

Business Plan

2024-25

Ministry of Advanced Education

Saskatchewan! 

Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Gordon S. Wyant, K.C.
Minister of Advanced Education*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Advanced Education's Business Plan for 2024-25.

The Government of Saskatchewan's 2024-25 Budget invests in priority programs to further invest in the province's present and future.

Saskatchewan will invest \$793 million in post-secondary education, representing a 3.7 per cent increase over the previous year. We are strengthening the post-secondary education sector by supporting students, increasing institution funding, expanding training programs and addressing priority infrastructure projects.

Saskatchewan is providing a one-time increase in operating funding to post-secondary institutions under the existing multi-year funding agreement. This will help institutions manage increasing costs and support financial sustainability, better enabling them to maintain services for students, support quality programs and ensure responsiveness to labour market needs. This Budget represents the fourth and final year of the ground-breaking multi-year funding agreement and sets the foundation for negotiating a new agreement.

The ministry remains committed to increasing our health training capacity in alignment with Saskatchewan's [Health Human Resources Action Plan](#). New funding will establish over 60 additional training seats in the highest demand health training programs, with a particular focus on nurse training. Health program funding will also support continued implementation of significant seat expansions announced previously.

In addition, four new high-demand training programs will be developed in Saskatchewan: Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Pathology, Physician Assistant, and Respiratory Therapy. These programs will help meet critical labour market needs and give more of our students opportunities to train close to home.

The ministry continues to ensure post-secondary education is accessible and affordable through substantial Saskatchewan Student Aid programs, including a new grant for low-income students with dependents.

Our government supports the preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages in Saskatchewan. New funding will support Dene and Cree teacher education programs, which enable future educators to instruct students in their own language as part of the regular K-12 curriculum.

Significant resources will be directed to key infrastructure projects, including the Saskatchewan Polytechnic campus renewal project, health program training seat expansions and new domestic programs, exploring an expansion at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, and repairs and maintenance at our institutions.

A progress report will be provided in the ministry's 2024-25 Annual Report.

2024-25 Budget Highlights

<p>1</p>	<p>The 2024-25 budget provides a \$12 million, or 2.2%, one-time funding increase to post-secondary institutions in response to concerns raised about increasing operational costs. The operating and capital investments made in this year’s budget demonstrates the continued support of post-secondary institutions in this the final year of the four-year multi-year funding agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$445.0 million to the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina and the federated and affiliated colleges; • \$184.6 million to Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, Gabriel Dumont Institute and Dumont Technical Institute, • \$35.9 million to Saskatchewan’s Regional Colleges; and • \$58.9 million for capital projects and preventative maintenance and renewal throughout the post-secondary sector.
<p>2</p>	<p>An investment will be made to support the training pillar of the Health Human Resource Action Plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$22.5 million in operating funding to create and support over 610 new post-secondary training seats across 26 health care training programs; • \$11.5 million in operating funding to continue with the 150-nursing seat expansion approved in 2022-23; • \$3.6 million in operating funding to create new domestic post-secondary training seats for the Physician’s Assistants, Speech Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Respiratory Therapy programs; and • \$1.4 million in operating funding to continue with an eight-seat expansion for the College of Medicine’s Undergraduate Medical Education program.
<p>3</p>	<p>To help students to be successful in post-secondary education \$46.5M in loans, grants and scholarships will be available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$34.4 million to support the student loan program, which will provide repayable and on-repayable financial assistance to more than 20,000 students; and • \$12.1 million for scholarships, including \$8.6M for the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship and \$50,000 for the Indigenous Languages Scholarships to help protect and revitalize Indigenous languages.
<p>4</p>	<p>To provide safe and suitable learning environments, new and ongoing capital investments will be made in the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$24.6 million for preventative maintenance and renewal funding to benefit all post-secondary institutions; • \$8.7 million to renew and upgrade electrical and mechanical systems at the University of Saskatchewan; • \$7.1 million to develop space for Speech Language Pathology and Occupational Therapy programs at the University of Saskatchewan; • \$6.3 million for the replacement of three cooling towers at the University of Regina; • \$6.0 million to advance Saskatchewan Polytechnic’s Saskatoon Campus Renewal Project; • \$3.5 million to support the health training seat expansions; and • \$636,000 to increase clinical capacity and purchase simulation equipment for the Physician Assistant program at the University of Saskatchewan.

Government Vision and Goals

Saskatchewan's Vision

"...to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

>> Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

Saskatchewan's vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2023-24 annual reports.

