

# **CANADIAN ALLIANCE OF STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS**

**PRESENTATION TO: UNIVERSITY OF  
ALBERTA STUDENTS' UNION**





# AGENDA

- **What is CASA?**
- **Why focus federally?**
- **CASA Advocacy**
- **How CASA achieves results**
- **Record of Success**
- **The current year**

# WHAT IS CASA?



- A collective of student unions and associations that represents and defends member interests to the federal government.
- A registered not-for-profit that consisting of 24 student unions and associations representing over 300,000 students.
- A, member driven organization the promotes affordable, accessible, innovative post-secondary education of the highest quality.

## **BUT ISN'T EDUCATION A PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY?**

# WHY FOCUS FEDERALLY?



## AREAS WHERE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS INVOLVED IN POST SECONDARY EDUCATION:

**Over \$20 billion in Federal support for PSE**



### Employment and Social Development Canada

- Canada Student Loans Program
  - Canada Social Transfer
  - Youth Unemployment

### Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development

- International Student Visas
  - Study Abroad

### Department of Finance

- Tax policy
- Federal Budgets

### Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

- Post Secondary Student Support Program
- On-reserve education

### Statistics Canada

- Post Secondary Information Service

### Health Canada

- Mental Health
  - CIHR

### Citizenship and Immigration Canada

- Resident Visas for International Students
- Permanent residency for grads

### Industry Canada

- NSERC
- SSHRC
- Copyright
- Intellectual Property

### Elections Canada

- Get out the vote campaigns
- Voting requirements for students

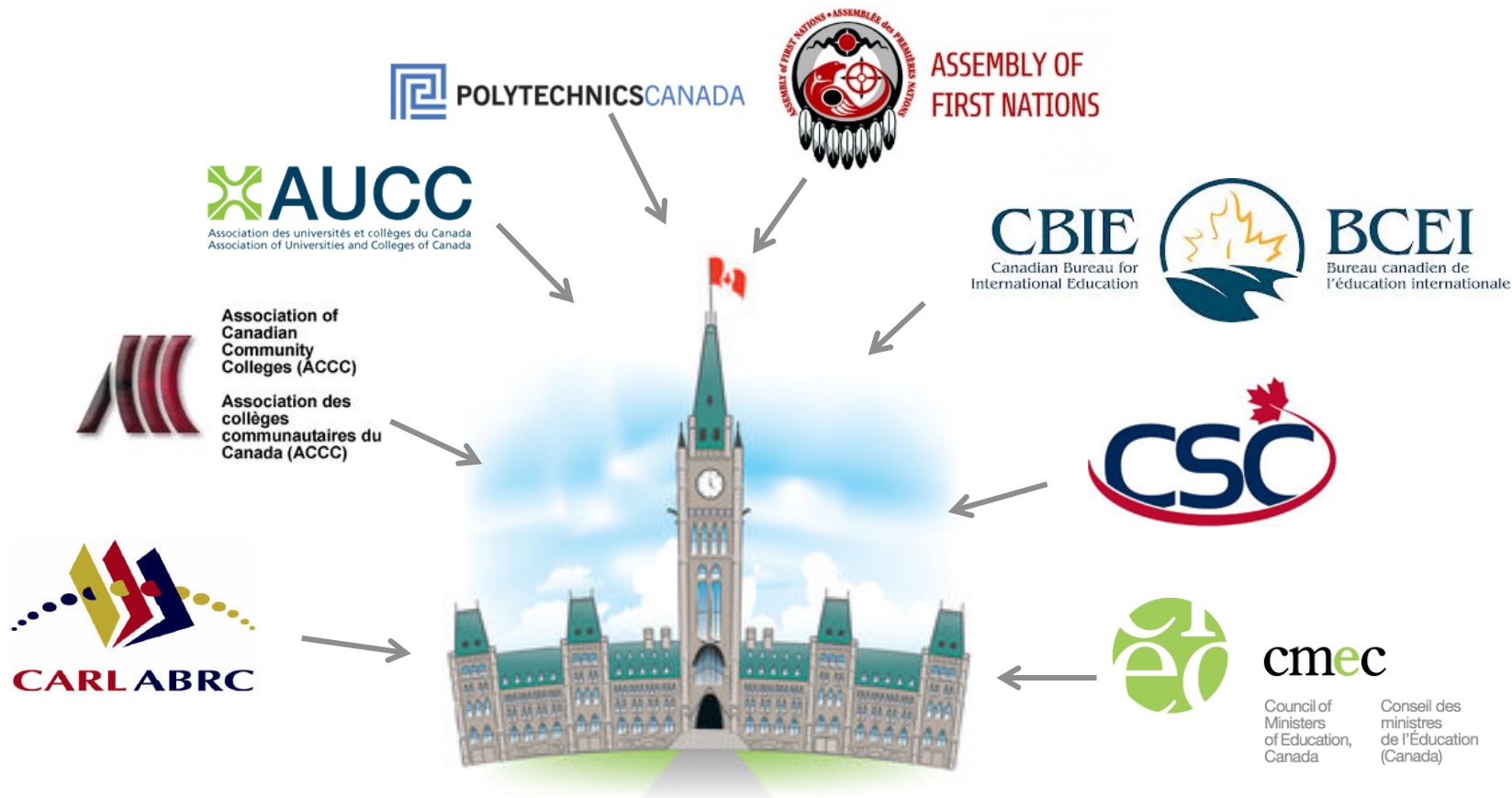
### Infrastructure Canada

- Knowledge infrastructure program

# CASA'S PARTNERS AND THE FEDERAL PSE LANDSCAPE



CASA works with various stakeholders to help advance our members' priorities



# FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID FOR ALBERTA STUDENTS



Helping students  
pay for school



**\$275.8 million** in federal loans supporting **49,882** students (Canada Student Loans Program)

Supporting those  
most in need



**\$74.28 million** in non-repayable grants supporting **36,573** students (Canada Student Grants Program)

Helping Grads  
Repay their Loans



Protecting **12,507 grads** in need (Repayment Assistance Plan)

# FOR STUDENTS IN ALBERTA AND UOFA



The federal government provides a number transfers and research funding to Alberta and University of Alberta.

