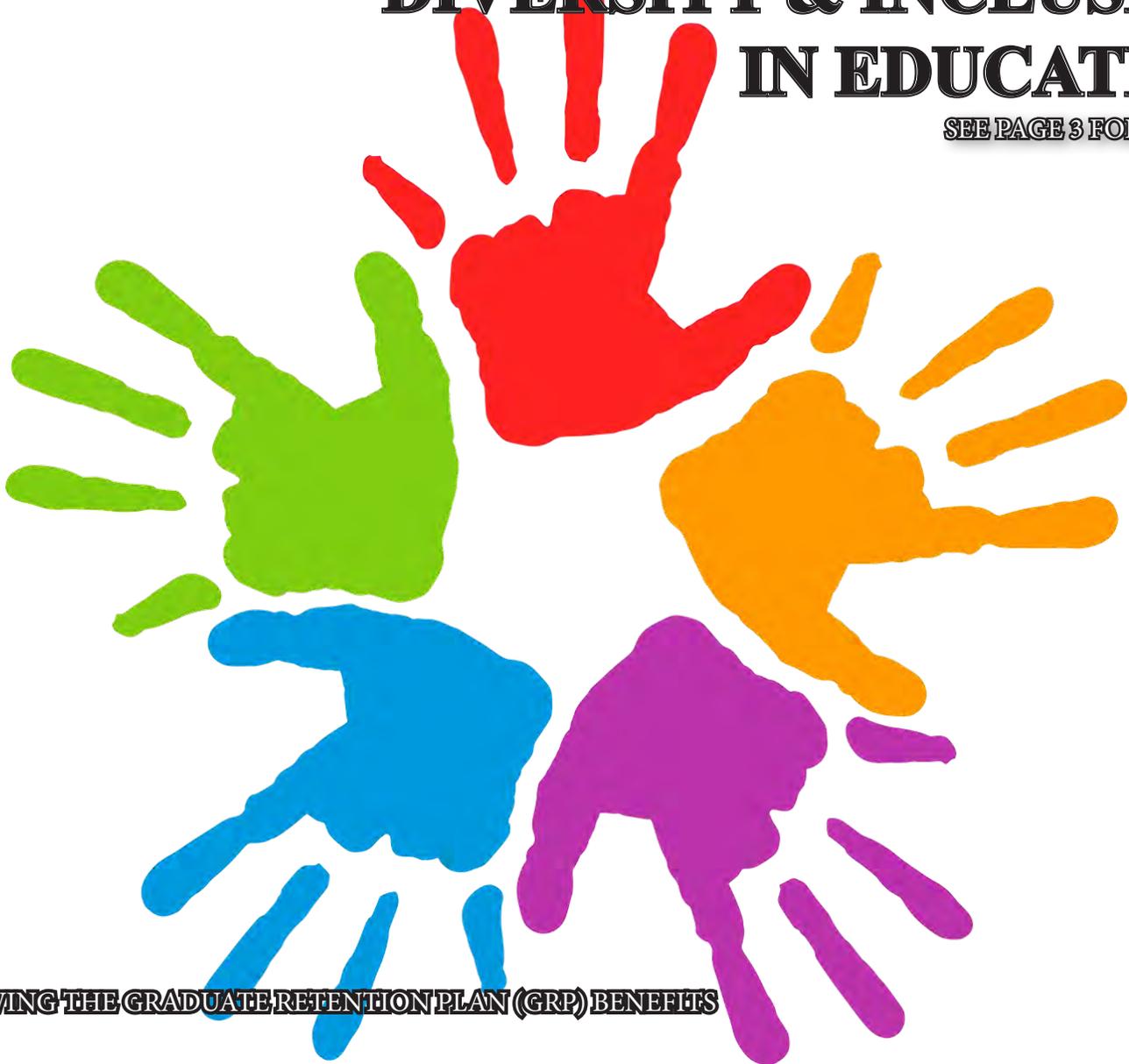


THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN EDUCATION

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KNOWING THE GRADUATE RETENTION PROGRAM (GRP) BENEFITS

*Ankita Rastogi
Campus Council Director - Saskatoon*

Very soon, we will be saying goodbye to 2017 and be welcoming a new year. Very soon, it will be that time of year when students will be preparing to file their taxes and will be scrambling for receipts, waiting for tax forms to arrive in the mail and speculating whether or not they will be getting a big refund.

