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## **Students' Association of Mount Royal University welcomes \$8m youth jobs investment, calls for expanded student access**

**Calgary, AB – September 12, 2025** – The Students' Association of Mount Royal University (SAMRU) Representation Executive Council (REC) welcomes today's \$8 million Government of Alberta investment in the Alberta Youth Employment Incentive, designed to create up to 2,500 youth jobs across the province. This funding is a significant step toward addressing barriers students face when seeking part-time work, internships, and early career opportunities.

"As students, we've seen how hard it is to find fair, meaningful work that provides students with the experience we need to build their futures," said Tala Abu Hayyaneh, President of SAMRU's REC. "With Alberta's student unemployment rate at 21 per cent—one of the highest in Canada—this program is a critical step to giving young Albertans a fair chance at the job market."

Under the program, businesses hiring young Albertans will be eligible for grants of between \$4,000 – \$7,500, depending on the number of hires and hours worked, based on a provincial wage offset of \$10 per hour. SAMRU's REC emphasizes that while the incentive is promising, it must be paired with continued action to enhance productivity.

"We encourage the province to waive the age restriction career services office co-apply or sign off, and to expand access to co-ops, practicums, and other Work Integrated Learning (WIL) placements that directly connect students with the workforce," said Mariana Mejia Salazar, Vice President External of SAMRU's REC. "This simple change would ensure students have the practical experience they need to succeed after graduation while providing experienced employees to employers."

SAMRU will continue advocating for lasting solutions, including sustainable funding for work-integrated learning and provincial participation in federal programs like the Student Work Placement Program.

The new initiative, administered by CAREERS, is set to launch in October 2025. SAMRU will monitor its impact closely and continue working with provincial partners to build a job market where no student is left behind.