

Students' Association of
Red Deer Polytechnic

Annual Report

2021/2022

Year Ending April 30, 2022



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President's Message

Hey! I'm glad you made it through this whirlwind of a year. Between switches from online, hy-flex, and in-person learning, I'm sure we're all feeling some relief to reach the end of this (for now and hopefully for good!). The upcoming year looks bright and optimistic with returns to on-campus learning and events – no more staring at screens for 8+ hours a day!

Despite Covid, this year has been quite successful! On my second day in office, we officially unveiled our new identity as Red Deer Polytechnic. We saw all five degrees come through this year, and saw more go down the chute for approval. We experienced the implementation of our very first Red Deer Polytechnic degree in the BA Psych, with most of the others coming up in Fall 2022. I'm so glad students now have the choice to stay here and learn right from their Central Alberta homes! Not to ignore our International cohort – you guys hold a special place in my heart! We've seen International enrollment grow tremendously, for which I am grateful. Some of the most important lessons I've learned as a student came from my International peers and the unique perspectives and different ways of knowing they bring.

Over the Fall of 2021, we hosted the federal forum here on campus. While it ended early, it was an honour to be a part of that experience and I'm hoping the SA will get another shot in future elections! I joined the Alberta Students' Executive Council as part of their Board of Directors, where I ended up on the Lobby Team and got to talk to our Minister of Advanced Education about matters such as future proofing tuition rates, meaningful consultation around tuition and mandatory non-instructional fees, and supports for International students. Our biggest win with the provincial lobby group was the campus sexual violence policy reform – that is, establishing guidelines for the policies across Alberta to be survivor-centric and trauma-informed. This win has been years in the making! Additionally, I joined the Federal Student Advocacy Alliance this year as one of two Alberta representatives to talk to the federal government about student issues such as the Canada Summer Jobs Program, grant funding for students, and permanent residency pathways for International students.

In terms of institutional advocacy, the SA has been beating the drum to the tune of Open Educational Resources, or OERs. OERs are free educational resources (such as textbooks, videos, and audio files) that could eventually replace textbooks. We developed a proposal for a print-on-demand model and presented it to senior leadership on the basis that we would be the first institution in Alberta to offer print-on-demand. This path is still to be explored, and the SA has made a commitment to the Alberta Students' Executive Council to lead this as a provincial campaign. The SA was also successful in implementing permanent Treaty 6, 7, Metis, and progressive pride flags on campus, which can now be seen above the front entrance. We are also steadily working on developing an Indigenous Student Space on campus. We've also pitched \$20,000 to build a parent room and are looking into redoing the Serenity Room with proper prayer mats and better chairs.

The story of the SA and its wins over the years continues. I have been blessed to a part of its history, and to be elected for one final term. Thank you to the students who have entrusted me with this very important and impactful job. I will continue to do my best to make sure that the student voice is in every room!

All the best,



Savannah Snow

The Students' Association of Red Deer Polytechnic recognizes that our campus is situated on Treaty 7 land, the traditional territory of the Blackfoot, Tsuu T'ina and Stoney Nakoda peoples, and that the central Alberta region we serve falls under Treaty 6, traditional Métis, Cree and Saulteaux territory. We honour the First Peoples who have lived here since time immemorial, and we give thanks for the land where RDC sits. This is where we will strive to honour and transform our relationships with one another.

Mission

The Students' Association will enrich and enhance the quality of student life at Red Deer Polytechnic by providing affordable and quality service, effective political representation, and exciting opportunities for its members.

Vision

All students at Red Deer Polytechnic will have a positive educational experience and contact with the student body resulting in personal growth and memorable experience.

