



CASA | ACAE

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations

Presentation to Dalhousie Student Union (DSU)
February 23rd, 2024

Thanks for having us!



Wasiimah Joomun
Executive Director

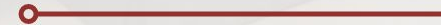
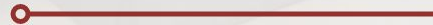


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1. Quick Overview: What is CASA?

CASA at a Glance



365 000+
Students

25 Members
12 Observers

7
Board Members

One
Vote Per School

Mission

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations

“Through its member-driven structure and grassroots approach, CASA’s mission is to advocate for students using policy development and research, awareness campaigns, government relations, and partnerships with other stakeholders.”

Vision



Accessible

Affordable

Innovative

High Quality

Values

Non-partisan

Member Driven

Research-
Based



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Easy-In
Easy-Out

Transparency

1 Vote Per
Institution

Members



Observers

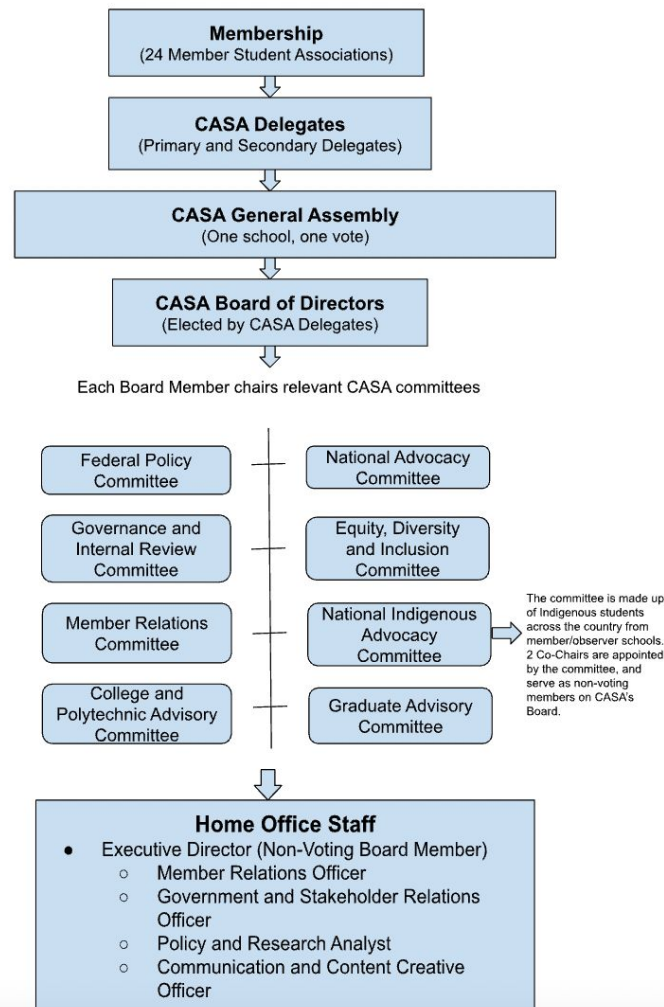




2. Organizational Structure

Our Structure

- **Our Members provide direction to our Board of Directors at our general assemblies**
- **Our Board is composed of:**
 - Board Chair
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
 - Director of Policy
 - Director of Advocacy
 - Director of Membership
 - Director of EDI
- **CASA's Board provides direction to the Executive Director, who manages Home Office staff**



Member-Driven

- **Membership is comprised of:**
 - Primary & Secondary delegates
- **Responsible for:**

Representing
your Students
at a National
level

Reviewing &
assessing
CASAs actions

Ensuring
compliance to
the governing
documents

Electing CASA's
board and
committee
representatives

Attending CASA
Conferences to
bring DSU's
perspective

Meeting with
federal MPs and
politicians



Member-Driven

- **Member Driven means:**

- CASA believes that Students have the power and autonomy to decide how much or how little they engage with the organization
- You get what you put in the organization
- Student Council bodies appoint CASA delegates and the CASA delegates are responsible in ensuring that they are amplifying their student voices at the national level

How to Get Involved?

