

Business Plan

2025-26

Ministry of Advanced Education

Saskatchewan! 

Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of Advanced Education*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Advanced Education's 2025-26 Business Plan.

The Government of Saskatchewan's 2025-26 Budget will deliver on education, health care and affordability for people across the province and support Advanced Education's plan for the coming year.

Saskatchewan will invest \$788 million in post-secondary education in 2025-26. This funding will deliver expanded training opportunities, key infrastructure project funding and student aid.

The ministry continues to improve access to post-secondary education for students through Saskatchewan Student Aid. In 2025-26, Saskatchewan will invest more than \$46 million in student aid programs such as student loans, grants and scholarships. Graduates will also benefit from a 20 per cent increase to the Graduate Retention Program.

Saskatchewan students will have access to over 900 additional health care training seats, including 60 new seats in priority programs under the [Health Human Resources Action Plan](#) training expansion. More students can train close to home at our universities, technical institutes, Indigenous institutions and regional colleges. Four new health care programs are also being developed in the province – the University of Saskatchewan will welcome its first cohort of Physician Assistant students this fall. Speech Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Respiratory Therapy are expected to begin in 2026.

The province is also securing more seats for Saskatchewan students to study in high demand health care programs through interprovincial agreements. These increased seats will help address labour shortages and connect students to jobs in Saskatchewan after graduation.

We are extending government's multi-year funding agreement with our post-secondary institutions for an additional year to support financial predictability and more effective long-term planning.

Infrastructure projects at our post-secondary institutions will support the goals of [Saskatchewan's Growth Plan](#) and [Labour Market Strategy](#) through new and improved training spaces. Key projects include Saskatchewan Polytechnic's new Saskatoon campus, an expanded trades facility at Carlton Trail College in Humboldt and planning work for a new North West College campus in North Battleford. Institutions will also receive preventative maintenance funding to ensure safe campuses for students, faculty and staff.

The ministry's 2025-26 Annual Report will provide an update on progress made on the Business Plan.

2025-26 Budget Highlights

<p>1</p>	<p>The 2025-26 budget provides a \$5.8 million, or 1 per cent, increase to support the delivery of high quality post-secondary programs. Extending the successful multi-year funding agreement will result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$454.7 million to the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina and the federated and affiliated colleges; • \$186.7 million to Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, Gabriel Dumont Institute and Dumont Technical Institute; • \$35.8 million to Saskatchewan’s regional colleges; and • \$40.9 million in capital projects and preventative maintenance and renewal across the post-secondary sector to enhance facilities for Saskatchewan students (see highlight number four for more information).
<p>2</p>	<p>The 2025-26 budget delivers on the training pillar of the Health Human Resource Action Plan through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$35.3 million to continue the expansion of more than 900 training seats in areas of critical need; • \$17.2 million to support new post-secondary programs for Physician’s Assistants, Speech Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Respiratory Therapy programs starting fall 2025 or fall 2026; and • \$300,000 to continue with an eight-seat expansion for the College of Medicine’s Undergraduate Medical Education program.
<p>3</p>	<p>Saskatchewan students will benefit from financial support and incentives that help fund their academic and professional careers within the province. These investments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in the Graduate Retention Program by 20 per cent. This will provide a maximum of \$24,000 in tuition tax credits to eligible post-secondary graduates who live and work in Saskatchewan; • \$34.4 million for the Student Aid Fund, which provides loans and grants to over 22,000 students each year; and • \$12.2 million for scholarships and bursaries, including Indigenous Languages Scholarships, the Scholarship of Honour and the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship.
<p>4</p>	<p>To provide safe and suitable learning environments, new and ongoing capital investments of \$40.9 million will be made in the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$24.6 million for preventative maintenance and renewal funding to benefit all post-secondary institutions; • \$7.0 million to expand space at the University of Saskatchewan for the new Occupational Therapy and Speech Language Pathology Programs; • \$4.2 million to add seats in the Medical Laboratory Technology, Medical Radiologic Technology and Respiratory Therapy Programs at Saskatchewan Polytechnic’s Regina and Saskatoon campuses; • \$2.0 million for the new Saskatchewan Polytechnic Saskatoon campus; • \$1.0 million for the Carlton Trail College Trades Building expansion in Humboldt; • \$700,000 to expand the Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (SCBScN) at the University of Regina; • \$678,000 for ongoing expansion of the SCBScN and Registered Psychiatric Nurse Programs at Saskatchewan Polytechnic; • \$470,000 for planning a new North West College campus in North Battleford; and • \$250,000 for planning the University of Saskatchewan’s Western College of Veterinary Medicine expansion project.