Values

- Consideration
- Fun
- Responsibility
- Flexibility
- Accessibility
- Initiative
- Efficiency
- Participation
- Co-operation, Collaboration, and Teamwork

Your Association at a Glance

Lockers rented

369

Semester Bus Passes sold

421

Facebook followers

1786

Instagram followers

1665

Amount given for CAT Fund sponsored events

\$4,199.18



Your Association Membership Fees

GOVERNANCE

The SA is built upon representation and advocacy, as we lobby the government and the institution to ensure students are given an affordable education. The governance fund ensures accountability through elections and protecting student interests. We also assist students with academic appeals and other grievances.

BUILDING FUND

The Students' Association owns and operates its own building for student use. A portion of SA fees are allocated for future expansion, renovations, and general maintenance – including insurance, utilities, janitorial, and repairs.

OPERATIONS & FINANCE

The Operations & Finance budget covers the costs of our annual external audit, legal fees, general expenses (such as telephone, internet, software, and our operational and accounting staff).

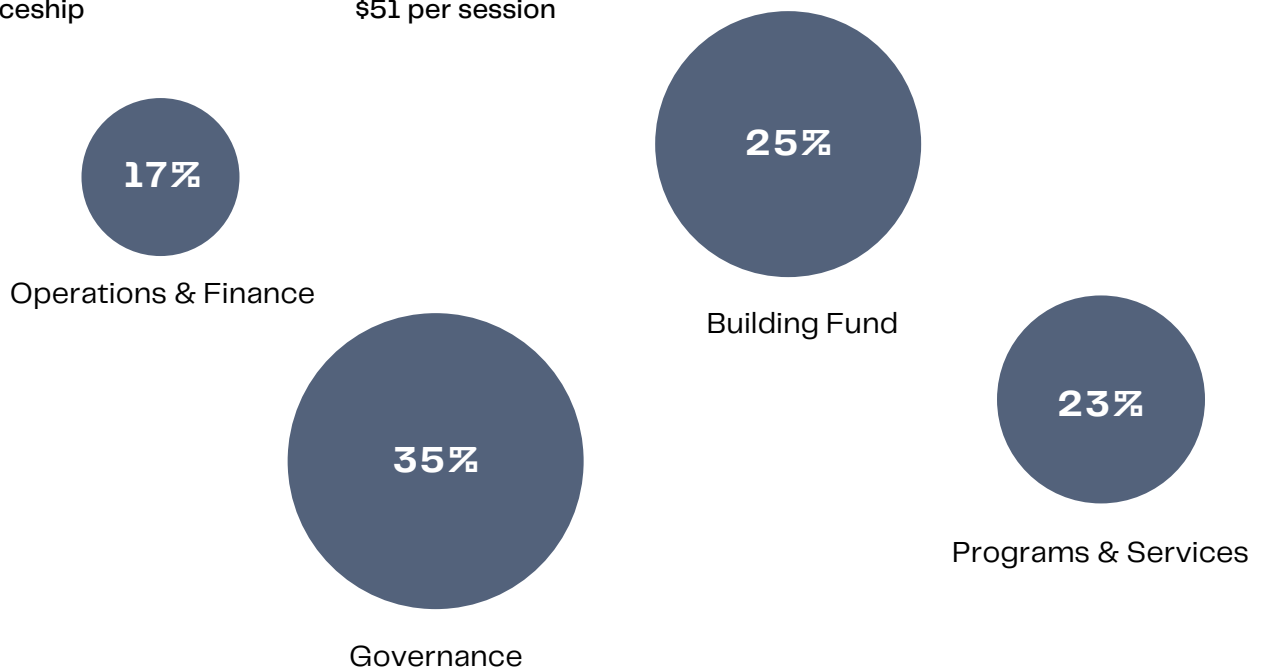
PROGRAMS & SERVICES

The SA provides the following services:

- Awards & Scholarships
- Health & Dental Plan
- Lockers
- Communications/Publications
- Transit Passes
- Food Bank
- Cultural Activities Trust Fund
- Student Groups
- Peer Tutoring
- Mental Health Initiatives
- Awareness Campaigns
- Free Legal Help

Full-time (9 credits or more)
Part-time (8 credits or less)
Apprenticeship

\$98 per term
\$51 per term
\$51 per session



*Based on the 2021/2022 Annual Budget



Student Council

Council consists of 12 elected students and the members of Executive Council. Council is the highest governing body of the Students' Association. All major organizational decisions are made by Council, including Bylaw and Policy development, approval of the annual budget, and approval of the audited financial statements. Councillors are elected to govern the affairs of the Association on behalf of the Membership.