- **How to amplify your student voices at CASA:**
 - CASA Delegates
 - 1) Be a Board of Director
 - 2) Be a voting member on a committee
 - 3) Take a leadership role in a committee
 - Non-CASA Delegates
 - 4) Be a non-voting member on a committee - open to SU/SA councillors
 - 5) Attend CASA's virtual consultation sessions and share your student perspectives with us - open to SU/SA councillors
 - 6) Ask CASA delegates questions and updates about what is going on at CASA
 - 7) Bring your concerns directly to CASA through your CASA delegates

The Board



The board is comprised of:

- Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Advocacy, Director of Membership, Director of EDI, Director of Policy

Responsible for:

Overseeing
CASA's
Day-to-Day

Creating
Annual Action
Plan

Ensuring
Member-
Driven Focus

Chair
Committees

Committees

**Federal Policy
Committee**

**National
Advocacy
Committee**

**Governance &
Internal Review
Committee**

**Equity,
Diversity &
Inclusion
Committee**

**Member
Relations
Committee**

**National
Indigenous
Advocacy
Committee**

**Colleges &
Polytechnics
Advisory
Committee**

**Graduates
Advisory
Committee**

**Elections 45
Committee**



3. CASA Finances

CASA Finances

- **Students at the CASA table are responsible for:**
 - Holding CASA Staff and Board accountable of the financial running of the organization
 - Attend consultation sessions for creation of budget
 - Vote on the annual budget at every AGM
- **Accountability**
 - The treasurer is an elected student who looks at CASA's spending every month and approve the reconciliation report monthly
 - The treasurer presents a financial update at every conferences for transparency and accountability
 - Board approves of any spending that is not operational spending and spending above \$5,000
 - CASA delegates have access to our budget & updated budget all year long on basecamp

CASA Finances

- **Transparency**

- All minutes from Meeting of the Members is uploaded to our website under [Governance](#) where the CASA budgets can be located.
- Any council members from member schools are able to access the CASA budget on our website or by requesting it to the Executive Director
- An updated budget has been circulated to you all and is provided to CASA delegates at every conferences and/or upon request. These updates are prepared monthly and reviewed by the Chair and Treasurer

Membership Fee Structure

Number of students	Cost per full-time equivalent (FTE) student
1 to 6,000	\$3.91
6,001 to 12,000	\$3.60
12,001 to 20,000	\$3.33
20,001 and above	\$2.97

***Membership fees shall be subject to a maximum of \$63,582 and a minimum of \$6,170 per fiscal year, subject to slight annual adjustments for inflation.**

CASA Finances

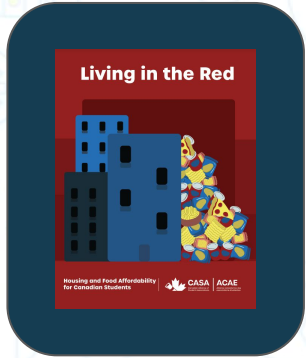
- **CASA Budget: How is the money spent effectively?**

- Staff Salary - Ensuring student remains at the decision-making tables in Ottawa.
- Conferences - CASA host 4 conferences every year at a lower cost for our members where members pay only for travel and CASA covers conference cost.
- Research - CASA prides itself in presenting accurate and valuable information on post-secondary education and that is done through updated surveys and research.
- Advocacy - There is no point in bringing students together if those student issues are not brought to the people who in the end make the decision .
- Government Relations - Engaging with consulting firms to ensure that CASA remains prevalent in the GR space.
- Campaign - Bringing the student voices as one to parliamentary hill as well as engaging with as many students across the country.
- Other costs associated with running an organization.

A group of diverse people are gathered around a round table in a meeting room. A man wearing a yellow turban and a blue shirt is speaking to the group. Other people are listening attentively. The room has large windows and a blue tablecloth. The text "4. In 2023, CASA ..." is overlaid on the image in white.