Ministry of Advanced Education Overview

Mandate

The ministry is responsible for the post-secondary education sector that supports a growing Saskatchewan and that leads to a higher quality of life. The ministry places a high priority on meeting the needs of students by ensuring that our post-secondary sector is accessible, responsive, sustainable, accountable, and provides quality education. Working with our post-secondary institutions, the ministry is focused on providing opportunities for all students, especially First Nations and Métis people, to prepare them to live, work, and learn in Saskatchewan.

Mission

The ministry provides leadership and resources to foster a high-quality post-secondary education and training system that responds to the needs of Saskatchewan people and the economy.

Goal 1: Students Succeed in Post-secondary Education

The ministry supports and develops programs and services to help students succeed in post-secondary education. This goal aligns with government direction in [Saskatchewan's Growth Plan](#) that aims to improve student outcomes by building the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to succeed in the labour market. Three of the ministry's five post-secondary sector expectations – accessible, responsive, and accountable – are aligned with this goal. Meeting these expectations means the post-secondary sector:

- Offers qualified people the opportunity to attend and succeed – **Accessible**.
- Meets the needs of students, communities and the economy – **Responsive**.
- Achieves expected outcomes and is transparent – **Accountable**.



Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
Provide supports to promote student success.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Invest in supports to ensure post-secondary education is accessible and affordable to students.
 - Fund a range of financial supports including student loans, grants, and scholarships.
 - Provide non-financial support for students.
 - Co-lead the [Healthy Campus Saskatchewan](#) initiative supporting students' mental health and well-being.
 - Support ongoing development of open education resource (OER) programming at the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina and Saskatchewan Polytechnic, including the creation of an online platform for all provincial OERs.
 - Identify opportunities to create smoother transitions for [international students](#) to work and live in Saskatchewan.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
Foster an inclusive post-secondary sector where students from diverse backgrounds can enroll and succeed.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Develop and encourage services to meet the diverse needs of students.
 - Encourage the enrolment and educational attainment of Indigenous students.
 - Provide targeted funding for Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies' Student Support Services Model and to Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Indigenous Student Success Strategy.
 - Provide targeted funding for Gabriel Dumont Institute's Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP).
 - Provide targeted funding for First Nations University of Canada's Indigenous Language Teacher Education Programs and support Indigenous Languages Scholarships to help protect and revitalize Indigenous languages.
 - Provide targeted funding for Mitacs' Indigenous Pathways Initiative internships.
 - Support the enrolment and educational attainment of students with disabilities.

- Administer the [Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities](#) program.
- Foster sustainable growth and diversification of international student enrolment in Saskatchewan.
 - Develop a cohesive marketing strategy to enhance global awareness of Saskatchewan as a premier and credible destination for international students and talents.
 - Cultivate internship opportunities for international students by providing funding for Mitacs' Globalink programs.
- Build intercultural expertise and capacity.
 - Expand opportunities for Saskatchewan students and educators to participate in study and work abroad experiences.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Provide programs, services and technology that evolve in response to the needs of clients and stakeholders.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Support and monitor implementation of the new regional college and Gabriel Dumont Institute enterprise resource planning and student information technology solution.
- Continue to modernize how student financial assistance is delivered through the 21st Century Learner Initiative.
- Seek client input and feedback on ministry programs and services.
 - Solicit information from current post-secondary students on issues affecting post-secondary education, to continuously improve the programs and services offered by the ministry.
 - Build a change management program through student engagement to support the 21st Century Learner Initiative.
- Work with post-secondary partners to improve network connectivity, information technology security and collaboration on licensed applications and resources.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Annual Number of Students in Credentialed Programs

Enrolment indicators demonstrate sector capacity and uptake. This annual student head count data is used to monitor trends and inform planning for the sector. For Indigenous students, the target is to increase enrolment by 50% by 2024-25 (baseline year is 2014-15). For International students, the target is to increase the source countries from which international students are recruited.

Number of Credentials Awarded

The number of credentials awarded demonstrates student outcomes. This data is used to monitor trends, inform planning, and support sector responsiveness. By 2025, the target is for a 25% increase in the number of Indigenous students receiving credentials (baseline year is 2015).

Post-secondary Educational Attainment of the Population Aged 15 Years and Over

This measure changes slowly over time. The 2024-25 target is a one percentage point annual increase in the number of Saskatchewan residents, 15 years and over, who have a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or university degree.

Educational Attainment of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Populations Aged 15 Years and Over

Educational attainment measures change slowly over time. The long-term target is to match the attainment level of the Indigenous population with the attainment rate of the overall Saskatchewan population.

