



Listening to Albertans on **Funding**

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

- Inadequate funding is a growing concern at technical institutes. There is a backlog in deferred maintenance, tuition fees have not kept pace with the costs of educating students, and government funding is declining as a percentage of total revenue.
 - Infrastructure renewal is rapidly becoming a dominant concern.
 - The provincial government seems to fail to recognize the real importance of education as an investment, and seems to continue to regard it as an expense to be minimized.
 - Educational institutions in Edmonton and Calgary have suffered from the rural bias of the government.
 - Our refusal to properly fund post-secondary education has led to an enormous loss of intellectual capacity.
 - We have taken the wrong approach in dramatically downloading costs to individuals, especially since society still continues to benefit from the individuals' expenditures.
 - Increased corporate funding is a serious concern, particularly since corporations are getting involved in the decision-making of the post-secondary institution.
 - Post-secondary education institutions are increasingly concerned with revenue generation, and education decisions are taking a back seat.
- Pressures to generate revenue lead some institutions to offer programs which bring in more income but duplicate other college offerings, while at the same time causing them to ignore their mandate in less lucrative areas such as academic upgrading.
 - The increased emphasis on generating revenue and fundraising has changed the nature of the institutions and the role of faculty.

SUGGESTED DIRECTIONS

- It is essential to have very large increases in base operating grants, so that institutions can address issues on an ongoing basis.
- We need to be re-investing what has been taken out of the post-secondary education system since 1992.
- There is a need for a large infusion of resources in order to deal with the major concern of infrastructure renewal.
- We must view expenditures in post-secondary education as a crucial investment in the future of the whole society.
- Student finance discussions must be driven by a recognition of the total cost of attending the post-secondary education institution.
- We need to ensure a high level of public financial support in order to reduce the need to turn to private sources for funding.

Minimal funding means that although the province has grown our facilities have not and we are trying to put the maximum number of students in the minimum amount of space. Due to limitations on space not every person who wants and qualifies for PSE can attend. Funding also limits resources of lecturers, increases tuition & other costs meaning students cannot afford to attend.

Tara, Innisfail, Part-time employee, student and mother

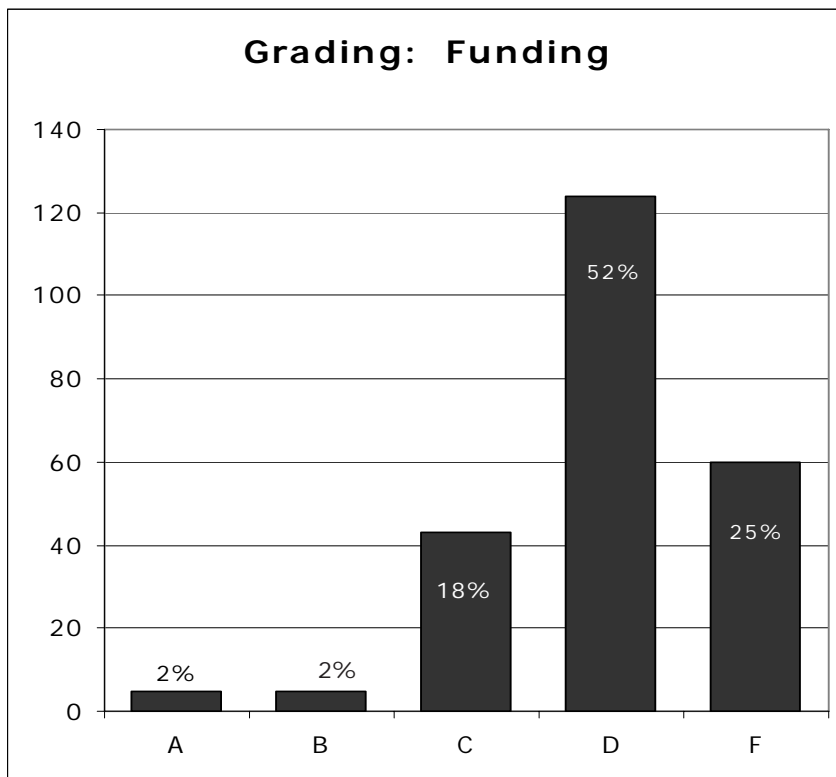




- We need to reaffirm the public nature of public institutions, especially through funding, in order to ensure that the public interest is served.
- We must properly fund the arts (social sciences, humanities and the fine arts) as well as the sciences.
- We need to ensure that corporate funding does not result in control of decision-making.
- It is essential to ensure that post-secondary education institutions can focus completely on education and learning rather than on revenue generation and fundraising.
- The government must provide adequate funding to ensure that institutions can meet their mandates in less lucrative areas such as academic upgrading.

Public Response to the Question:

How would you grade the government’s commitment to ensure that funding levels allow institutions to meet today’s challenges and embrace tomorrow’s opportunities?



Report Card Key

- A** = exemplary performance
- B** = more than satisfactory performance
- C** = some concerns, but satisfactory performance overall
- D** = does not meet expectations, poor performance
- F** = complete breakdown of responsibility, dismal performance