The students on Council have many roles and duties. Some of these include ensuring that the opinions and concerns of their fellow students are represented in the decision making of the Council, promoting the interests of the Membership, and putting the interests of the Membership above their own.

Executive Council

Savannah Snow

President

Brenan Fuiten

Vice President External

Logan Beauchamp

Vice President External
May - August

Shannon Humphrey

Vice President Academic
May - January





22/23 Election Results

The 2022/2023 General Election was held between Wednesday, March 16 to Thursday, March 24. We had 1 candidate each for the positions of President, Vice President Academic, and Vice President External and 7 candidates for Student Council. Voting was available online through the student's Loop accounts and was open from 9am on Tuesday, March 22 and 4pm on Thursday, March 24. With a voter turnout of 17%, up 7.1% from the 2021/2022 General Election. In addition to our Executive and Council positions, we asked students to rank advocacy priorities for the upcoming year.

Elected

Savannah Snow, President
Alex Fuiten, Vice President Academic
Laura Beaveridge, Vice President External
Felicity Arndt, Councillor
Erin Bast, Councillor
Kindra Woodford-Duthie, Councillor
Lovejeet Kaur, Councillor
Larissa Soehn, Councillor
Kiara Welch, Councillor
Tessi Yomi-Dada, Councillor

What do you think the Students' Association advocacy priorities for the 2022-2023 year should be?

**in order from the highest to lowest points

Lower Service Fees
Expanding academic programming (degrees, course offerings, etc)
More access to Academic Advising
Increase in on-campus mental health supports
Creation of a Career Centre on campus
Lower International student fees
OER (Open Educational Resources)
Creation of a prayer room on campus

Advocacy

May 4, 2021

Red Deer College announces that they will become a Polytechnic Institution. The Students' Association has been a strong advocate for the growing needs of Central Alberta students. The SA worked with the Institution, government, and students to ensure that students voices were heard at the table during the transition from College to Polytechnic.

June 23, 2021

Red Deer College announces the new name of Red Deer Polytechnic. The Students' Association was very active in the development and rebranding of the Institution.

September 21, 2021

The students gained recognition of their 2016 \$500,000 donation to the Gary W. Harris Canada Winter Games Centre. The SA advocated to ensure that the student's donation was proudly recognized and displayed on the Gary W. Harris bridge.

December 10, 2021

The Students' Association hosted the first Student Bursary Tele-a-thon to raise funds for the Student Emergency Bursary Fund. Students have many financial burdens and the SA continues to advocate for affordability. We proudly collected \$15,000 and an anonymous donor matched all donations which doubled the contributions to \$30,000.

February 18, 2022

Red Deer Polytechnic announced the Bachelor of Education and Business Administration Degrees which has been something the students of RDP have been advocating for over 30 years. The Students' Association is committed to continuing to advocate and work with the institution in the development and implementation of more degrees.

February 15, 2022

The Provincial Government announced a \$2.5 million dollar grant to be provided to post-secondary institutions to support campus sexual violence training and awareness programs. The SA through the Alberta Students Executive Council (ASEC) have been advocating for increased supports to address on campus sexual violence.

Capital Projects

HVAC

Replaced four rooftop units that were over 20 years old to improve air quality in the Students' Association office and Far Side Bar & Grill.

The Loft Signage

Completed the design and assembly of all signage in The Loft, including the signs at the front entrance and for the Council Chambers.