Government Vision and Goals

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."

>> Government Goals

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 2025-26 annual reports.

Ministry of Advanced Education Overview

Mandate

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

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

Goal 1: Students Succeed in Post-secondary Education

The ministry supports and develops programs and services to help students succeed in post-secondary education. This goal aligns with government direction in [Saskatchewan's Growth Plan](#) that aims to improve student outcomes by building the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to succeed in the labour market. Three of the ministry's five post-secondary sector expectations – accessible, responsive, and accountable – are aligned with this goal. Meeting these expectations means the post-secondary sector is:

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



Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
Provide supports to promote student success.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Invest in supports to ensure post-secondary education is accessible and affordable to students.
 - Fund a range of financial supports including student loans, grants and scholarships.
 - Provide non-financial support for students.
 - Co-lead the [Healthy Campus Saskatchewan](#) community of practice, which supports mental health and well-being in the post-secondary sector through prevention and promotion initiatives.
 - Support ongoing development of open education resource¹ (OER) programming at the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina and Saskatchewan Polytechnic, including the launch of a SaskOER online platform to house all provincial OERs.
 - Identify opportunities to create smoother transitions for [international students](#) to work and live in Saskatchewan.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Foster an inclusive post-secondary sector where students from diverse backgrounds can enroll and succeed.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Develop and encourage services that meet the diverse needs of students.
 - Support the enrolment and educational attainment of Indigenous students.
 - Provide targeted funding for Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies' Student Support Services Model and Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Indigenous Student Success Strategy.

¹ OER, including open textbooks, are digital materials that are open to the public or released under an intellectual property license for teaching, learning and research. OER save students money on textbooks and learning resources.

- Provide targeted funding for Gabriel Dumont Institute’s Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP).
- Provide targeted funding for First Nations University of Canada’s Indigenous Language Teacher Education Programs and support Indigenous Languages Scholarships to help protect and revitalize Indigenous languages.
- Provide targeted funding for Mitacs Indigenous Pathways Initiative internships.
- Support the enrolment and educational attainment of students with disabilities.
 - Administer the [Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Disabilities](#) program.
- Foster sustainable growth and diversification of international student enrolment in Saskatchewan.
 - Allocate provincial attestation letters (PAL) to Designated Learning Institutions.
 - Develop a global engagement plan to enhance awareness of Saskatchewan as a destination of choice for international students.
 - Cultivate internship opportunities for international students by providing funding for Mitacs Globalink programs.
- Build intercultural expertise and capacity.
 - Expand opportunities for Saskatchewan students and educators to participate in study and work abroad experiences.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Provide programs, services and technology that evolve in response to the needs of clients and stakeholders.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Support post-secondary institutions’ ongoing efforts to modernize technology.
- Continue to modernize key elements of the ministry’s technology systems.
- Solicit input and feedback from clients and stakeholders on the ministry’s programs, services, and supporting technologies to drive improvement.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Annual Number of Students in Credentialed Programs

Enrolment indicators demonstrate sector capacity and uptake. This annual student head count data is used to monitor trends and inform planning for the sector.

- For Indigenous students, the target was to increase enrolment by 50 per cent by 2024-25 (baseline year is 2014-15). The 2024-25 enrolment numbers will be available in 2025-26. A new target is under development for future years.
- For International students, the target is to maintain a 60 per cent PAL utilization rate (baseline year is 2024).

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.

- By 2025, the target is for a 25 per cent increase in the number of Indigenous students receiving credentials (baseline year is 2015). A new target is under development for future years.

Post-secondary Educational Attainment of the Population Aged 25 to 64²

This measure changes slowly over time.

- The target is a one per cent annual increase in the number of Saskatchewan residents, 25 to 64 years, who have a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or university degree. This information is collected annually from Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

Educational Attainment of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Populations Aged 25 to 64

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. This information is collected annually from Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

For more information on Saskatchewan's post-secondary education performance see the [education and learning tab on the Government of Saskatchewan Dashboard](#).

² In previous years, the focus was on individuals aged 15+. The focus was shifted to focus on 25 to 64 age group, as it better represents the working age population. This change excludes younger individuals (15 to 18 years) who are typically too young to have attained a post-secondary education and those ages 19 to 24, who are often in the process of completing it. This shift is particularly significant for the Indigenous population, which features a very large youth cohort now entering the labour force aged population.