Proper planning may help students ease their 'tax-season' anxiety. Having knowledge about applicable refundable and non-refundable tax credits is also very helpful. One such tax credit is the Graduate Retention Program (GRP), which applies to a majority of post-secondary students in Saskatchewan.

In 2008, the GRP was introduced to Saskatchewan. It provides Saskatchewan income tax credits of up to \$20,000 for tuition fees paid by graduates who live in Saskatchewan. How much a student may get back depends upon the program in which the student is enrolled. For example, students in a one year Certificate, Diploma, or Journeyperson

program have a maximum tuition rebate amount of \$3,000, while those in a two or three year Certificate or Diploma program may receive up to a maximum of \$6,400. Generally, in order to be eligible for this rebate, the student must be living in or moving to Saskatchewan, have graduated from an approved post-secondary program and applied within seven years of graduation.

In 2015, the GRP was amended to a non-refundable tax credit. This means that when students file tax returns for 2015 and beyond, they receive their rebate as a reduction in provincial income tax. If the rebate is greater than the tax payable, the excess can be applied in a future tax year and students have up to 10 years to fully use their entitlement. Most Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions, including Saskatchewan Polytechnic, apply for the Graduate Retention Program on behalf of the students.

More information about the Graduate Retention Program, and any recent changes to it, can be found on the Government of Saskatchewan's website at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/education-and-learning/graduate-retention-program>.



THE INFO YOU NEED. THE PRIZES YOU WANT. THE APP THAT HAS BOTH.
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IT HAPPENS EVERYWHERE

*Jesse White
VP Prince Albert*

No doubt you've heard at least one story or another this past month about sexual harassment. Whether it be about a film industry giant like Harvey Weinstein or a small scale YouTube star like Andy Signore, this past month has seen the issue of sexual harassment come to the forefront of social media and social conscience like never before.

The outing of these particular monsters has had a minimal but significant effect on me. Both Harvey Weinstein and Andy Signore are, or I should say were, in the film industry. I, as you may or may not know, am in the Media Arts Production Diploma program here at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. I'm working my tail off to get into an industry that's run by men like Harvey Weinstein. This realization is shell shocking. What am I getting myself into? How many other Hollywood Bigwigs do things like this? Do you need to be a rotten person to succeed in the film industry?

While I don't know the answers to the previous questions, I have no reservations about my decisions to pursue a career in film and television. The past few weeks have seen many strong, brave, amazing women speak out against their aggressors. The downfall of men, like Harvey Weinstein and Andy Signore, is a beacon of hope for women of the world. While it was indeed no secret that these types of men existed, now, thanks to these powerful women, the world is watching.

So you may be asking yourself while reading this, what does this have to do with me? Well, that brings me to the world's second realization this month. Not only does this behavior exist in the world today, but it also exists everywhere. That includes the post-secondary education system. No doubt women attending our fine institution have faced this type of behavior.

Earlier this month I had the pleasure of attending the regional 'Bringing in the Bystander' training and presentation in Saskatoon. I took a lot from this seminar. The trainers presented us

with some cold hard stories of sexual harassment in the post-secondary system. The most straightforward and by far the most important message I can share from my training is this: if you see something, say something.

All of our campuses have commissionaires on site at all times students are in any of our buildings. If you are in a potentially dangerous situation or you see someone in a potentially hazardous situation, please call the authorities. If our campus security does not pick up or is not available, please call the police. Our commissionaires do a fantastic job of keeping students safe, but to turn a blind eye to the potential of sexual assault happening on our campuses is, quite frankly, stupid. No organization, business, group, class or any assembly of people should be that naive. Sexual assault does happen. Don't let it happen here.

If anyone has any more questions on the 'Bringing in the Bystander' presentation I attended, feel free to reach out to me at VPPA@SPSA.ca.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN EDUCATION

Dallas Burnett
VP Saskatoon

It is not unknown that diversity exists in Canada; it is one of our greatest strengths. Diversity can easily be seen wherever you go: the grocery store, the park, the school yard, and the list goes on. Unfortunately, stigmas and stereotypes continue to exist that need to be stopped. This is why it is important for diversity and inclusion to be taught throughout all education, from pre-kindergarten to post-secondary.