Treaty Map and Progressive Pride Flags

We proudly permanently display the Treaty Map of Alberta and a Progressive Pride Flag in the windows as you enter the Students' Association office. Both can be seen from inside the Executive Lounge, as well.

Security Cameras & Key Fobs

All security cameras and their systems were updated in the Far Side Bar & Grill, The Loft, The Lift, and the SA office. In addition, all the doors inside the SA office, The Loft, and exterior doors were updated to be keyless.

21/22 Financial Summary



Pivotal LLP
201, 33 McKenzie Crescent
Red Deer County, Alberta
T4S 2H4

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Students' Association Council of: Students' Association of Red Deer Polytechnic

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at April 30, 2022 and the summary statement of operations for the year then ended are derived from the audited financial statements of Students' Association of Red Deer Polytechnic for the year ended April 30, 2022.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditors' report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditors' report thereon.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated October 3, 2022.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

Red Deer County, Alberta
October 3, 2022

Chartered Professional Accountants

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION APRIL 30, 2022

ASSETS	2022	2021
CURRENT ASSETS.....	\$ 1,539,158	\$ 1,404,971
OTHER ASSETS.....	1,253,911	1,142,559
CAPITAL ASSETS (NET OF ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION).....	1,141,790	1,205,430
	<u>\$ 3,934,859</u>	<u>\$ 3,752,960</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES.....	\$ 379,761	\$ 423,834
NET ASSETS		
Net investment in capital assets.....	1,141,790	1,205,430
Unrestricted net assets.....	1,210,038	1,027,971
Internally restricted reserves.....	1,203,270	1,095,725
	<u>\$ 3,934,859</u>	<u>\$ 3,752,960</u>

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2022

	2022	2021
REVENUE - net.....	\$ 977,034	\$ 897,172
EXPENSES.....	763,369	745,202
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES BEFORE THE FOLLOWING	<u>213,665</u>	<u>151,970</u>
Amortization of capital assets.....	(91,216)	(87,584)
Gain on disposal of capital assets.....	-	599
Subsidies and grants.....	103,523	345,273
	<u>12,307</u>	<u>258,288</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES.....	<u>\$ 225,972</u>	<u>\$ 410,258</u>

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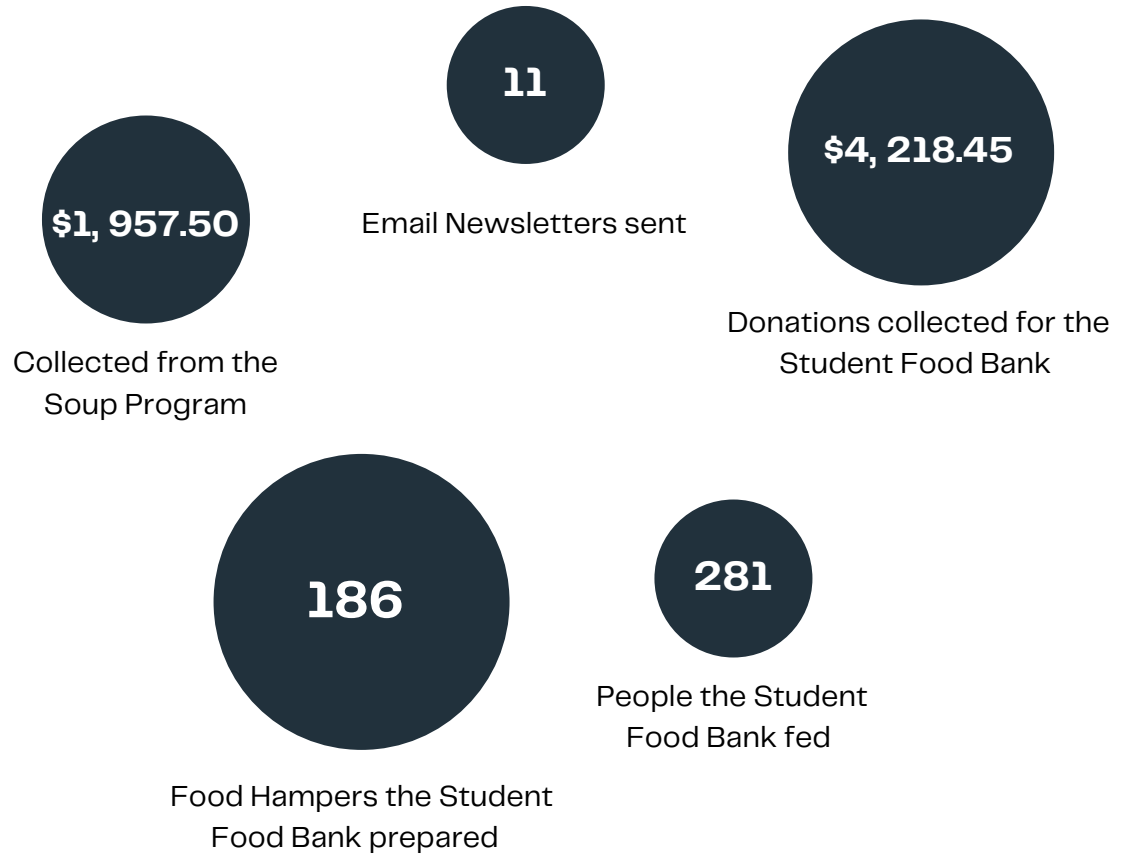
Membership Engagement

