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## PRESS RELEASE

February 5, 2008

### **Alberta Graduate Students Gear Up for Provincial Election; Focus on Competition with Ontario for Graduate Recruitment and Funding.**

Edmonton, AB - In the hours following the call for the March 3, 2008 Provincial election, the Alberta Graduate Council (AGC), representing over 12,000 Masters and Doctoral students, sprung into action with an all-candidates survey focusing on graduate student issues.

"We are very excited about the prospects of making post-secondary education a key issue in this election," says David Hayes, Chair of the AGC.

"Graduate students are the future of this province, as researchers, professors and individuals who bring new ideas and opportunities to Alberta. We hope that our next government recognizes the importance of supporting and investing in graduate students."

The AGC has long advocated for improvements to graduate student funding opportunities, including the development of Provincial graduate-level scholarships and fellowships to support the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. They will be testing candidates' understanding of graduate student issues and asking what strategies their political parties are developing regarding attracting graduate students to Alberta.

"There are great opportunities to improve graduate student recruitment in Alberta. Ontario, for example, has invested billions of dollars into post-secondary education and is now attracting and supporting the best graduate students Canada has to offer to its universities," says David Coletto, AGC Vice-Chair. "That means more highly skilled personnel are moving to Ontario and not to Alberta. Alberta has to do better. We can't lose out to Ontario."

The Alberta Graduate Council is an umbrella organization that represents and promotes the interests of graduate students in Alberta to the Provincial government and other interested stakeholders. Its members in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge are available for commentary on local issues.

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For additional information about the Alberta Graduate Council visit our website at [www.albertagrads.ca](http://www.albertagrads.ca) or contact David Hayes, Chair at [chair@albertagrads.ca](mailto:chair@albertagrads.ca).