Goal 2: Meet the Post-secondary Education Needs of the Province

The ministry supports learning opportunities and programs that meet the needs of students and the province's labour force. This goal supports [Saskatchewan's Growth Plan](#) through the development of an agile and integrated education and training system that is responsive to economic opportunities for businesses and prepares people for careers in Saskatchewan. In addition, there is alignment between three of the ministry's five post-secondary sector expectations – responsive, high quality, and accountable. Meeting these expectations means the post-secondary sector is:

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



Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Support post-secondary institutions to provide education to meet the existing and future needs of Saskatchewan's economy and communities.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Support the government's [Health Human Resources Action Plan](#) to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain health care workers in the province.
 - Implement domestic and [interprovincial health training](#) program expansions.
 - Support development of new programs for in-demand health care training including:
 - Physician Assistant to start in fall 2025; and
 - Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Pathology and Respiratory Therapy to start in Fall 2026.
 - Support the recruitment and training of internationally educated health care providers.
- Work with stakeholders to meet the need for veterinary professionals in Saskatchewan.
 - Continue to implement the five-seat expansion for Saskatchewan students at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.
 - Collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders to develop solutions to help meet labour market needs.
- Strengthen alignment between post-secondary education and employment.
 - Provide financial support for Mitacs research internships, which equip Saskatchewan undergraduate and graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows with work experience in Saskatchewan businesses.
 - Support the establishment of the [Global Institute for Energy, Minerals and Society](#), which seeks to work with industry and government to align post-secondary programs and research, while addressing knowledge and training gaps.
- Work with post-secondary institutions to advance improvements, efficiency, and enhancement of French-language post-secondary education opportunities.
 - Collaborate with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders to support Francophone students.
- Improve connections between post-secondary international education and the economy.

- Enhance global engagement opportunities through educational cooperation and partnerships in strategic international markets identified by the province.
- Work with institutions and government partners to facilitate and leverage international partnerships focused on specific areas of research that benefit Saskatchewan.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Invest in attraction and retention of post-secondary graduates to support the needs of Saskatchewan’s economy.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Deliver [Graduate Retention Program](#) (GRP) tuition tax credits to post-secondary graduates who live and work in Saskatchewan.
- Deliver student [loan forgiveness to nurses and nurse practitioners](#) who practice in areas of the province with high recruitment needs.
- Deliver student [loan forgiveness to veterinarians and veterinarian technologists](#) who practice in underserved communities.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

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

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Examine ministry legislation, regulations, and policies to ensure alignment with program and sector needs.
- Ensure all new degree programs meet Saskatchewan’s labour market and quality standards according to [The Degree Authorization Act](#).
- Ensure private vocational schools deliver quality programs that meet the needs of students and Saskatchewan’s labour market.
- Monitor post-secondary institutions’ compliance with all legislative, regulatory and policy requirements.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Saskatchewan Employment Rate by Credential

- Research indicates that people with higher levels of education are more likely to have higher wages and rates of employment. This measure reflects the province’s economy and labour market. It measures the employment rate of Saskatchewan’s labour force by educational attainment (credential). This information is collected annually from Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

Quality of Educational Experience

- This measure demonstrates levels of graduate satisfaction with the overall quality of their educational experience. This information is collected every five years when the ministry conducts the [Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Graduate Outcomes Survey](#).

Relatedness of Program to Current Job

- This measure demonstrates the relatedness of the post-secondary program to the current jobs of recent graduates. This information is collected every five years when the ministry conducts the [Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Graduate Outcomes Survey](#).

Goal 3: Saskatchewan’s Post-Secondary Sector is Accountable and Sustainable

This ministry goal supports [Saskatchewan’s Growth Plan](#) by keeping finances strong, building a sustainable province, and improving outcomes. This goal aligns with two of the ministry’s five post-secondary education sector expectations – sustainable and accountable. Meeting these expectations means the post-secondary education sector is:

- **Sustainable** – operates within available resources.
- **Accountable** – achieves expected outcomes and is transparent.



Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Ensure the post-secondary education sector demonstrates accountability for public investments.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Extend the [multi-year funding agreement](#) with post-secondary institutions for an additional year by providing a one-time increase to operating funding in 2025-26.
- Implement the ministry’s updated accountability monitoring and reporting framework.
- Monitor post-secondary institutions’ financial forecasts to evaluate the financial health of institutions and respond to any adverse financial results.
- Provide capital funding to post-secondary institutions to ensure safe, functional and efficient campuses across the province.
 - Collaborate with post-secondary institutions to develop an annual capital plan that informs government’s infrastructure investments.
 - Provide funding to post-secondary institutions to support new and ongoing major capital projects including additional training opportunities for students resulting from the [Health Human Resource Action Plan](#).
 - Provide funding through Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) to improve existing infrastructure by addressing repair needs, minor renovations, building code upgrades, equipment replacement and other infrastructure enhancements.
- 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.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Encourage Saskatchewan post-secondary education institutions to collaborate and demonstrate efficiencies to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the post-secondary education sector.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Promote collaboration among post-secondary institutions to implement sector-wide initiatives.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

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 to review trends. This information is collected annually through the [Saskatchewan Post-secondary Education Indicators Project](#).