One may ask, what exactly is diversity and inclusion? Diversity is the idea of respect and appreciation for all. All includes people with a different ethnicity, age, gender, gender identity, nationality, sexual orientation, level of education, disability, and religion. Inclusion is the idea that these individuals feel respected, appreciated, valued and that they have a place in society.

It is awesome that diversity is becoming more and more embraced throughout the nation. However, this does not mean that it is completely accepted. There are individuals in the country who either do not understand the strengths of diversity, or do not know how to approach it.

I myself have been a victim of discrimination because of my sexual orientation. The emotional distress that can be caused from discrimination is why education on the topic is important. My initial response to being discriminated against was to flee. It saddens me to say that one of the reasons I attended McGill University was to flee from my negative experience. With that being said, the university had such a diverse community and I did truly learn a lot about myself, others and the importance of diversity and inclusion.

My experience in Montreal was awesome, but

I greatly missed Saskatchewan and wanted to return. Now that I am back, I believe it is very important that an increase in education on diversity and inclusion be implemented throughout the province. Sitting on the Saskatchewan Polytechnic program council, I am very excited about the indigenization component of the academic model that is being included into programs. This is a notable step that Saskatchewan Polytechnic is taking in education and I take pride in being a part of it.

Diversity and inclusion is prominent in Canada and understanding the importance of both can enable a more accepting and peaceful society. I encourage all people to open their minds and learn about the various types of people in the world. Whether or not one agrees with something or someone, the act of acceptance can still be supportive of inclusivity.



1 in 5 people who are HIV positive do not know.

The only way to know your HIV status - positive or negative - is to get tested.

Say YES to the test!

Talk to your regular health care provider, or find a local clinic by calling HealthLine at 811.



SPSA - EVENTS AND SERVICES WE OFFER

*Pamela MacArthur
VP Regina*

I hope that everyone who has written midterms, or are currently finishing up their midterms, are doing well. The year seems to be moving way too quick for a lot of people. Perhaps you're feeling as though you have not been able to accomplish anything other than your school work. The SPSA has many ways to help you feel more relaxed and help release some of your stress and anxiety.

Sometimes we get so overwhelmed that we forget to take time for ourselves. Our health starts to suffer because we put everything else before putting ourselves first. Trust me, I can totally relate. I have been in that situation multiple times. It doesn't help that sometimes life throws curveballs at us that completely mess up whatever we had planned.

There are many things that the SPSA offers to help make life easier while you are at school. Many of the services are beginning to be well known: Health and Dental Plan, Student Advocate, Locker Rental, City Transit Pass Sales, Used Textbook Sales, and Legal Consultations.

Other services that the SPSA offer include the

Income Tax Service, Tutor and Housing Registries, SAvivor Meal Program, Commissioner of Oaths and Notary Public.

The SPSA has fun swag items, giveaways, sports drafts, and the 'I Spy to Fly' contest. There are also other services offered by the SPSA that I have not mentioned. If you wish to know more, I highly recommend stopping by the SPSA Office and asking questions.

If you just need some downtime to unwind, upcoming special events include Paint Nite, which is scheduled for November 14th in Moose Jaw, Regina and Prince Albert and November 15th in Saskatoon. Trivia Night is scheduled for November 8th for all campuses. All you need to do is come down to the SPSA Office and sign up. Feel free to bring a friend with you to sign up as well. It is so easy to do and it gives you time to ask any questions you may have while you're there.

One of the other events we have going on is pub night. You can sit back, have a drink, relax and get to know your fellow students. It's a great way to take a break in your week and unwind. Even if you don't drink, that's fine. You're still more than welcome to come down to the student lounge, have a seat, and visit. I

know I will be there and it would be great to sit down and get to know my fellow students.

There is a lot that we have going on, and coming up. If you ever wish to know what events are coming up or what events we are hosting, feel free to check out our bulletin boards. You can also check out the table toppers that we have all around the student lounge.

