



**CASA**  
Canadian Alliance of  
Student Associations

**ACAE**  
Alliance canadienne des  
associations étudiantes



**UNION ÉTUDIANTE  
DU QUÉBEC**

## **Spring Economic Update: Investments in Student Assistance and Apprentices to Substantially Support Canada's Youth-in-Training**

**Ottawa, ON** - Today's Spring Economic Update highlights the importance of investment in youth and training as part of a vision for a prosperous Canada.

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) has pushed for the extension of the Canada Student Financial Assistance program, which supports over 700,000 students annually across Canada. CASA is optimistic that the government's action on this needed temporary extension of the program will see a permanent expansion and extension in the coming fall budget.

"Today's Economic Update represents recognition from the government on investing in youth and students to achieve Canada's ambitious goals," said Abdul Abbasi, Chair of CASA. "We look forward to continued opportunities to share student issues and find pragmatic and impactful solutions that benefit students and the country."

As an advocate for a comprehensive and trades-integrated education system, CASA welcomes the investments in financial assistance to apprentices, and the rollout of this summer's employment programming that will assist all students and youth, including apprentices, to be able to gain work experience, afford education and contribute to the Canadian economy. The wage subsidy provided through *Build Canada Apprenticeship Service* will incentivize employers to hire and train apprentices, and the *Apprenticeship Training Grant* will help address earnings gaps during in-class training hours, a long-standing CASA priority. As the government continues to focus on skilled trades development, CASA will continue to advocate for programming that improves apprenticeship retention and successful certification.

"This is good news for the student-apprentice community, which will benefit from this investment," said Flora Dommanget, President of the Québec Students' Union. "The government must continue to invest more in the student population to meet their needs."

As the government increases its capital investments in housing and infrastructure, CASA is pleased to see post-secondary eligibility for the *Build Communities Strong Fund*, which will help address mounting deferred maintenance and support modernized, green infrastructure on campus.



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**About CASA:**

Established in 1995, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit, national student organization composed of 25 student associations representing 300,000 post-secondary students from coast to coast. Through its partnership with the Quebec Student Union/l'Union étudiante du Québec (UEQ) and its members representing 110,000 students, CASA presents a national student voice to the federal government. CASA advocates for a Canadian post-secondary education system that is accessible, affordable, innovative, and of the highest quality.

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