



**President Bi-Weekly Report
to the Students' Representative Council**

**Presented by: President Stevie DeMerchant
July 23rd, 2023**

Greetings STUdents,

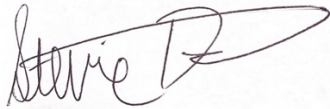
I hope your summer break has been amazing!!

Throughout the summer, students will receive both bi-weekly reports from myself, and a monthly report on behalf of the executive team. The purpose of these reports is to ensure our student body is informed on what we work on throughout the summer.

We have about a month of summer break left and it flew by so quickly! The student executive team has been working throughout the summer to ensure our STUdents have the best academic year. We are so excited to share our efforts with the STUdent body!

I am very excited for the upcoming academic year and to work with you all!!

Kind regards,
Stevie- Rae DeMerchant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stevie D", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

STUSU President

Meetings

Meeting w/ National Indigenous Advocacy Committee

During this meeting we began discussing our upcoming NIAC retreat, this retreat will be hosted in Smokey Lake, Alberta and NIAC members will be able to come together, participate in workshops that will build upon their advocacy skills along with providing a few extra tools for our upcoming advocacy week. We will also receive traditional teachings by elders, participate in medicine walks and indulge in traditional cuisine. During this meeting, our committee met with three Government of Canada employees who specialize in the Student Financial Assistance Program. We had a long chat about being an Indigenous person in PSE along with the barriers we continue to face when it comes to funding.

Meeting w/ Welcome Week Chair

During this meeting we had a few discussions about welcome week events, but this meeting was dedicated to checking up on the ww chair. These meetings will occasionally be dedicated to work but this one was a touch-base/check-in.

Meeting with National Indigenous Advocacy Committee & Students' Association of MacEwan University

This meeting was dedicated to ensuring opening communication between MacEwan University and the National Indigenous Advocacy Committee. We discussed the process of becoming a NIAC member along with answering some questions they had about the committee.

Meeting w/ Welcome Week Chair & VP Student Life

During this meeting we began planning the STUSU Welcome Week events. While we obviously haven't completed all planning, we were able to create a schedule that will ensure our group stays on track and we can get all our events planned by the end of the summer.

Meeting w/ Parliamentary Member Jennica Atwin

During this meeting, NIAC chairs discussed our federal advocacy asks. The Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) was our first item of discussion, we shared data around how many Indigenous students are eligible for PSE compared to how many are supported by the program; this program is being pushed since PSSSP is meant to sunset at the end of 2023 and the Federal Government has not said if the program will be staying or going. Our second ask was surrounding the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program, we discussed the implications of this program and how it goes directly against self-determination by prescribing specific programs to students. Meeting with MP Atwin is always amazing, and this meeting was no different!!

Miscellaneous

Academic Orientation Training

This Committee met to begin discussing and planning the upcoming Academic Orientation Day for our new STUdents! This conversation touched on a few topics such as, welcome songs, practice dates, funding for OC BBQ and committee member involvement. This committee will continue to meet throughout the summer until AOT is completed.

Fredericton Pride Parade

The STUSU executive team came together and walked in the Fredericton Pride parade, this event was so fun, and I was pleased to see so many familiar faces!

New Brunswick Student Alliance (NBSA)

The New Brunswick Student Alliance (NBSA) is a provincial advocacy organization that represents students from St. Thomas University, University of New Brunswick SJ and Mount Allison University. Reports regarding NBSA include:

The New Brunswick Student Alliance met from July 14th-16th for the policy & planning conference. During these days, students from Mount Allison University, St. Thomas University and University of New Brunswick, met to discuss, and begin planning our advocacy week that will take place in October. These three days were essential in constructing work committees, specifying provincial advocacy asks and beginning research. I am happy to share that our advocacy asks will fall into the categories of EDI, sexual violence, health & wellness, housing, international students, and operational budget!

Canadian Alliance of Student Association (CASA)

The Canadian Alliance of Student Association (CASA) is a national voice for Canadian post-secondary students. CASA is a non-partisan, non-for-profit student organization composed of students across Canada. Reports regarding CASA include:

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations hosted their policy & strategy conference on UNB X STU from July 17th – 21st. This conference is one of the most important meetings for our delegation, this is where the board of directors' present/edit their action plan for the year, consult our students on their priorities and begin open discussion on what our advocacy asks will be for the year. Some of the priorities include, student financial aid, housing, international student data and the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP). I am very pleased to share that all items of interest were voted in by student leaders from across the country!

-End of Report-