I encourage you to download our ASK Poly app, follow us on Instagram: [ur_spsa](#), Facebook: SPSA – Saskatchewan Polytechnic Students' Association Inc., and Twitter: @ur_spsa. Of course, if you have questions about anything that we are doing, please don't hesitate to visit us and ask.

SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

TUTOR REGISTRY

www.spsa.ca/tutorregistry

Look for a tutor or advertise your tutoring services at no charge!

#METOO

*Andrew Pinay
Campus Council Director - Regina*

I would like to take this opportunity to bring attention to something very important, an issue that went viral on Monday October 16th, 2017.

The Twitter and Facebook trending hashtag '#MeToo' brought forth a series of tweets and status's that not only shocked me, but also made me realize that society has a problem that needs to be addressed. However, every single one of you that wrote #MeToo, I commend you. You are brave, you are courageous, you are strong, you are tough and above all, you are not alone.

#MeToo gave both men and women a voice that was heard across the nation, a voice that we all cannot ignore. To those affected by any form of sexual abuse, male or female, you are not a victim. You are a survivor.

Below are a few statistics I would like to bring forth, according to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center:

- One in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college
- More than 90% of sexual assault victims on college campuses do not report the assault
- 63.3% of men at one university who self-reported acts qualifying as rape or attempted rape admitted to committing repeat rapes

More information can be found at <https://www.nsvrc.org/>.

While these statistics may seem high, please do not be afraid that this will happen to you. Nevertheless, in the small chance that this does occur to you or a fellow classmate, please do not hesitate to reach out for help. Familiarize yourself with Saskatchewan Polytechnic's policy on Sexual Assault and Sexual Violence (Policy

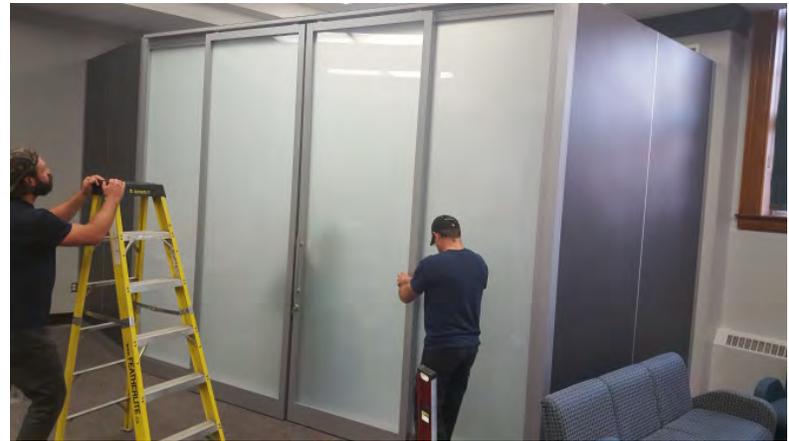
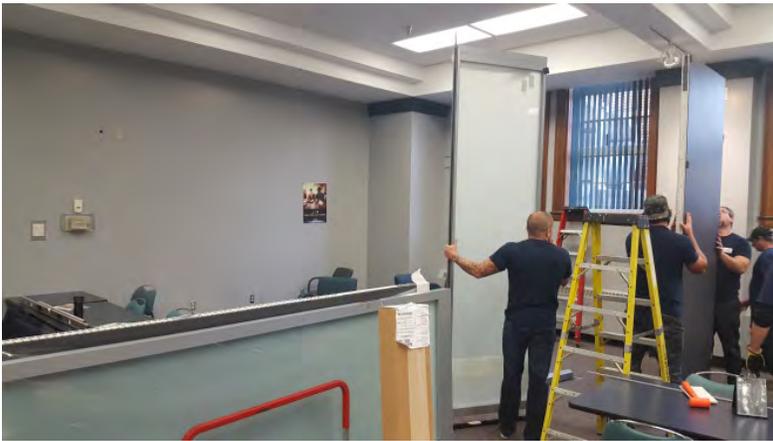
605) as well. The policy is both insightful and informative should a situation ever arise. There are counselling staff at every campus that are trained specifically for situations like these. They are our front line responders. The support and assistance these counsellors provide are incredible and will augment your mental health in the healing process. Please remember there is nothing wrong with reaching out for help.

