



STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF REGINA

The Regina Public Interest Research Group (RPIRG) is writing to express our deep concern regarding the 2025-26 provincial funding allocation for the University of Regina (U of R). While we acknowledge the 2.2% increase in operating funding, this does not adequately address the financial realities of the institution, nor does it properly account for inflationary pressures. The rising costs of maintaining a high-quality post-secondary education system cannot be met with incremental funding increases that fail to reflect the true needs of students, faculty, and staff.

Given the recent decline in international student visa approvals and the reduced projected domestic enrolment, the need for strong and stable government support is greater than ever. However, the 1% increase in one-time funding through the extension of the *Post-Secondary Multi-Year Operating Funding Memorandum of Understanding* is wholly insufficient. This approach does not provide the long-term financial stability needed to sustain the university's academic mission and student services.

The lack of adequate provincial funding has forced university executives to shift their focus toward aggressive student recruitment efforts in other provinces and countries around the world. While recruitment is an important aspect of maintaining a vibrant university, it is concerning that administrators are increasingly required to travel to seek external revenue, rather than being able to dedicate their time and attention to strengthening the university itself. A strong institution should not have to rely so heavily on recruitment but should be supported through robust government investment.

Furthermore, as the operating costs of the university rise without adequate government funding, the financial burden is increasingly being placed on students. This is expected to result in:

- Budget cuts to faculties and staff, reducing the quality of education and student support services;
- Another round of tuition increases, making education less accessible for students—especially for those from marginalized communities.

The University of Regina's growing dependence on tuition revenue for its operating costs, particularly from international students, is unsustainable. Higher tuition rates are driving students away from Saskatchewan, as they seek more affordable education in provinces that offer better financial support to their post-secondary institutions. If this trend continues, Saskatchewan risks losing its young talent to other regions.



Regina Public Interest Research Group (RPIRG)
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We urge the Government of Saskatchewan to invest more in the University of Regina by providing a substantial increase in funding—one that does not simply meet inflation but allows the institution to thrive. We also call on university administration to take a stronger stance in advocating for the needs of the institution, rather than continually adjusting to budget shortfalls. Universities should not have to choose between affordability for students and institutional sustainability.

The future of post-secondary education in Saskatchewan depends on responsible funding decisions today. We ask that you take immediate action to ensure that the University of Regina remains an accessible, high-quality, and sustainable institution for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tayef Ahmed", written in a cursive style.

Tayef Ahmed
Executive Director
Regina Public Interest Research Group

APPENDIX 1
Detailed Schedule of Funding
University of Regina

Funding Schedule April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

	2025-26 Funding	2024-25 Funding
<u>Operating Funding</u>		
Prior Year Base Operating Grant	\$ 108,525,800	\$ 108,525,800
2.2% Increase (2024-25)	2,388,000	2,388,000
Base Operating Grant	\$ 110,913,800	
<i>Health Human Resources Action Plan</i> (see Appendix 2)	5,775,500	4,307,400
1% Increase (one-time)	1,109,000	—
Total Operating Funding	\$ 117,798,300	\$ 115,221,200
<u>Other Funding</u>		
Supplementary Funding - Facilities	730,000	922,000
Total Operating and Other Funding	\$ 118,528,300	\$ 116,143,200
<u>Capital Funding</u>		
Preventative Maintenance and Renewal	6,574,000	6,084,000
<i>Health Human Resources Action Plan</i> (see Appendix 2)	700,000	1,150,000
Cooling Tower Replacement	—	6,300,000
Student Health Centre Clinic	—	610,000
Total Capital Funding	\$ 7,274,000	\$ 14,144,000
<u>Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship</u>		
Innovation Scholarships	383,900	383,900
Opportunity Scholarships	325,000	325,000
International Education Scholarships	42,000	42,000
Total Scholarship Funding	\$ 750,900	\$ 750,900
Total Funding	\$ 126,553,200	\$ 131,038,100