4. In 2023, CASA ...

Advocacy at CASA



Policy & Research



Meetings & Lobbying



Consultation



Partnerships



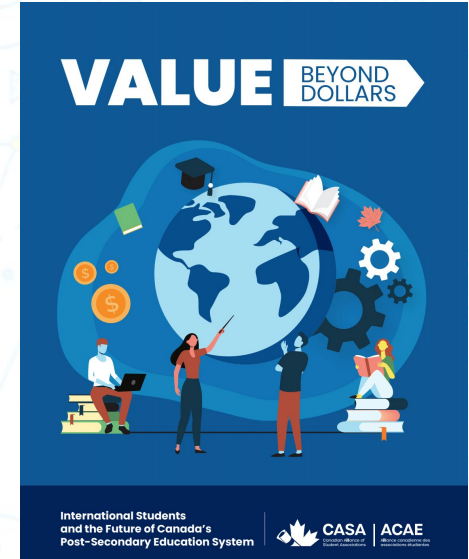
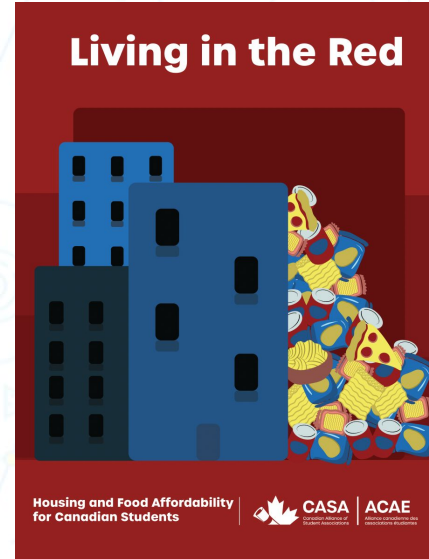
Media Engagement



Campaigns

**In 2023 alone,
CASA ...**

Released 5 Publications



Released 5 Publications



These publications looked at priorities set by students including:

- Housing
- Food Insecurity
- International Students
- Indigenous Students
- Student Mental Health

Newest Report - February 2024

- Moving Mountains: Student Resilience Against Cost of living Pressures



Had over 100 Lobby Meetings



Met with over 10 Minister Offices



Had over 100 Lobby Meetings

- Unpictured, in 2023,
 - We had 90 student leaders meeting with 85+ Parliamentarians over a week
 - CASA home office staff had 50+ advocacy meetings throughout the year by virtue of being in Ottawa and our Government Relations Strategy
 - CASA provided trainings to equip students for these lobby meetings
 - Government Relations 101
 - Advocacy 101
 - Lobby Meetings 101
 - 2 mock meetings sessions
 - How to advocate effectively in ottawa?
 - Media Training
-

Met with the Prime Minister's Office



- And ALMOST met with the Prime Minister himself
 - Cancelled 20 mins before meeting as he had to head to Niagara following this:

Video 10:46, 23-Nov-2023

[Translate](#)

U.S.-Canada border closes after vehicle explosion at Niagara Falls

Parliamentary Committee Appearance



- Parliamentary committees make policy recommendations to the government after studying the issue and listening to witnesses
- Being asked to appear as a witness before a committee is a great honour as well as an opportunity to consult with students directly!



Engaged with over 5 Partners



COLLEGES &
INSTITUTES
CANADA



Group of Canadian Research Universities
Regroupement des universités
de recherche du Canada



- Attended 4 of the conferences hosted by our partner at Quebec Student Union.
- Formed a formal partnership with Support Our Science (Graduate Students) and New Majority (Young voters mobilization).
- Released a joint Mental Health Statement with our stakeholder partners at Universities Canada and College & Institutes Canada.
- Joined 2 coalition on Research and Education Fair Dealing with partner organizations across the country

Good morning,

Just a quick note to say thank you again for collaborating on the statement for World Mental Health Day. Think the joint-statement approach was appreciated and well-received. I liked your statement on your website as well, and think it strengthened the message.

Shared the joint statement with contacts in the offices of Minister Saks and Freeland, along with the NDP and Con critics for mental health.

Engaged with over 5 partners

National Indigenous Advocacy Committee (NIAC)

- Hosted 2 advo days where NIAC co-chairs met with Parliamentarians advocating for Indigenous Students
- Hosted annual NIAC retreat
- Indigenous lens to CASA's advocacy document
- Upcoming: NIAC campaign in partnership with Assembly of First Nations