With my hand on my heart, I can proudly say that I will fight alongside you, I will fight for you. We are Saskatchewan Polytechnic students, we have a voice, and together we can stand up to those who commit any form of sexual assault. You are not alone.

#IBelieveYou

Policy 605: <http://saskpolytech.ca/about/about-us/documents/policies/sexualassaultandsexual-violence605.pdf>

MOOSE JAW SWING SPACE RENOVATIONS!



SPSA MEETS THE MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION

*Vann Cortez
SPSA President*

On October 24, 2017 I had a meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education, Hon. Kevin Doherty, and Deputy Minister Mark McLoughlin at the Saskatchewan Legislative Building in Regina.

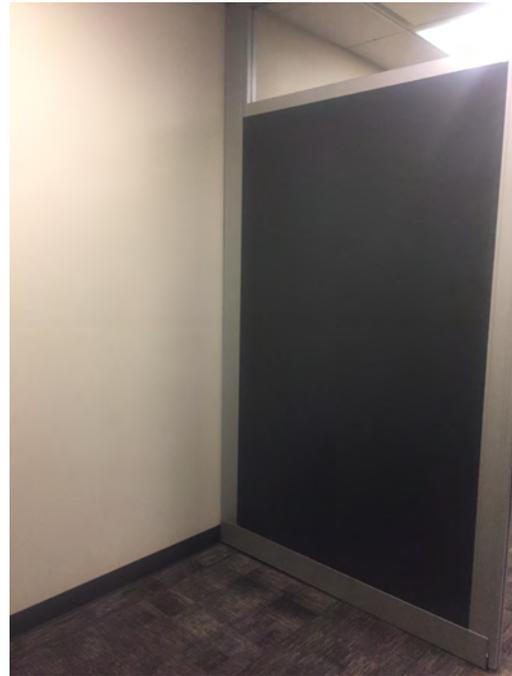
This is the first time, in at least two years, a representative of the SPSA has been afforded an opportunity to meet with a Minister of Advanced Education. It is also the first time since the SPSA has been recognized as

the official representative for the students of Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

The purpose of the meeting was to build strong rapport between the Ministry and the SPSA and to open collaborative opportunities in the near future.

Minister Doherty encourages the SPSA to reach out to the Ministry of Advanced Education if there are any concerns that impact the student life at Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

SPSA OFFICE RENOVATIONS IN REGINA!



PAINT NITES

november 14 - moose jaw, prince albert and regina

november 15 - saskatoon

Sign up at the SPSA Office

STRESS MANAGEMENT

*Parampreet Singh
Campus Council Director - Prince Albert*

Student life is one of the most complex and busiest stages of your life. In this stage, we make decisions that hugely impact our futures. From time to time, students reach a stage where their stress levels cross a certain limit. Stress can be due to exams, post-exam pressure, in-class performance pressure, etc. Stress management refers to the techniques for controlling various levels of stress. Stress includes fear of negative consequences and also unpredictable happenings. It may also lead to decline in physical and mental health.

Stress is common among students because of their varied levels of tension. They are required to maintain balance between their education and extracurricular activities which may lead to increased stress. Proper help and support in the school can help students overcome these consequences. Various stress management techniques and physical activities should be included in their schedule.

Setting a goal for students and encouraging them to focus on their goal can refresh their minds. Good sleep habits should be taught to students to increase their knowledge and to reduce physical and mental stress levels. Meditation classes can also help overcome daily stress and anxiety related to college life. On-campus recreational activities are available for students to join where they can refresh and prepare them before studies.

