, Federated and Affiliated Colleges	\$447,441
Technical Institutes	\$ 164,429
Regional Colleges	\$ 33,502
Post-Secondary Capital	\$ 29,400
Total	\$674,772

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>