Launched a National Campaign

 	<p>Reinvestments in Canada Student Grants are needed to ensure that students across Canada can afford higher education.</p> <p>Without action, federal grant maximums for students will fall from \$6000 to \$3000.</p> <p>#HalfYourCSG</p> 		<p>Over 500,000 students in Canada access Canada Student Grants each year, but next school year, federal grant maximums will decrease by 50%</p> <p>What would #HalfYourCSG mean for your academic journey?</p> 	<p>Ashley hopes to work in the federal government one day, and she relies on Canada Student Grants (CSG) to realize these goals at the University of the Fraser Valley.</p> <p>Changes to CSG coming for the 2023/2024 school year mean that students like Ashley will have less federal grant funding.</p> <p>#HalfYourCSG</p> 	 
  <p>46 ❤️ 0 💬</p>	<p>Investments in Canada Student Grants are set to run out this year, meaning that federal grant maximums for students will fall from \$6000 to \$3000 for the 2023-2024 academic year.</p> <p>#HalfYourCSG</p> 	<p>Canada Student Grants (CSG) provide up-front, non-repayable, needs-based aid to low and middle income students across Canada.</p> <p>This July, the grant maximums are set to drop from \$6000 to \$3000.</p> <p>#HalfYourCSG</p> 		<p>Kordell is the first person in his family to graduate from university, and he relies on Canada Student Grants (CSG) to make his BA in Political Science at the University of New Brunswick a reality.</p> <p>Changes to CSG coming for the 2023/2024 school year mean that students like Kordell will have less federal grant funding.</p> <p>#HalfYourCSG</p> 	 

Launched a National Campaign

#HalfYourCSG

- Tuition cost is not the only cost associated with attending post-secondary
- Asking the government to make the doubling of Canada Student Grants permanent

**This is half
of Ashley
McDougal's
story**



Appeared in Media over 50 times

- CASA is often looked at by media as a subject matter expert.
- Just in 2023 alone, CASA did over 50 interviews highlighting student issues, especially international student issues.
- CASA also offer our members media training as well as media prep before an interview with key messages and practice.

 New Canadian Media

[International students anxious as 20-hour-per-week work cap could be re-imposed](#)

 **CTVNews**

[With Canada set to reimpose cap on working hours, international students worry about paying for tuition, living expenses](#)

[Politics Briefing: Explosion of vehicle at Rainbow Bridge border crossing puts Canadian ...](#)

The Globe and Mail

... **Canadian Alliance of Student Associations** and Quebec Student Union and participate in a sitting of the committee on transport, infrastructure and ...

 **The Hill Times**

[Investing in student mental health: a critical imperative for Canada's future](#)

[Canada to ease out eligibility of online learning for future post-graduation work permit](#)

The Times of India

... **Canadian Alliance of Student Associations** (CASA). About the Author. Lubna Kably. Lubna Kably is a senior editor, who focuses on various policies and ...

[Post-secondary students' continued struggle with mental health | News – The Link](#)

The Link – Concordia's

According to a 2022 report commissioned by the **Canadian Alliance of Student Associations** (CASA) in collaboration with the Mental Health Commission ...

[Foreign students worry as weekly work limits loom | Asian Pacific Post | Chinese newspaper](#)

Asian Pacific Post

... students in Canada were not allowed to work off ... **The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations** (CASA), an advocacy group representing Canada's ...



5. Record of Success

International Student Work Permit

News from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) regarding Post Graduation Work Permits (PGWP)

Starting **April 6, 2023**, new facilitative measures will allow some PGWP holders **permit extensions.**

- In 2023, we saw an extension and facilitative measures in regards to the Post-Graduate Work Permit for international students

Canada Student Grants

From this:

Top-Left Post:
Reinvestments in Canada Student Grants are needed to ensure that students across Canada can afford higher education.
Without action, federal grant maximums for students will fall from \$6000 to \$3000.
#HalfYourCSG

Top-Right Post:
Over 500,000 students in Canada access Canada Student Grants each year, but next school year, federal grant maximums will decrease by 50%.
What would #HalfYourCSG mean for your academic journey?
Ashley hopes to work in the federal government one day, and she relies on Canada Student Grants (CSG) to realize these goals at the University of the Fraser Valley.
Changes to CSG coming for the 2023/2024 school year mean that students like Ashley will have less federal grant funding.
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Bottom-Left Post:
Investments in Canada Student Grants are set to run out this year, meaning that federal grant maximums for students will fall from \$6000 to \$3000 for the 2023-2024 academic year.
#HalfYourCSG

Bottom-Right Post:
Canada Student Grants (CSG) provide up-front, non-repayable, needs-based aid to low and middle income students across Canada.
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Kordell is the first person in his family to graduate from university, and he relies on Canada Student Grants (CSG) to make his BA in Political Science at the University of New Brunswick a reality.
Changes to CSG coming for the 2023/2024 school year mean that students like Kordell will have less federal grant funding.
#HalfYourCSG

To this:

Budget 2023: Students Appreciate the Government's Path Forward

"Students appreciate the temporary investment in Canada Student Grants (CSG), and look forward to working with the government to create a long-term, sustainable approach to the Canadian Student Financial Assistance program in the upcoming year"

Christian Fotang, Chair of CASA

**Say goodbye
to interest on
Canada
Student Loans
and Canada
Apprentice
Loans as of
April 1st, 2023!**



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Eliminating Interest on Student Loans

International Students Fraudulency

CASA Responds: IRCC Announces changes to International Student Program

Recently, international students have faced hardships and even deportations as victims of fraudulent actors.

