

A portrait of Kareen Lambert, a woman with long, wavy red hair and blue-rimmed glasses, wearing a grey cardigan over a black top. She is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera.

KAREEN LAMBERT: VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL CANDIDATE

Thank you so much for taking the time to 'meet' me. I'm Kareen Lambert, and I am running for the position of Vice President External (VPX). This is my first year attending Red Deer College in the Social Work Diploma program. I was drawn to social work, and to Red Deer College, through my extensive work and volunteering in diversity, inclusion, and advocacy. I have been involved with a wide variety of community organizations and coalitions in Red Deer, collaborating with and advocating to all levels of government in various capacities. Some of the highlights of my community involvement have been with the Red Feather Women, the Central Alberta Poverty Reduction Alliance, the Red Deer Welcoming & Inclusive Community Network, the Trans & Nonbinary Aid Society, the Central Alberta Pride Society, the Red Deer Local Immigration Partnership, and the Lifelong Learning Council of Red Deer. My personal life, my career life, and my student life are all proudly centred around ensuring people are as supported as possible. Taking on the role of VPX would be no different; support, care, and connectedness are always at the core of what I do.

The VPX role is currently being adjusted by Students' Association Council to encompass some of the duties of the former Vice President Community and Wellness role. With a strong background in policy work, community facilitation, and administration, I believe I am uniquely suited to help refine and clearly define this role for future VPX's. Most notably, the VPX role is taking on increasing duties in overseeing student mental health initiatives. I am a great fit, as a social work student, to bring a wealth of knowledge and supports to the table for this change. As we have journeyed through the numerous strains of the COVID pandemic, the importance of mental health has never been clearer. I am excited to bring tangible and practical mental health awareness initiatives to our campus.

As a mature student with children who are in their late teens and early twenties, I truly understand the sacrifice students face to afford their education. I will work to advocate for students' access to a supported, affordable, quality education for the money they pay and the work they put in. Students deserve a strong, articulate, dedicated voice to help ensure they get the best value possible from their education. I promise to be that voice on your behalf. As we recover from the COVID pandemic and cope with government budget decisions that are having negative impacts on students and their ability to access education, I want to help push for effective paths forward. I firmly support the campaign to abolish student loan interest, I will continue the push for degree granting status at RDC, and I am eager to encourage government to fund secondary education more appropriately. A vote for me is a vote for an experienced, well-informed, and engaged advocate who will work hard for you.

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