

The Honourable Selina Robinson,  
Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills,  
PO Box 9080 Stn Prov Govt,  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8W 9E2

April 11, 2023

Ms. Robinson,

My name is Garrett Holmes. I am founder of the Canadian Student-Athlete Association (CSA<sup>2</sup>).

The CSA<sup>2</sup> was launched on July 20, 2020, in response to decisions made by Canadian universities, colleges and sporting bodies that dramatically impacted the lives, careers and futures of student-athletes. Decisions that were made with little or no input from student-athletes.

You can visit the CSA<sup>2</sup> website ([www.canadianstudentathleteassociation.ca](http://www.canadianstudentathleteassociation.ca)) to see a list of the decisions and the related issues, which the CSA<sup>2</sup> has addressed since its launch.

**I am writing to you regarding the decision by Simon Fraser University (SFU) to discontinue its men's football program, effective immediately, when they could have discontinued it as of 2024, thus allowing current student-athletes on the team to have one more year of NCAA level competition and the time to make alternative arrangements for 2024 and beyond. The decision by SFU has significant financial and educational implications for the student-athletes involved, implications which appear to have been ignored by SFU. This is not in the best interests of the student-athletes involved, nor is it fair.**

I believe this decision runs counter to your mandate as Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, as it relates specifically to:

- With support from the Minister of State for Workforce Development, take steps to ensure our government is able to respond quickly if private institutions promote or offer sub-standard education to international students, and **develop protections for international students that support their fair treatment across the sector.**

The "given" in the above statement is that every public institution has such protections already in place, by the nature of their being "public" and all that that entails relative to their funding and operation. The Canadian Student-Athlete Association is asking you, as the Minister responsible for Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, to immediately intervene in this situation and demand that SFU temporarily suspend its decision until the matter is looked into fully by your ministry as there are real questions as to the decision making process that was employed and whether that decision is in the best interests of, or fair to international students on the football team (as well as all student-athletes on the team).

Regards,  
Garrett Holmes.