In response, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada has introduced a number of changes aimed at protecting students.

CASA welcomes the interest in cracking down on fraud, as well as improving the resources and enhanced verification processing of designated learning institutions.

Watch the full announcement from Minister Marc Miller and read the press release from IRCC at the link in our bio!

International Student Working Hours

From this:

 New Canadian Media

International students anxious as 20-hour-per-week work cap could be re-imposed



To this:

 New Canadian Media

Canada's international students relieved after federal government allows longer work hours

Announcement from Immigration, Citizenship and Refugees Canada (IRCC) regarding off-campus work hours for international students

IRCC has extended the waiver on the 20-hour limit for off-campus work while class is in session until April 30, 2024. This extension will allow international students to work more than 20 hours off-campus through the remainder of the school year and until August 31, 2024.

Graduate Student Funding

From this:




casaaacae “Students want to stay in Canada, to study in Canada, to build their careers and use these awards as points of entry into Canada’s world-class research ecosystems. But without investments, they simply cannot afford to do so.”

CASA presents to the SRSR Committee today to advocate for:

- Increased Value of Tri-Agency awards
- Increased Amount of Tri-Agency awards
- Seats for students on research governing councils

To this:

 The Globe and Mail

Parliamentary committee calls for boost to scholarship and grant funding

A parliamentary committee is calling on the federal government to boost scholarship and grant funding for graduate students and postdoctoral...



of the Canadian Alliance
of Student Associations, or CASA.

Recognition in the House of Commons

Housing / Oral Questions

December 5th, 2023 / 3 p.m.



Karen Vecchio Conservative Elgin
— Middlesex — London, ON

Mr. Speaker, in little under a decade, Canada's housing costs have basically doubled. Earlier today, members of the Canadian Alliance of

Student Associations shared with me a story of seven individuals living in one apartment. We know there are many similar stories about this across the country.



Sean Fraser Liberal Minister of
Housing

Mr. Speaker, I thank the members of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations for its advocacy. I used to be a member when I was in the student government at StFX University.

CASA's Successes last 2 years

Elimination on the interest on Federal student loans

\$9 billion COVID aid package to postsecondary students & recent graduates

Launch of The National Standard for Mental Health and Well Being for post secondary students

Doubling of Canada Student Grants for 2021-22 & 2022-23 academic years

Read about our [wins](#) & [publications](#) on our website (casa-acae.ca)

A modern, multi-story building with a glass facade and a green wall, set against a dark sky. The building features a prominent glass section on the right side and a green wall on the left. The sky is dark with some light clouds. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting dusk or dawn.

**6. What does this all mean
for DSU?**

Why CASA?

**Representing DSU
Students at a
national level in
Ottawa**

**Attendance at
CASA conferences
- can take on
leadership roles
on priorities**

**Participation in
CASA committees
and working
groups**

**Advanced
stakeholder relations
- your executives can
thus focus on more
internal issues and
CASA builds on the
external relationships**

**Access to
professional
training, advocacy
resources, and
student-union
networks**

**Member-Driven
and be part of
change now &
future**



Current Observer at CASA

- DSU started observership **on August 8th, 2022**
- **In the last 2 years,**
 - DSU executives attended 2 CASA Advocacy Week in Ottawa and met with 10+ politicians
 - Accessed professional development trainings offered at CASA conferences
 - Attended 10+ consultations hosted by CASA to discuss student issues
 - Observer CASA committee works
- **No membership fees** - only \$100 per delegate per conference



And after 2 years observership?



Expiration of 2
year Observer
Status
(August 8 2024)

Become a CASA
Member

Decide CASA isn't
for you



Stay Updated With **CASA**



: www.casa-acae.ca



: [@casaacae](https://www.instagram.com/casaacae)



: [@CASAACAE](https://twitter.com/CASAACAE)



: **Canadian Alliance of
Student Associations**

Questions, comments, queries?

FEEL FREE TO EMAIL US

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