

## SPSA STUDENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

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**SPSA**  
SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC  
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

## STUDENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS



**President**  
Sukhjot Samra



**VP Finance & Internal  
Operations**  
Anna Lueke



**VP Moose Jaw**  
Rohit Vij



**VP Regina**  
Jolene Lennox



**VP Saskatoon**  
Madison Mark

Congratulations to all of our newly elected members!

# SPSA STUDENT BY-ELECTIONS

NOMINATIONS OPEN APRIL 1-5

ELECTION DAY APRIL 10

Position Available - VP Prince Albert Campus  
See the SPSA for details and nomination packages.

**SEE YA LATER SASK POLYTECH!**

*Dallas Burnett  
VP Saskatoon*

My time here at Sask Polytech is coming to an end and it's been two years filled with some interesting experiences. Some experiences have been great, and others have been challenging. Within this article I'll share some highlights, recommendations, and some things that I've learned within the last two years.

**Highlights:****Meeting Leaders from across Canada**

By attending Leaders Hall (a conference for student leaders across Canada), I was able to increase networks within the country and build relationships with future leaders. Beyond workshops and sessions, I also had some fun during the conference by participating in recreation and leisure activities with various individuals. A highlight from this conference would be working through the "What's Your Big Lie?" Program led by Jordan Axani. This program brought new perspectives around mental health and I really appreciated Jordan's words around vulnerability. Find more info on Jordan's program here: <https://youtu.be/54dM8N2CX4k>

**The Amaruks**

In 2017, the Prairie Athletic Conference (PAC) Basketball Championship was held at the Saskatoon campus. Both the men's and women's Amaruk teams were in the finals. Being in that moment and watching my friends playing their hearts out to win and bring pride to the Amaruk team (and Sask Polytech community) was notably one of my favourite moments at Sask Polytech. Even though I wasn't on the team, I was part of the Amaruk family and still do believe in the importance of athletics.

**Tuition & Fees Policy**

Over the last year, I've consulted with various students to get feedback on the Sask Polytech tuition and fees policy. From their feedback, as well as research I did on other institutions within Canada, I provided AVP Student Services, Tobi Strohan, with student-driven recommendations for changes to the policy. There were multiple conversations and I'm happy about the changes that have been made over the last couple months. While I still believe changes could be made for a better student experience, I also acknowledge that positive progress was made.

**Being part of the SPSA transition**

In 2015, 2016 and 2017, under the leadership of Presidents Afroditi Papageorgiu and Stacia Selinger, the SPSA was able to negotiate a new contract with Saskatchewan Polytechnic to become the official representatives of Sask Polytech students from all four campuses – Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon. The SPSA transition took effect on July 1 of 2017, while Fred Entz, Vann Cortez, Jesse White and I were on Executive Council. It was very exciting to be part of the first Executive Council that included the addition of Regina and Moose Jaw.

**Recommendations:****Continue to advocate for recreation**

For the incoming council, I strongly encourage you to continue to advocate for recreation. With another student from the Recreation and Community Development program representing Saskatoon students as VP, I'm confident there will be a strong voice for this service; as it has a significant impact on quality of life and student life. Talk to anyone on campus, and they'll tell you the Wellness Steering Committee is a joke. Senior Management can continue to hide the truth, but the service cuts to recreation had a tremendous impact on students, faculty and staff on campus, especially the Saskatoon campus.

**Let the Students' Association operate in spaces, or at least utilize the space**

Sask Polytech has taken over the student run York's Campus Shop space in Saskatoon, Ontario Avenue Campus Canteen in Saskatoon, and the Woody's Tuck Shop in Prince Albert, effective June 2017. At the time, this was a mutual decision because the Students' Association acknowledged that we needed to negotiate in good faith. However, in Saskatoon, Sask Polytech opened a bookstore shop in the space where York's was during the 2017/2018 academic year; that failed. They then decided to open a food services shop called Vibes, and that failed even faster. From talking with the students, I know that Ontario Avenue is lacking in food services and Sask Polytech can't financially support putting food services in the space, but if Sask Polytech wanted their space back so badly, then they should be utilizing it for the students benefit.