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. This information is collected annually through the [Saskatchewan Post-secondary Education Indicators Project](#).

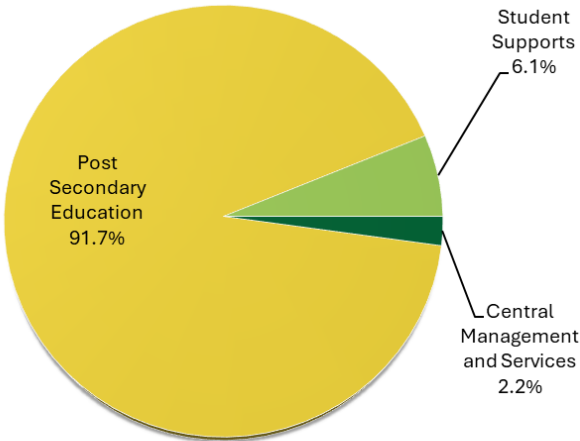
2025-26 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

1	<p>Over the past two years, the ministry has worked closely with the University of Saskatchewan to explore opportunities to offer in-demand health training programs that were not previously available in the province. In 2025, the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan will launch a new domestic training program in physician assistant studies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program will have an annual intake of 20 students.• The program gives Saskatchewan students more opportunities to train closer to home and increases the likelihood they will stay in Saskatchewan after completing their programs.• Physician Assistant is a newer occupation in Canada and is an integral part of the complex health care system. These professionals bridge gaps in healthcare access, help alleviate the workload on physicians, improve healthcare efficiency and will help mitigate the effects of physician shortages across the province.
2	<p>The ministry is facilitating a collaborative project with the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina and Saskatchewan Polytechnic to support the creation of a provincial Pressbooks platform that will house all provincially developed Open Education Resources (OER).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The new provincial Pressbooks platform, SaskOER, is aimed at promoting wider use and adaptation of these resources.• OER can benefit students by lowering costs, increasing access and the quality of learning. Faculty members benefit from the flexibility to tailor resources to their teaching styles and local contextual and cultural needs.
3	<p>New post-secondary graduates will be able to claim an increased amount through the Graduate Retention Program (GRP) when they file their 2025 income tax return.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The GRP reduces the amount of provincial income tax owed by graduates and helps Saskatchewan’s employers recruit post-secondary graduates from inside and outside the province.• The maximum tax credit has been increased by 20 per cent for students who graduated on or after October 1, 2024. The maximum increased from \$20,000 to \$24,000.

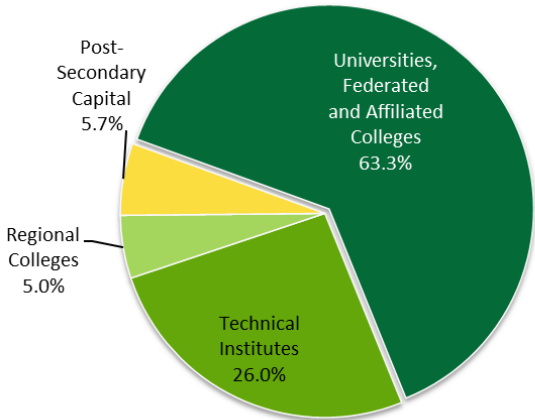
Financial Summary

Ministry of Advanced Education 2025-26 Estimates (\$788 million)	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	\$17,735
Post Secondary Education	\$721,939
Student Supports	\$48,414
Total Appropriation	\$788,088
Capital Asset Acquisition	-
Capital Asset Amortization	-
Total Expense	\$788,088
Ministry of Advanced Education transfers to Post-Secondary Institutions (\$718 million)	(in thousands of dollars)
Universities, Federated and Affiliated Colleges	\$454,710
Technical Institutes	\$186,662
Regional Colleges	\$35,792
Post-Secondary Capital Transfers	\$40,986
Total	\$718,150

Ministry of Advanced Education Budget (\$788 million)



Ministry of Advanced Education Transfers to Post-Secondary Education (\$718 million)



Links to More Information

- [Ministry of Advanced Education](#)
- [Government of Saskatchewan Budget, Planning and Reporting](#)