



March 20, 2015 – Budget Update

The following is a message from Dr. Mike Mahon, President and Vice-Chancellor

As you have likely heard through recent media reports, the Government of Alberta has announced that the provincial budget will be released on March 26, 2015. Since my last budget update, members of senior administration have had opportunities to meet with government officials, but unfortunately there has been very little specific information given about the budget scenario that either the University or the post-secondary system generally will face. Information and the specific details for our University will be better understood in the weeks following the release of the provincial budget. Until we have actual numbers and concrete details from government, it is imprudent to prematurely react or comment on the wide-ranging speculation we currently hear through the media. The fact remains, we will face reductions of some magnitude and through our efforts to date and additional measures to be determined, we will deal with those reductions in ways that are consistent with our [values](#).

While we don't know the specifics of the impending budget, we have been very active in our preparations for the reductions. At the February Board of Governors meeting, the Board approved an interim budget based on the 2014/2015 University operating budget. When we have details of the 2015/2016 Campus Alberta Operating grant, we will work to achieve a balanced budget, with the appropriate consultation within our University community. In the interim, and as I outlined in my message of [January 29, 2015](#), many steps have already been taken to start enabling the University to address budget reductions. Examples of this include various scenario planning, and restraint in both hiring and discretionary expenditure. The savings already realized will help us with our interim budget and contribute in a small way towards the 2015/2016 reductions.

I will have an opportunity to join other Presidents and Board Chairs in a budget “lock-up” on March 26 in Edmonton. To keep our University community informed, I will issue a brief message on March 27 with information that we have learned to that point. In the following days, as more details are released and understood, I will send follow up messages. In the weeks that follow the release of the provincial budget, I will also host a community budget update where members of senior administration will be available to answer questions.

As we await delivery of the provincial budget, rather than focusing on what may happen with the budget, it is worth focusing our efforts on our students who are in the midst of the most stressful time of year and also looking to achieving the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan, [Destination 2020](#).

Sincerely,

Dr. Mike Mahon