



February 25, 2021

## UCalgary faces further budget reductions

*As budget shrinks, UCalgary remains committed to outstanding student experience, supporting community and driving economic activity in Alberta.*

**Calgary, Alberta** – Today, the Government of Alberta tabled its 2021-22 budget, which includes a \$25.0m reduction to the University of Calgary’s operating budget (-6%) and an increase of \$8.6m to infrastructure maintenance funding.

Since 2019, the University of Calgary operating budget has been reduced 18%, forcing difficult decisions by the campus community.

*“A third year of funding reductions will have implications for our campus community and programs. But in this environment, we will continue to prioritize an outstanding student experience, driving economic growth and recovery in Alberta, and finding ways to support and give back to our city and our province during these difficult times.”*

**Dr. Ed McCauley, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Calgary**

Reductions bring the University of Calgary’s base operating funding (the Campus Alberta grant) below the level it was at in 2011, when the University had 4,300 fewer students. To continue to fund programs that grow Alberta’s economy and provide students a world-class education, to date the University has taken several steps to reduce costs and increase revenues:

- reducing the size of the University workforce by 600 staff positions;
- freezing management and professional service wages;
- increasing tuition;
- eliminating, slowing or deferring more than 200 initiatives and projects;
- reducing maintenance and facilities upgrades and preventative maintenance activities;
- reducing spending on travel, engagement, events and marketing; and
- reducing and cancelling IT projects and delaying the purchase of new equipment.

Students, faculty and staff – working together in partnership with our broader community – have also been innovating plans for alternative sources of revenue to support the evolution of our programs, our research initiatives and our contributions to our city and our province. These activities will be essential to Alberta’s economic recovery and the long-term well-being of our province.

*“Alberta is facing significant challenges including a global pandemic and an economic downturn entering its seventh year. The fiscal pressures faced by the government are real. Long-term solutions to these challenges require economic diversification, new solutions and a trained workforce – the very work at which universities excel. We will continue to work with the province on finding ways to enhance the important, society-building work done by post-secondary institutions.”*

**Dr. Ed McCauley, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Calgary**

University of Calgary leadership will now evaluate the impact of today’s announcement and work with the Ministry of Advanced Education and the University’s Board of Governors on development of a 2021-22 annual budget.

## Background information

- **About the University of Calgary**

The University of Calgary is a global intellectual hub located in Canada’s most enterprising city. In our spirited, high-quality learning environment, students thrive in programs made rich by **research, hands-on experiences** and **entrepreneurial thinking**. Our strategy drives us to be recognized as one of Canada’s top five research universities, engaging the communities we both serve and lead. This strategy is called *Eyes High*, inspired by the university's Gaelic motto, which translates as 'I will lift up my eyes.' For more information, visit [ucalgary.ca/eyeshigh](http://ucalgary.ca/eyeshigh).

- **UCalgary Operating Grant (Campus Alberta Grant) 2018/19-2021/22 (\$million):**

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
\$479.5	\$446.6	\$419.9	\$394.9
	(-\$32.9m/-6.9%)	(-26.7m/-6.0%)	(-25.0m/-6.0%)
	-6.9%	-12.4%	-17.7%

- **Economic impact**

According to a recently released [Economic Impact Analysis](#) conducted by Hanover Research, the University of Calgary helps to create about \$16.5 billion in economic impact in the City of Calgary and in Alberta. The University of Calgary is the city’s second largest employer.

## Media inquiries

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