For more information on Saskatchewan's post-secondary education performance see the [education and learning tab on the Government of Saskatchewan Dashboard](#).

Goal 2: Meet the Post-secondary Education Needs of the Province

The ministry supports learning opportunities and programs that meet the needs of students and the province's labour force. This goal supports [Saskatchewan's Growth Plan](#) through the development of an agile and integrated education and training system that is responsive to economic opportunities for businesses and prepares people for careers in Saskatchewan. In addition, there is alignment between three of the ministry's five post-secondary sector expectations – responsive, high quality, and accountable. Meeting these expectations means the post-secondary sector:

- Meets the needs of students, communities, and the economy – **Responsive**.
- Meets required standards and maintains public confidence in the programs and services provided – **High Quality**.
- Achieves expected outcomes and is transparent – **Accountable**.



Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Support post-secondary institutions to provide education to meet the existing and future needs of Saskatchewan's economy and communities.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Continue to support the government's [Health Human Resources Action Plan](#) to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain health care workers in the province.
 - Expand domestic and [interprovincial health training](#) programs.
 - Develop and broker new domestic training programs for in-demand health care training including:
 - Diagnostic Medical Sonography to start in 2024;
 - Physician Assistant to start in 2025; and
 - Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Pathology and Respiratory Therapy to start in 2026.
 - Help to recruit and train internationally educated health care providers.
- Work with stakeholders to meet the needs for veterinary professionals in Saskatchewan.
 - Continue to implement the five-seat expansion at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine for Saskatchewan students.
 - Collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders to develop solutions to help meet labour market needs.
- Strengthen alignment between post-secondary education and employment.
 - Provide financial support for Mitacs research internships, which equip Saskatchewan undergraduate and graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows with work experience in Saskatchewan businesses.
- Work with post-secondary institutions to advance improvements, efficiency, and enhancement of French-language post-secondary education opportunities.
- Improve connections between post-secondary international education and the economy.

- Enhance global engagement opportunities in strategic international markets identified by the province.
- Work with institutions to facilitate and leverage international partnerships focused on specific areas of research that benefit Saskatchewan.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Strengthen program quality and responsiveness to Saskatchewan’s economic and social needs.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Examine ministry legislation, regulations, and policies to ensure alignment with program and sector needs.
- Ensure all new degree programs meet Saskatchewan’s labour market and quality standards according to [The Degree Authorization Act](#).
- Ensure private vocational schools deliver quality programs that meet the needs of students and Saskatchewan’s labour market.
- Monitor post-secondary institutions’ compliance with all legislative, regulatory and policy requirements.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Saskatchewan Employment Rate by Credential

This measure is reflective of the province’s economy and labour market. It measures the employment rate of Saskatchewan’s labour force by educational attainment (credential). Research indicates that people with higher levels of education are more likely to have higher wages and rates of employment. This information is collected annually from Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

Quality of Educational Experience

This measure demonstrates levels of graduate satisfaction with the overall quality of their educational experience. This information is collected every five years when the ministry conducts the [Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Graduate Outcomes Survey](#).

Relatedness of Program to Current Job

This measure demonstrates the relatedness of the post-secondary program to the current job for recent graduates. This information is collected every five years when the ministry conducts the [Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Graduate Outcomes Survey](#).

Transitions of International Graduates into Saskatchewan’s workforce

This measure demonstrates the number of international graduates with Post-Graduate Work Permits who apply for the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program. This information indicates international graduates’ attachment to the labour force in Saskatchewan. This information is collected annually from the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training.

Goal 3: Saskatchewan's Post-Secondary Sector is Accountable and Sustainable

This ministry goal supports [Saskatchewan's Growth Plan](#) by keeping finances strong, building a sustainable province, and improving outcomes. This goal aligns with two of the ministry's five post-secondary sector expectations – sustainable and accountable. Meeting these expectations means the post-secondary education sector:

- Operates within available resources – **Sustainable**.
- Achieves expected outcomes and is transparent – **Accountable**.



Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Ensure the post-secondary education sector demonstrates accountability for public investments.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Implement the financial and reporting requirements for the fourth year of government's [multi-year funding agreement](#) with the post-secondary education sector to demonstrate the impact of government's investment on long-term financial sustainability.
- Adjust the multi-year funding agreement to respond to increasing costs faced by post-secondary institutions by providing a one-time increase to operating funding in 2024-25. This additional support will strengthen sustainability and ensure the sector can continue to deliver on its key role in supporting the economy.
- Manage the post-secondary education sector performance framework to demonstrate institutional performance and progress toward meeting government priorities.
- Monitor post-secondary institutions' financial forecasts to evaluate the financial health of institutions and respond to any adverse financial results.
- Provide capital funding to post-secondary institutions.
 - Work with post-secondary institutions and the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement to develop and annually update capital plans to inform government investments in infrastructure;
 - Provide funding for new and ongoing major capital projects and preventative maintenance and renewal; and
 - Provide capital funding to post-secondary institutions to support new and additional training opportunities for students resulting from the [Health Human Resource Action Plan](#).
- Maintain and enhance the [Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project](#) to ensure consistent, comparable, sector-wide data is collected and available to inform planning, monitoring and reporting.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Encourage Saskatchewan post-secondary education institutions to collaborate and demonstrate efficiencies to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the post-secondary education sector.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Promote collaboration among post-secondary institutions to implement sector-wide initiatives.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Expenditure to Revenue Comparison

The expenditures to revenue comparison demonstrates efficiency and long-term sustainability. It is used to inform planning for the sector, to compare with other jurisdictions, and to review trends.

Reliance on Revenue Source Comparison

Measures the composition of the sector's revenue sources and provides a measure for assessing the sustainability of the sector if the proportion or distribution of revenue sources changes.

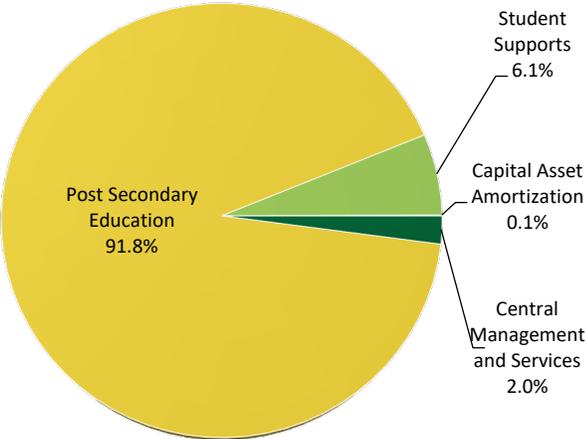
2024-25 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

1	After a successful inaugural year, the ministry will be expanding the Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Student Council to broaden the diversity of student representatives. This improvement will expand the Council's coverage to include nominations from all institutions identified in the Post-secondary Education and Skills Training Regulations and Collège Mathieu. This council is a key resource for the ministry to capture students' perspective and apply learnings to the ministry's work.
2	The ministry will conduct a website revitalization project that groups all Saskatchewan Student Aid information into one simple, easy to access section on saskatchewan.ca . This will help enhance Saskatchewan students' understanding of government financial aid options available to them, significantly improve their experience as they search for information, and reduce the number of inquiries to the Student Service Centre.

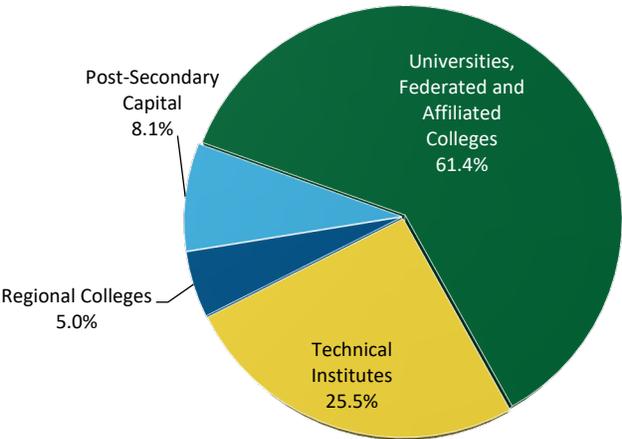
Financial Summary

Ministry of Advanced Education 2023-24 Estimates (\$ 793 million)		(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services		\$16,526
Post-Secondary Education		\$727,943
Student Supports		\$48,113
Major Capital Asset Acquisitions		-
Total Appropriation		\$792,582
Capital Asset Acquisition (s)		-
Capital Asset Amortization		\$400
Total Expense		\$792,982
Ministry of Advanced Education Transfers to Post-Secondary Institutions (\$724 million)		(in thousands of dollars)
Universities, Federated and Affiliated Colleges		\$444,983
Technical Institutes		\$184,628
Regional Colleges		\$35,855
Post-secondary Capital Transfers		\$58,961
Total		\$724,427

Ministry of Advanced Education Budget (\$793 million)



Ministry of Advanced Education Transfers to Post-Secondary Education (\$724 million)



Links to More Information:

- [Ministry of Advanced Education](#)
- [Government of Saskatchewan Budget, Planning and Reporting](#)