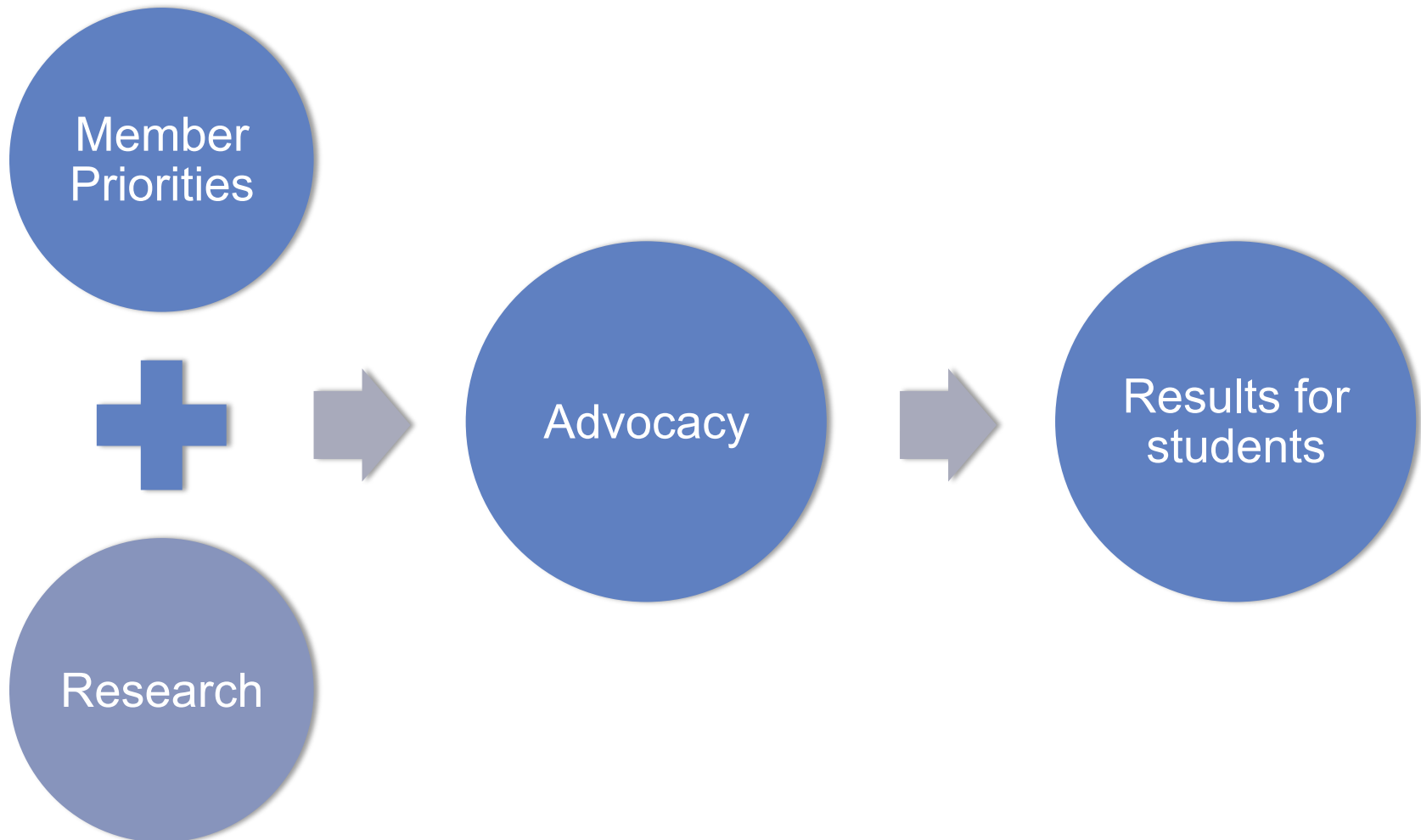
## Direct Federal Transfers

Canada Social Transfer	<b>\$1.396 billion</b> supporting provincial programs including Post Secondary Education
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## Research Funding

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council	<b>\$46.12 million</b> to UofA including \$806,000 awarded for undergraduate research
Social Science and Humanities Research Council	<b>\$29.12 million</b> awarded to students and faculty at UofA
Canadian Institutes of Health Research	<b>\$33.31 million</b> awarded to researchers, institutes and students at UofA
Canada Research Chairs	111 awards for UofA professors totaling <b>\$103 million</b>

# CASA ADVOCACY





# ACHIEVING RESULTS THROUGH ADVOCACY: WHAT WE DO



Media Engagement



Partnerships



Consultations



Local Outreach



Campaigns



Meetings



Research



# A RECORD OF SUCCESS: OUR RECENT RESULTS



## Investment in Students

- **Multiple entry visas for International Students – FEB 6, 2014**
- **Vehicle exemption in Canada Student Loans asset assessment – BUDGET 2014**
- Education as a component of Fair Dealing in the Copyright Act
- Increasing the income work exemption from \$50 to \$100
- Open Access reforms for Canada's granting agencies

## Influencing Policy Through Consultation

- Member of the government's National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance
- Frequently invited to speak before House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance
- Participation on Advisory Panel on International Education
- Consultation with Assembly of First Nations
- Consultation with SSHRC on student representation
- Consultation with Elections Canada on student voting procedures

