



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NBSA Announces its Lobby Season: Breaking Barriers to Postsecondary Education

Fredericton, NB- From November 16th to 30th, 2020 the New Brunswick Student Alliance (NBSA) will be conducting lobby meetings along with the release of the Breaking Barriers to Postsecondary Education 2020-2021 advocacy document. The document will outline our recommendations for the government of New Brunswick as they begin to work on their budget.

NBSA Board of Directors and student delegates from Mount Allison University, St. Thomas University and both University of New Brunswick campuses in Fredericton and Saint John, will meet with Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), university administrators, and relevant stakeholders to advocate for our key priorities which include; Indigenization, international students, mental health services, sexual violence support, student loans and systemic racism.

Patrick Hickey, Chair of the NBSA Board of Directors says, "We are very excited to discuss the current needs and concerns of our students with decision makers across the province. The pandemic has placed further pressure and burdens on students and now more than ever they need the support of our entire province."

This year, the NBSA is bringing key recommendations that are integral in breaking barriers to postsecondary education in New Brunswick. These recommendations include: implementation of a "Reconciliation through Post-secondary Education" fund, mandate cultural sensitivity training for certain government employees, regulation on international student tuition, implementation of a New Brunswick COVID-19 International Student Financial Relief Package to support international students bearing the financial burden of COVID-19, implementation of e-mental health services for postsecondary students, addressing sexual violence by mandating standalone sexual violence policies at publicly funded institutions and providing funding for specific trauma informed support services, elimination of interest on the provincial portion of student loans, and conducting an inquiry into systemic racism in New Brunswick.

Wasiimah Joomun, Executive Director of the NBSA says, "for students to fully benefit from a quality education and become contributing members of the province, they need to see the support and investments from their government and universities, especially during the pandemic."

We seek the continued support of our stakeholders as we advocate for student needs and break the barriers to an accessible, affordable, inclusive and quality postsecondary education in New Brunswick.



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