



Letter of Intent for Chair

Dear Election Committee Team,

This Letter of Intent outlines my intention to stand as a candidate for the position of Chair in the upcoming 2026 ESA Election. The purpose of this letter of intent is to formally declare my candidacy and to provide a preliminary overview of the principles and platform that I plan to campaign on. I understand that this document does not constitute a binding commitment but serves as a statement of intent and the foundation for my candidacy moving forward.

My priorities revolve around but are not limited to, campus transit safety, student employment, and affordable student housing. I intend to work collaboratively with students, faculty, and the administration to foster a positive and inclusive environment. If elected chair, I will ensure that the voices of all the universities at the ESA table are heard so that there is equitable representation of the entire student body of universities across Edmonton.

Campus Transit Safety

For years, students have shared concerns about the accessibility and safety of transit. I will work to ensure that Edmonton's transit service, especially on campus and routes frequented by post-secondary students, becomes more reliable and safe. I would also connect and hear from other universities within ESA that may share similar concerns about aspects of transit such as weather-related safety, lighting, route reliability, and cleanliness.

Student Employment

Unemployment for returning students recently hit a historic low in Alberta. This results in both a worsening of the ongoing affordability crisis students face, as well as a gap in the necessary experience students have access to that would prepare them for a career after graduation. If elected chair, I intend to advocate for the City of Edmonton to allocate a granting stream for local businesses to hire students at a subsidized rate.

Affordable Student Housing

Housing remains a major cost barrier for post-secondary students in Edmonton. As the affordability crisis continues, housing costs are one of the largest monthly expenses students experience. If elected chair, I will advocate for the development of new units across Edmonton, to lower the overall average cost of rent in the city.



EDMONTON
STUDENT
ALLIANCE

Institutional Equity

The ESA is composed of students' associations and unions from across Edmonton, with many diverse needs and priorities. If elected chair, I will ensure that all delegated to the ESA are heard equally, and that any barriers to entry are meaningfully addressed.

My personal experience includes serving this past year as the Vice President Student Life at SAMU, where I became closely familiar with the many challenges students in Edmonton are facing today. I also bring over 10 years of governance experience, beginning with my time on the City of Edmonton Youth Council (CEYC) as a Youth-at-Large, where I first met Councillor Andrew Knack. Since then, I have served SAMU Students' Council sitting on various committees, the MacEwan Staff Union (MSU) Board as a Member Representative, and now as the Vice President [External](#) at the Students Association of MacEwan University.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'AT'.

[Alem Tesfay](#)

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