



News Release

October 5, 2011

REGINA – Today, the University of Regina Students' Union (URSU), Local 9 of the Canadian Federation of Students, officially launched its student-issues campaign. The campaign, titled 'Our Future is Now', focuses on four main issues affecting students: the skyrocketing rate of tuition, a lack of affordable housing, the need for additional childcare spaces, and First Nations and Aboriginal accessibility to post-secondary education. Students at the University of Regina will be working with students across the province through the *Vote Education* campaign, a provincially focused student issues campaigns encouraging students get out and vote based on political parties' education-related platforms.

"Our number one request is that all political parties in Saskatchewan commit to implementing a fully-funded tuition fee freeze should they be elected to government," said Kent Peterson, URSU President, Saskatchewan Representative for the Canadian Federation of Students. "We want the freeze to be in place for at least one year, and that will allow the government to consult students on what form a 'tuition management system' should take."

There are critical housing and childcare needs across the province, therefore a number of specific requests were made in those areas. Students are asking that political parties commit to approving the University of Regina's residence and childcare proposal that was submitted to the Government of Saskatchewan in early May, 2011.

"The residence and childcare proposal that was submitted has been collecting dust on government shelves for far too long," said Peterson. "It includes an additional 608 residence beds for the University of Regina and an additional 180 childcare spaces that are desperately needed," he added.

Students are calling on the provincial political parties to commit to lobbying the federal government to remove the 2 per cent cap on the Post-secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) – the federal funding mechanism for status First Nations and Inuit students who attend post-secondary institutions. Students want to see a provincial program created to assist Aboriginal students in the form of grants, as well as increased funding for existing student-support services. Students also want to see a commitment to long-term, sustainable funding for the First Nations University of Canada.

"First Nations and Aboriginal accessibility to post-secondary education is key to our collective future," said Peterson, "after consulting with Aboriginal leaders and educators we have developed a list of essential requests that political parties must commit to, if they want to make Aboriginal education a priority," he added.

- 30 -

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