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## **Government Announces “Tuition Access Bursary”**

**April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Fredericton, NB: This morning the Government of New Brunswick announced that they are implementing a Tuition Access Bursary (TAB) starting in September 2016. According to Premier Gallant, the bursary, in conjunction with federal grants, will cover the complete cost of tuition for student whose gross family income is \$60,000 or less annually. The UNB Student Union (UNBSU) believes that this is a monumental move forward by the government. The Tuition Access Bursary demonstrates that the government understands the value of investing in students and education.

“Both the UNBSU and the New Brunswick Student Alliance have been advocating for such a program for years; it is, without a doubt, a satisfying and encouraging feeling to see it come to life.” Says Katie Davey President of the UNSBU “We know that these kinds of investments are more effective than tax credits and don’t leave students hindered by debt.”

Since the removal of the Tuition Tax Rebate the UNBSU and New Brunswick Student Alliance (NBSA) have advocated for the reinvestment of its savings into upfront needs based grants. The announcement today made it clear that the equivalent of the savings and more were reinvested. Additional funding for the TAB was drawn from the Education and New Economy Fund announced in the budget.

“This program appears even more progressive than what we saw in Ontario this February” Says Travis Daley, VP External of UNBSU “The New Brunswick tuition access bursary’s threshold is ten thousand dollars higher than that of Ontario’s, because of that more students will be able to access a post-secondary education”

According to Minster Landry, the TAB is phase one of a multi-phased approach to address the wider need to ensure students have access to post-secondary education.

The UNBSU looks forward to hearing further details about TAB and will collaborate with both government and our University to ensure that the program is as effective as possible for students.

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