
Budget 2025's "Generational" Claim Falls Short for Students in Crisis, says SAMRU REC

Calgary, AB – November 5, 2025 – The Representation Executive Council (REC) of the Students' Association of Mount Royal University (SAMRU) has analyzed the 2025 Federal Budget, "Canada Strong," and concluded that while it makes some positive investments in youth employment, students are concerned that it doesn't address the immediate and severe affordability crisis facing post-secondary students.

SAMRU REC is pleased to see significant new investments in work-integrated learning, a cornerstone of the student experience at Mount Royal University. The budget's focus on creating meaningful work opportunities and strengthening the integrity of the student financial aid system are also positive steps for post-secondary students.

The budget includes over \$635 million for the Student Work Placement Program to create an estimated 55,000 new opportunities, and nearly \$595 million for the Canada Summer Jobs program.

"We want to be partners in building this 'strong Canada,' but our generation is being left behind," said SAMRU REC VP External, Mariana Mejia Salazar. "While new investments in the Student Work Placement Program and Canada Summer Jobs are meaningful steps, this budget invests primarily in high-tech careers we can't all afford to graduate into."

"Students in Calgary are choosing between rent and textbooks today. This budget offers them a 'generational' IOU," said SAMRU REC President, Tala Abu Hayyaneh. "If we're serious about a generational shift, student grants must grow with the cost of living. Tie the Canada Student Grant to CPI, and we'll start talking about real change."

The \$25 billion national housing plan fails to include any dedicated, large-scale strategy for building new, affordable student housing, leaving students to compete in an already-crushing rental market.

REC is calling on the federal government to meet urgently with student leaders from across the country to develop a dedicated Student Affordability and Housing Strategy. Without immediate action, the "generational" promise of Budget 2025 will remain out of reach for the very students expected to build it.