## Presence and Pressure

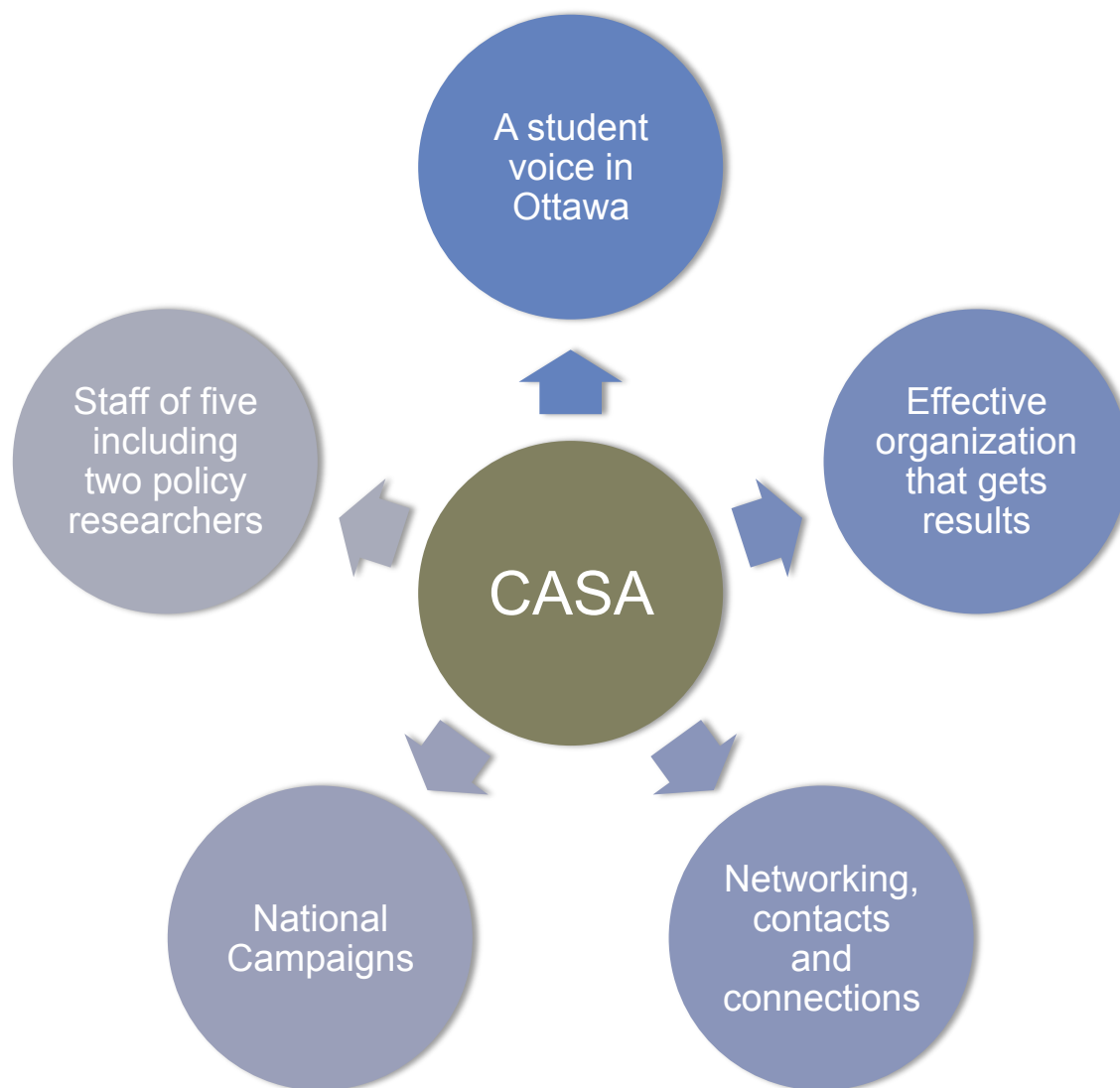
- No significant federal cuts to financial aid since 1995

# CURRENT PRIORITIES



- **Student Mental Health**
  - Federal government leadership in a pan-Canadian approach to mental health issues for post-secondary students
  - Funding for anti stigma campaign on campus
- **Canada Student Loans Program**
  - Increasing and indexing the value of needs based grants
  - Increasing the amount of loan dollars available to students
  - **Exempting all income earned while studying from a student loan assessment**
  - Elimination of parental contributions from needs assessment
  - **Eliminating vehicle asset assessment from CSLP criteria**
- **International Students**
  - Permit part-time students to work off-campus
  - **Ensure all visas for students are multiple-entry**
- **Funding for Aboriginal Education**
  - Adequate funding of the Post Secondary Student Support Program
  - Funding the backlog of unmet need and removing of the 2% funding cap
- **Open Educational Resources development**
  - Asking the government to study this issue, ultimately resulting in cheaper textbooks
- **Tri agency student representation**
  - Having student representatives partake in funding decisions of NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR

# HOW UOFA SU BENEFITS FROM CASA



# THANK YOU



## Questions?

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