

2023

# MID-YEAR REPORT

Erin Bast  
President





## **EXECUTIVE REPORT**

### **President's Office**

November 2023

#### **Erin Bast**

Hello, my name is Erin Bast, and I am your Student's Association President for the 2023-2024 Academic year. I graduated this past spring from the Legal Assistant Program, and I am currently enrolled in Open Studies, taking one class per semester. I think taking one class has been a smart choice since I want to dedicate my time to being your President. On May 1, 2023, I assumed the office of President – alone. Typically three Executives take office on May 1, but this year we didn't have our Vice Presidents elected until October. Needless to say, the last six months have been very busy for me, and often times stressful and lonely.

Since May I have been getting to know the campus community, sat on a number of campus committees, planned and attended a number of SARDP events, and joined forces with my provincial counterparts to bring student issues to the Government.

#### **Skilled Trades Completion Breakfasts**

For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, we are once again hosting the Skilled Trades Completion Breakfasts. With the School of Trades & Technology and the Alumni Association, the Students' Association celebrates our Skilled Trades Students and their academic accomplishments. We are delighted to bring this event back to campus.

#### **Meeting a lot of new RDP employees**

Not only have I been a member on several hiring committees in this past year, but I have also been fortunate to meet some new Red Deer Polytechnic administrators including the Vice President Academic, International Director, Safety Manager, Indigenous Student Success Coordinator, Mental Health Education Coordinator and the Consent Education Coordinator. It has been a privilege to be welcoming new staff onto campus and letting them know all the great things the Students' Association does for our Members.

#### **Artwork Purchase**

Together with CUPE (Canadian Union of Public Employees) and the Red Deer Polytechnic Alumni Association, the Students' Association purchased a large painting that is currently on display at the main entrance. The Artist is George Littlechild, a Red Deer College graduate. The piece is a self-portrait called "4 Star Art Warrior." We are so proud to have some of George's work on display at RDP and we hope to see more Indigenous art on our campus.

#### **Pride Flag Raising**

My first speaking opportunity of my term in office - it was such an honour to speak on behalf of our students who belong to the Pride Community. I hope that I made them proud and included

when I spoke about my own journey and growth as an individual. It was a really rewarding event to take part in.

### **Welcome Back BBQ**

This event is back in full swing, it was held last year for the first time since the pandemic, however very few students attended. This year, with some strategic planning, the Students' Association and the RDP President's Office partnered on a very successful event that was well attended by students and RDP Staff. It was an absolute blast! Thank you everyone who volunteered and attended!

### **ASEC (Alberta Student Executive Council)**

ASEC is our provincial lobby group – SARDP and 15 other Students' Associations across the province are members. This is the organization that helps us bring a collective voice to the Government of Alberta, and in particular, the Ministry of Advanced Education. Last year's SARDP Council initiated vote one of two to end our relationship with ASEC. Since taking office in May, I have made it a priority to attend all ASEC meetings and events with fellow Council Members. I want the Students' Association to make an informed decision when we hold our final vote on December 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be hosting a special meeting of Council on November 27<sup>th</sup>; the new ASEC Executive Director (who also started on May 1) has been invited to make a presentation to our Council and answer any questions we may have about the organization's goals and future plans.

Our provincial advocacy efforts with ASEC include Mental Health, International Student supports, Affordability and Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees. Closer to home, the ASEC Executive Director has been supporting SARDP with our concerns about private/public partnerships and reaching out to the Advanced Education Ministry on our behalf.

If you have any questions about our provincial advocacy goals, please reach out to me.

### **Meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education**

Jalynn Chilibeck (Vice President External) and I had the honour of meeting with Rajan Sawhney and her team, where we were able to voice our concerns with the private/public partnership between RDP and Robertson College and supports for International Students.

### **Emergency Food Bank**

Our SA Emergency Food Bank continues to be in high demand, even more so than the last year. The Institution has been wonderful at recognizing the need and is contributing as much as possible; it really is great that the RDP community is so invested in ensuring that our students are fed.

The President of RDP (Stuart Cullum) partnered with Cilantro and Chive as a guest chef, where a portion of the proceeds were donated to his charity of his choice: the SA Emergency Food Bank.



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The RDP staff, through the United Way have started up its campaign to raise funds for our food bank as well.

There will also be a challenge between departments in RDP to see who can raise the most nonperishable food bank donations for our food bank. Last year they were able to raise 1 tonne of food!

#### **BARC (Bylaw Amendment Review Committee)**

We are off to a bit of a late start with our Council committees this year, primarily because our two Vice Presidents came into office in October. As President, I chair BARC. We will be working on amending a few policies and updating some bylaws this year. All students are welcome to join our Council committees – no experience necessary!!

#### **Mission, Vision and Values Revision**

I am taking the lead on the review and revision of the Students' Association's Mission, Vision and Values. We will be sending out an initial email to you this week to seek your feedback. There will be prizes and a lot of incentives available for everyone if they chose to participate. This project will be my focus until the end of April; our goal is to have Council approval by April and unveil our revised foundational documents on May 1, 2024.