**8 Things I've learned from being on the Students' Association:**

As my final year at Sask Polytech is coming to a wrap, I've decided to share 8 things I've learned from being on the Students' Association.

**1. Communication is key.**

Being a part of a province wide organization, it can be difficult sometimes to ensure that everyone is on the same page and that everyone is aware of what is going on. Being able to find a variety of methods that work for an organization is essential to successful communication.

**2. Embrace diversity and learn from one another.**

The growing diverse population can pose challenges on interpersonal communication and understandings. I have learned many things from my friend, Chirag Patel (VP Finance & Internal Operations) about Australia and the slang that is used where he is from. Also, Chetna Chauhan (Campus Council Director from Saskatoon) has taught me many things about her home in India and about the various provinces, religions, and languages. By actively learning about my team members, I have been able to get a sense of how to communicate better with them and to help them with some of their challenges in Canada.

*Continued on Page 6*

## YOUR HEALTH & DENTAL TRAVEL INSURANCE HAS CHANGED!

There is medical emergency coverage, under your student health and dental plan. Slight changes have been made to the travel insurance coverage.

Changes made to the plan are effective as of **March 1, 2019** and are detailed below:

The plan provides coverage of up to a maximum of \$5 million per insured person per coverage period for certain expenses incurred as a result of an emergency while travelling outside your province or territory of residence. Your coverage period is 180 days per trip.

In addition, this insurance provides coverage for the following benefits:

- Up to \$5,000 per insured person, per trip for trip cancellation
- Up to \$2,000 per insured person, per trip, for trip interruption; and
- Up to \$1,000 per insured person, per trip, for baggage insurance.

For complete policy information, policy cards or to see if you are covered please see your local SPSA Office or visit [www.mystudentplan.ca](http://www.mystudentplan.ca).

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## HERE'S HOW TO TELL BETWEEN A GENUINE CRA PHONE CALL AND A SCAMMER

Rahul Kalvapalle

Your phone rings, you answer it and the person on the other end of line claims that they're with the Canada Revenue Agency and they're calling to discuss your account. Do you hang up or hear them out?

It's a quandary that's on the minds of many Canadians following a rash of scam calls that have swindled 4,000 taxpayers out of some \$15 million, according to the RCMP.

The scammers, who often call from clandestine call centres in India, typically operate by telling their victims that they owe back taxes and should pay up immediately if they want to avoid serious consequences including imprisonment.

So ubiquitous are these scam attempts that legitimate CRA agents are finding it increasingly difficult to reach scam-wary Canadians who hang up on them and refuse to return their calls.

In a bid to help Canadians differentiate cheaters from credible callers, the CRA has now published a checklist outlining the reasons for which it may contact you, as well as red flags pointing to a scam call.

### Reasons why the CRA may contact you by phone:

- To verify your identity by asking for personal information such as your name, date of birth, address, account or social insurance number
- To ask for details about your account
- To initiate an audit process

### Things the CRA will never do on the phone:

- Use aggressive language or threaten to arrest you
- Leave threatening voicemails
- Demand immediate payment by Interac e-transfer, bitcoin, prepaid credit cards and gift cards from the likes of iTunes and Amazon.
- Ask for information about your passport, health card or driver's license

owe tax to the government. But they don't use aggressive language or threaten to throw you in jail if you don't pay up ASAP in bitcoin or iTunes gift cards.

*"A collections officer may call you to discuss your file and ask you to make a payment. In this case, you may need to provide some information about your household financial situation,"* the CRA says.

An officer may also call you if you didn't file your income tax or benefit return or if authorities want to follow up on your tax and benefit documents.

Small businesses and self-employed individuals can also expect phone calls from the CRA offering free Liaison Officer services to help them understand their tax obligations.

Canadians have the right to ask CRA agents for their name, phone number and office location and tell agents that they'd like to verify their identity before proceeding with the call.

If you've already completed a call and want some extra peace of mind, you can find out if the person who called you works for the CRA

by calling 1-800-959-8281 (for individuals), 1-800-959-5525 (for businesses) and 1-866-864-5823 (for calls related to student loans and employment insurance).

While much of the attention surrounding tax scams centres around phone calls, scams can also be perpetrated via other forms of communication.

