

**For Immediate Release**

## **Alberta Graduate Students Applaud Investment in Graduate Student Awards**

*Calgary, Alberta – September 16, 2008* - The Alberta Graduate Council applauded the provincial government's announcement of additional funding towards a new graduate scholarship recognizing volunteer and community service, and enhancements to the Queen Elizabeth II, Graduate Student, and Graduate Level Arts scholarships.

“Prospective graduate students have two primary considerations when deciding where to attend graduate school: first, the quality of academic program, faculty members and research facilities; second, the amount of funding available,” said David Coletto, Chair of the Alberta Graduate Council and a PhD student at the University of Calgary.

“This announcement is an important step in making graduate studies in Alberta competitive with other provinces in Canada,” added Coletto.

In conversations with Minister Doug Horner and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology, the Alberta Graduate Council has suggested a number of possibilities to better support our Master's and PhD students across the province. Some of these key proposals include the establishment of a \$1,500 research allowance for all Alberta graduate students and the creation of a social sciences and humanities research funding mechanism similar to Alberta Ingenuity or AHFMR (Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research)..

“Today is a good day for graduate students in Alberta, but there is far more work that needs to be done to make Alberta the Canadian leader in research and innovation,” said Coletto.

“Graduate students lie at the core of that mission. Encouraging Alberta undergraduates to pursue graduate studies and attracting higher quality students from outside Alberta requires a commitment on the part of the provincial government and Alberta's post-secondary institutions to increase graduate student support.”

The Alberta Graduate Council is an umbrella organization that represents and promotes the interests of over 12,000 graduate students in Alberta to the Provincial government and other interested stakeholders.

Media inquiries:

David Coletto  
Chair, Alberta Graduate Council  
[chair@albertagrads.ca](mailto:chair@albertagrads.ca)  
(403) 615-4730

For additional information about the Alberta Graduate Council visit our website at [www.albertagrads.ca](http://www.albertagrads.ca).

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