In 2021/2022 we experienced many challenges related to COVID-19 regulations and how they impacted in-person events and learning on campus. Regulations changed often and we adapted as best we could.

We were thankful to kick off the year with an in-person welcome event, "Flying Through Your Time at Red Deer Polytechnic." We hosted the Free Breakfast Program, Communita, and Free Legal Help regularly. In November, we began to offer one-on-one resume help with Career Catalysts once a month. We saw great success and plan to continue this partnership. Other notable events include puppy rooms, pumpkin carving, holiday card crafting, Risque Bingo, free yoga, and guided meditation.



Services



Lockers

In 2021/2022, the Students' Association rented 369 lockers to students. This number is slightly higher than 2020/2021.

Transit

421 Semester Bus Passes were sold to students, which is a significant increase from the previous year. This increase is attributed to more in-person learning.

Student Groups

10 student groups were active; however, frequent changes to campus restrictions were a barrier to all groups.



Services Cont.

CAT Fund

The Cultural Activities Trust Fund (CAT Fund) helps fund cultural events held at Red Deer Polytechnic. Both students and faculty sit on the committee to review and approve subsidy applications. This year, CAT Fund assisted the Agora Conference, Student Science Conference, and the Indigenous Perspective Conference and collectively provided them with \$4,199.18.

SIP

SIP (Student Initiatives Program) help funds events showcase leadership, help our members grow personally and professionally, and foster new items while promoting change. In 2021/2022 we gave a total of \$1,500 to 5 initiatives.

We assisted the Social Work Student Society with both their Remembering the Children postcards and Socially Conscious Holiday cards, the Science Society host the Student Science Conference, and 2 students attend the Canadian Psychological Association Annual Conference.

Food Bank

Our student-run food bank is one of our busiest services on campus and this year, we saw the highest usage since 2016/2017. While it is difficult to see students struggling with food insecurity, we are thankful that we are able to help. In 2021/2022, our team fed 281 students and their families with 186 food hampers.

We rely on the kindness of donors from the institution as well as the greater Red Deer area. We have numerous food bank cans around campus, donation options available on our website, and accept donations over the phone. We are grateful to have received a total of \$4, 218.45 in food bank donations.

The Soup Program began in 2019/2020. Each purchase of soup at the Far Side Grill is sold on a "pay-what-you-can" basis, and each dollar spent is put towards our Student Food Bank. This year, the Soup Program donated \$1, 957.50 to the Student Food Bank.