To see the CRA's complete set of tips on identifying genuine phone calls, emails, mails and text messages — as well as tell-tale signs of scammer contact — visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/newsroom/tax-tips/tax-tips-2018/what-to-expect-cra-contacts-you.html>.

If you detect a scam attempt, you can report it by calling 1-888-495-8501 or online at [www.antifraudcentre.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre.ca). If you think you've been the victim of a scam, contact your local police service, your bank and credit reporting agencies.

*This article was taken from the Global News website. See the article at: <https://globalnews.ca/news/4907961/cra-phone-scams/>.*

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RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY

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THE SPSA

 SPSA

The CRA does indeed call Canadians who

\*MUST HAVE A VALID STUDENT ID CARD.

## SEE YA LATER SASK POLYTECH! - CONTINUED

### 3. Patience is a virtue.

It can be annoying or sometimes excruciating for things to take time. However, it is best to follow processes and procedures to ensure that all aspects of a situation are considered. With that being said, if processes are illogical or produce frustration among customers or members, it may be best to look at changing them.

### 4. Change is constant.

Almost every day new situations arise in the Students' Association. I would suspect this could be similar in member-based non-profit organizations that focus on advocacy. While sometimes we cannot control changes around us, we can work towards ensuring members' best interests are involved in the change.

### 5. Everyone makes mistakes.

Not everyone is perfect, we are all human and sometimes we may forget things or say things that we don't mean to say. It's important to not be too hard on ourselves, but it is also important to take responsibility for our actions.

### 6. Organizational culture is an important part of a career.

Working for an organization is one thing, but feeling like part of a community at work is another. Getting to know co-workers and members

through leisure and recreation activities not only tends to create better relationships within an organization, but it also seems to help an organization's productivity.

### 7. Not every decision is going to be favourable.

One thing that is important when making decisions is that there are facts and support for the decision. Being part of a board, I have a vote at a table of people. Sometimes decisions are made that I don't agree with, and sometimes decisions are made that others don't agree with. No matter what happens, as long as the decision can be supported, sometimes we have to believe that it will work out in the end.

### 8. Everyone has a unique personality.

Some people always smile, some people have "RBF", some people are passive aggressive, some people are blunt, some people are colourful, and some people are grey. No matter what a person looks like, what their personality is like, or what they believe in, we're going to have to figure out how to work with a variety of people. Sometimes it can be challenging to work with others that have different personalities, but figuring out how to do it best and ensure that we can keep a constructive relationship will help ensure a positive environment for ourselves and others around us.



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## RECREATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STUDENTS BRING RECREATION TO THE SASKATOON CAMPUS FOR A WEEK

Article provided by Students in the Recreation and Community Development Program

From March 25-29 a group of Recreation and Community Development students hosted “Recreation Week”, a week that offered students, staff and faculty on the Saskatoon main campus an opportunity to participate in recreational activities.

The week included a volleyball tournament, dodgeball tournament, drop-in yoga, basketball shootout competition, drop-in art and stress buster activities, and a health fair. The volleyball tournament had 38 registrants, the dodgeball had 40 registrants, and the basketball shootout saw 45 participants. Yoga had approximately 7 drop-in participants, and the art/stress buster activities had 5.

The health fair was a student-driven grassroots initiative and had 7 booths on display. Booths included: Saskatoon Sexual Health, OUT Saskatoon, Canadian Blood Services, Saskatoon Nursing Students Society, Sask Polytech Counselling Services, The Students’ Association, and Recreation and Community Development Students. The whole week was organized within a month time period, including registration for the tournaments.

Power Engineering Student, Reid Thomson, stated, “I was able to interact with more people this week than I have been all year; I’m happy recreation students put on some activities and I really hope that Sask Polytech brings back intramurals and athletics to the institution.”

“Seeing people smile and have fun is what recreation is all about, and I’m really happy I was able to spearhead this project,” said Recreation and Community Development Student, Dallas Burnett. “Being able to interact with students in a variety of programs was by far one of the greatest benefits,” added Burnett.

The organizers want to thank everyone who was able to participate and hope that the importance for recreation on quality of life and student life is continually emphasized on campus.



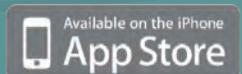
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Dodgeball Winners, Team Get Rec’d



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