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## **STRONG SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS IN 2016-17 PROVINCIAL BUDGET**

*Province Maintains Post-secondary Investments to Keep Saskatchewan Strong*

The 2016-17 Budget will maintain strong investment in our province's post-secondary students.

"Saskatchewan's most precious resource is its people," Advanced Education Minister Scott Moe said. "We will continue to support post-secondary students despite financial challenges."

Over the past nine years, the province has invested more than \$7.3 billion in post-secondary institutions and student supports.

Operating grants to the province's post-secondary institutions this year are virtually unchanged. Saskatchewan post-secondary schools continue to receive strong support, including:

- \$475 million for the Universities of Saskatchewan and Regina and their affiliated and federated colleges;
- \$156 million for Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and Gabriel Dumont Institute; and
- \$29 million for Saskatchewan's regional colleges.

The government's strong commitment to students is also reflected in a range of programs aimed at helping them save and pay for school. Advanced Education's Budget provides more than \$53 million in direct support to students, including:

- \$32.5 million for the Student Aid Fund to provide student grants, bursaries, and loans;
- \$14.3 million for scholarships, including the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship; and
- \$6.5 million for the Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings.

"In addition, post-secondary grads will continue to get all of their tuition costs back up to \$20,000 through the Graduate Retention Program if they stay and work in Saskatchewan after graduation," Moe said.

This Budget provides nearly \$26 million in capital for advanced education and training, with an estimated \$170 million to be provided to this sector over the next four years. This year, the province will continue to provide \$23.6 million to post-secondary schools for preventative maintenance and renewal. The budget also contains \$2.2 million in capital funding to complete the Southeast Regional College campus in Weyburn.

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