We are grateful to those who donated and made a difference to our students.



Businesses

Due to COVID-19, our businesses operated in a limited capacity, with limited staff for a portion of the year.

Far Side Grill Specials

- Beef Taco Bowl
- Butter Chicken
- Chicken Club Sandwich
- Vegetable Stir-fry
- Mushroom Swiss Burger
- Quesadilla
- Sweet Chili Crispy Chicken Burger
- Crispy Buffalo Chicken Wrap

Quick Facts

3,536

Burgers Sold

7,426

Orders of Fries

3,021

Cups of Coffee

Crispy Buffalo
Chicken Wrap

Most Popular Food Item



Marketing & Social Media

In the Fall, we excitedly introduced monthly email newsletters to our students. Each newsletter includes upcoming events, information about our businesses and services, a survey and giveaway, and other relevant details for that month.

Throughout the year we utilized bulletin boards, email newsletters, social media, and word of mouth to market our services and initiatives. We found we received the best engagement on Instagram.

Email Newsletter Stats



3659

Average Number of Students Emailed

11.04%

Average Link Click Rate

11.10%

Average Email Open Rate

9

Email Blasts Sent



Scholarships & Awards

The Students' Association is dedicated to supporting and encouraging student endeavors and pursuits. We are currently sponsoring more than 50 awards and scholarships totalling over \$40,000 each year!

STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Erin Bast

INVOLVEMENT IN COLLEGE GOVERNANCE SCHOLARSHIP

Erin Bast

Kindra Woodford-Duthie

DR. GUILLERMO BARRON PHILOSOPHY SCHOLARSHIP

Ryan Henri

TERRY WOOD SCHOLARSHIP

Savannah Snow

COLLEGE MEMBER CONTRIBUTION TO STUDENT AFFAIRS

Jasmyn Solberg

Elysse Peralta

STUDENT GROUP AWARD

G.A.M.E Society

Legal Assistant Student Society

ROY NORTH SCHOLARSHIP

Annika Sudlow

OUTSTANDING DEDICATION

Irina Sheridan

Kindra Woodford-Duthie

Annika Sudlow

Khushpreet Grewal

MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE AWARD

Kindra Woodford-Duthie

Felicity Arndt

Irina Sheridan

Erin Bast

Brenan Fuiten

STUDENT VOLUNTEER AWARD

Kiara Welch

Brianne Campbell

Jaime Goudreau-Riopel

Marian Canas

Our People

Councillors

Jasmine Kaur
Kindra Woodford-Duthie
Asmi Multani
Khushpreet Grewal
Ysabelle Timbol
Laura Beaveridge
Kiara Welch

Marian Canas
Shairahvel Conde
Felicity Arndt
Erin Bast
Annika Sudlow

Board of Governors

William Langille
Savannah Snow

Academic Council

Savannah Snow
Alex Fuiten
Brittany Lausen
Annika Sudlow
Kareen Lambert
Erin Bast
Kindra Woodford-Duthie
Kushpreet Kaur Grewal

Executive Council

Savannah Snow, President
Brenan Fuiten, VP External
Logan Beauchamp, VP External
May - June
Shannon Humphrey, VP Academic
May - January

Council Chairperson

Anne Marie Watson

Election Officials

Martin Cruz, Elections Officer
William Langille, DRO

Our People

Students' Association Office

Liz Sweiger, Executive Director
Marie Evangelista, Operations Director
Jessica Walker, Member Engagement Manager
Brittany Lausen, Governance and Student Support Coordinator
Kassidy Nyrose, Member Engagement Assistant
Karen Krasowski, Operations Assistant and Health & Dental Plan Coordinator
Veronica Evangelista, Special Projects Assistant

Lift

Jill Brown, Lift Supervisor

Far Side Bar & Grill

Rodrigo Morataya, Far Side Grill Supervisor
Patti Drover
Marian Canas

Street Team

Haley Whitney
Felicity Arndt