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University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) Advocates for Enhanced Support Amid Economic Challenges

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The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) acknowledges the provincial government's continued investment in post-secondary education, as outlined in the 2025-26 budget. The Ministry of Advanced Education is set to receive \$788 million, with \$718.2 million allocated for operating and capital funding to universities, technical schools, Indigenous institutions, and regional colleges.

USSU President Krupal Chavda expressed appreciation for these commitments, stating, "We recognize and thank the provincial government for its ongoing dedication to post-secondary education. The investments in operating and capital funding are essential for maintaining and enhancing the quality of education in our province."

The budget includes \$47 million in direct financial support for students through the Student Aid Fund, scholarships, and bursaries. Additionally, the Graduate Retention Program has been increased by 20%, now offering up to \$24,000 in tax credits to eligible post-secondary graduates who live and work in Saskatchewan.

President Chavda acknowledged these measures: "The financial support and enhancements to the Graduate Retention Program are positive steps toward reducing the financial burden on students and encouraging graduates to contribute to our province's growth. However, we would like to see the government commit to eliminating the interest on student loans, similar to other provinces and the federal government."

The Government of Saskatchewan extended the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the university for an additional year. The inflationary increase of 2.2 percent from last year will continue in 2025-26, along with a one-time increase of 1 percent this year. President Chavda emphasized the need for sustainable funding models that keep pace with inflation and address the evolving needs of students. "It's crucial to have a long-term strategy to ensure consistent support for our institutions and students, especially in light of current economic challenges."

The USSU remains committed to advocating for policies and initiatives that support the well-being and success of all students at the University of Saskatchewan.