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The Honorable Doug Horner  
Minister of Advanced Education & Technology  
Legislature Building  
10800-97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5K 2B6

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Dear Minister Horner:

On behalf of the 12,000 graduate students in the province of Alberta, congratulations on your reelection to the provincial legislature and reappointment as Minister of Advanced Education and Technology.

The Alberta Graduate Council (AGC) appreciates the work you have done in the past to improve graduate education in the province and we look forward to continuing the strong working relationship we have developed with you and your office.

As you are well aware, Alberta faces fierce competition from Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec in attracting high quality graduate students. Universities in those provinces are offering prospective graduate students guaranteed full support for the duration of their graduate careers.

The AGC has suggested a number of ways in which Alberta can become more competitive and, in fact, become the national leader in graduate education. These suggestions include:

1. The establishment of a \$1,500 research allowance for every graduate student in Alberta. This allowance, which can be part of the recruiting package for graduate students, will assist with research-related endeavours.
2. The establishment of a Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts funding agency to mirror the support currently provided by the federal Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec are a few of the provinces that currently have provincial funding mechanisms in this regard.

We look forward to working with you over the coming months with the goal of establishing a national precedent in graduate student support.

Once again, congratulations on your appointment to this important portfolio. Your continuing contributions and commitment to graduate education is greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with you to achieve the goal of making Alberta the centre for innovation, research and learning excellence in Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave J. Hayes', is positioned above the typed name.

Dave J. Hayes  
Chair, Alberta Graduate Council

cc: Marg Leathem  
Director, Business Integration/ACAT  
Advanced Education & Technology

David Coletto  
Vice Chair, Alberta Graduate Council