**STEP UP
STEP BE
HEARD**

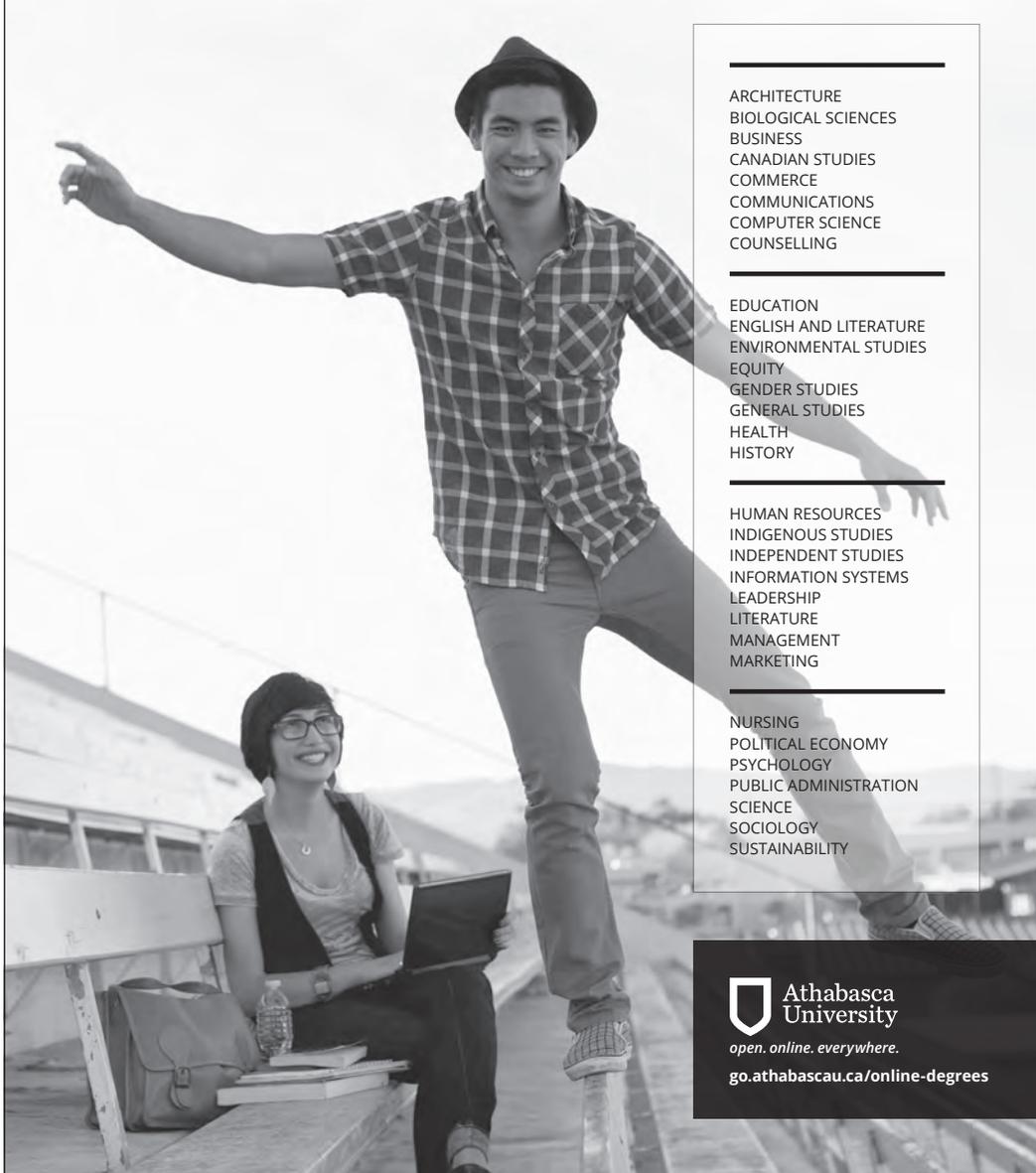
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NEXT MEETING NOV. 21
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THE SCANNER

**I SPY TO FLY!
PLAY ALONG TO BE ENTERED TO WIN A \$250 AIR CANADA TRAVEL VOUCHER FROM THE SPSA!**



With winter approaching, VP Saskatoon, Dallas Burnett (far left) and newly elected Campus Council Director Saskatoon Campus, Charmielaine Pangan (left) are bundling up for the cold weather. Find both of them in the picture above, circle them, and return your entry to the SPSA Office on your campus. Watch for next month's edition of the Scanner for another chance to play! We will draw a winner for a \$250 Air Canada voucher at the end of the academic year. *Sask Polytech Students only.*

Name: _____

Phone # _____

Program: _____