

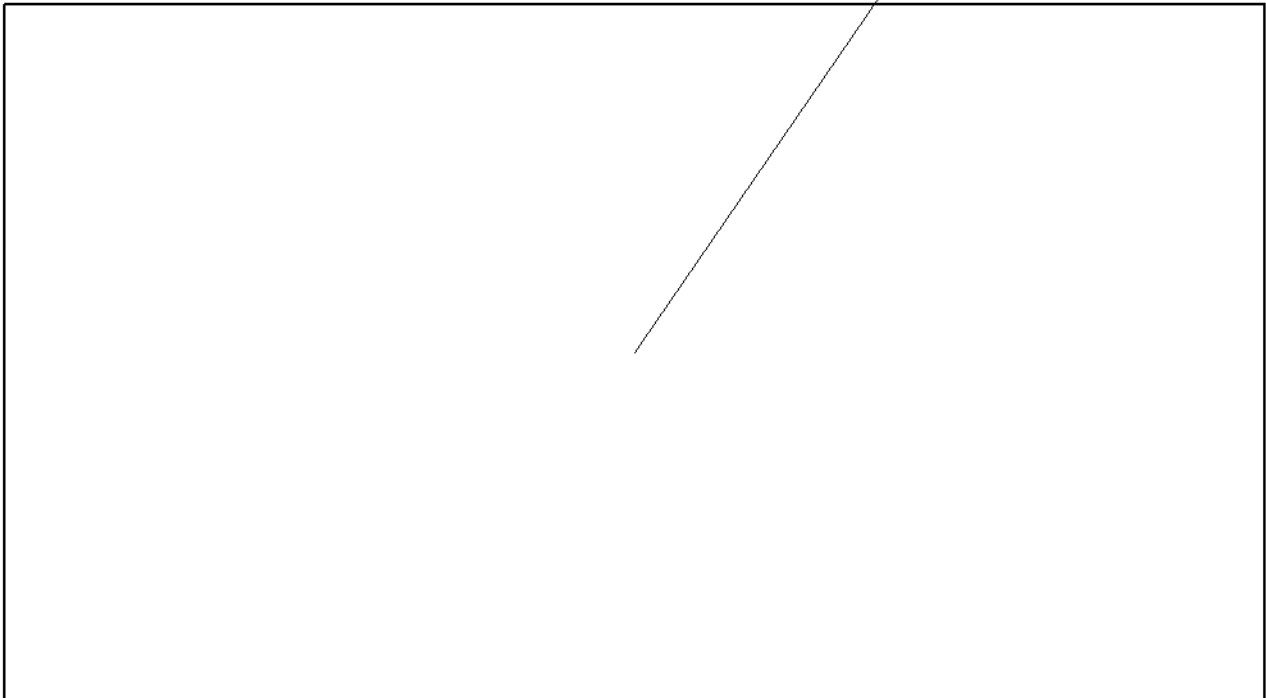
**ADVICE TO HONOURABLE DEMETRIOS NICOLAIDES
MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION**

**MINISTER MEETING WITH COUNCIL OF POST-SECONDARY PRESIDENTS OF
ALBERTA EXECUTIVE**

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PURPOSE

To provide the Minister with information in advance of meeting with the Executive of the Council of Post-Secondary Presidents of Alberta (COPPOA).

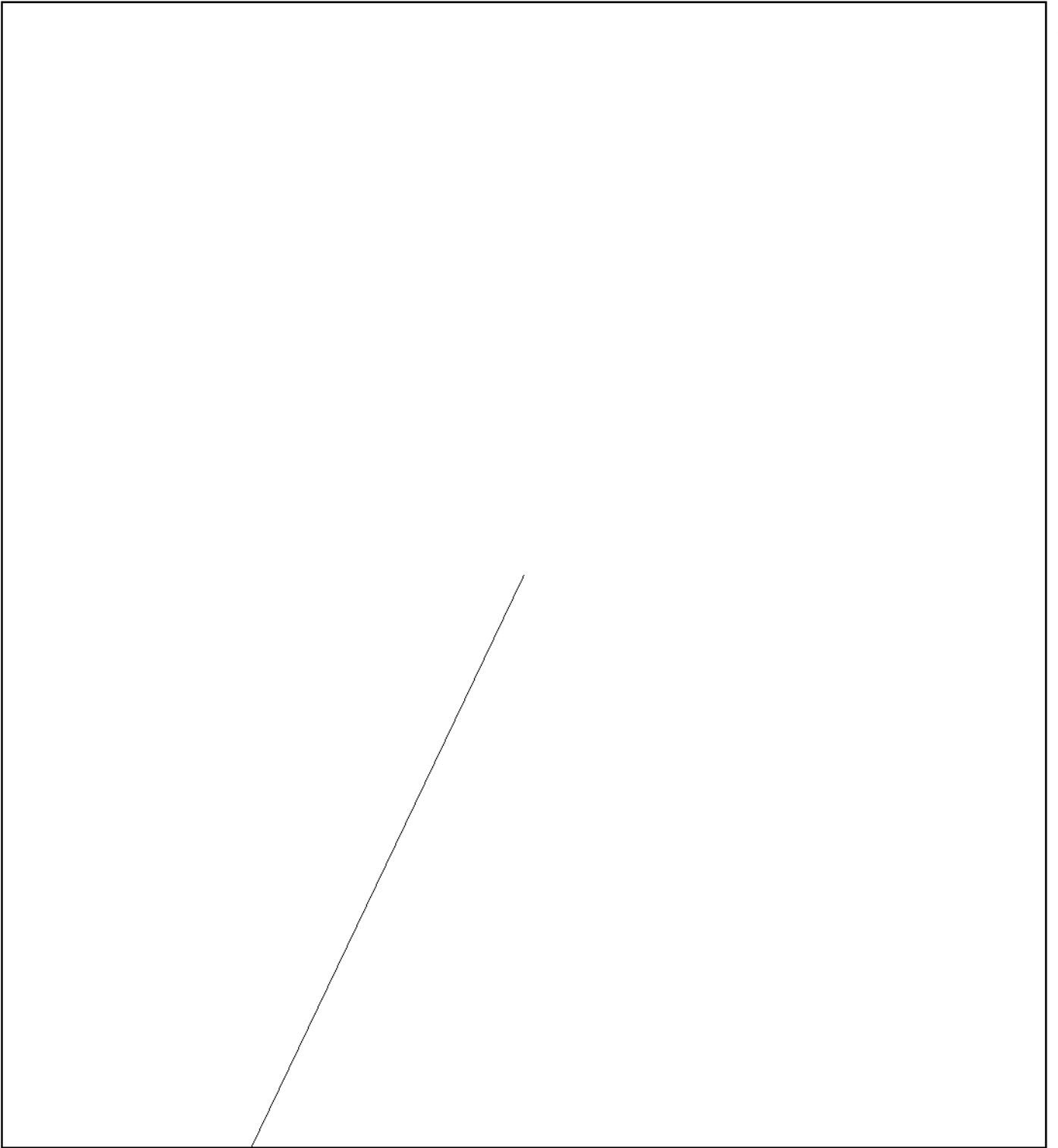


STAKEHOLDER STRATEGY

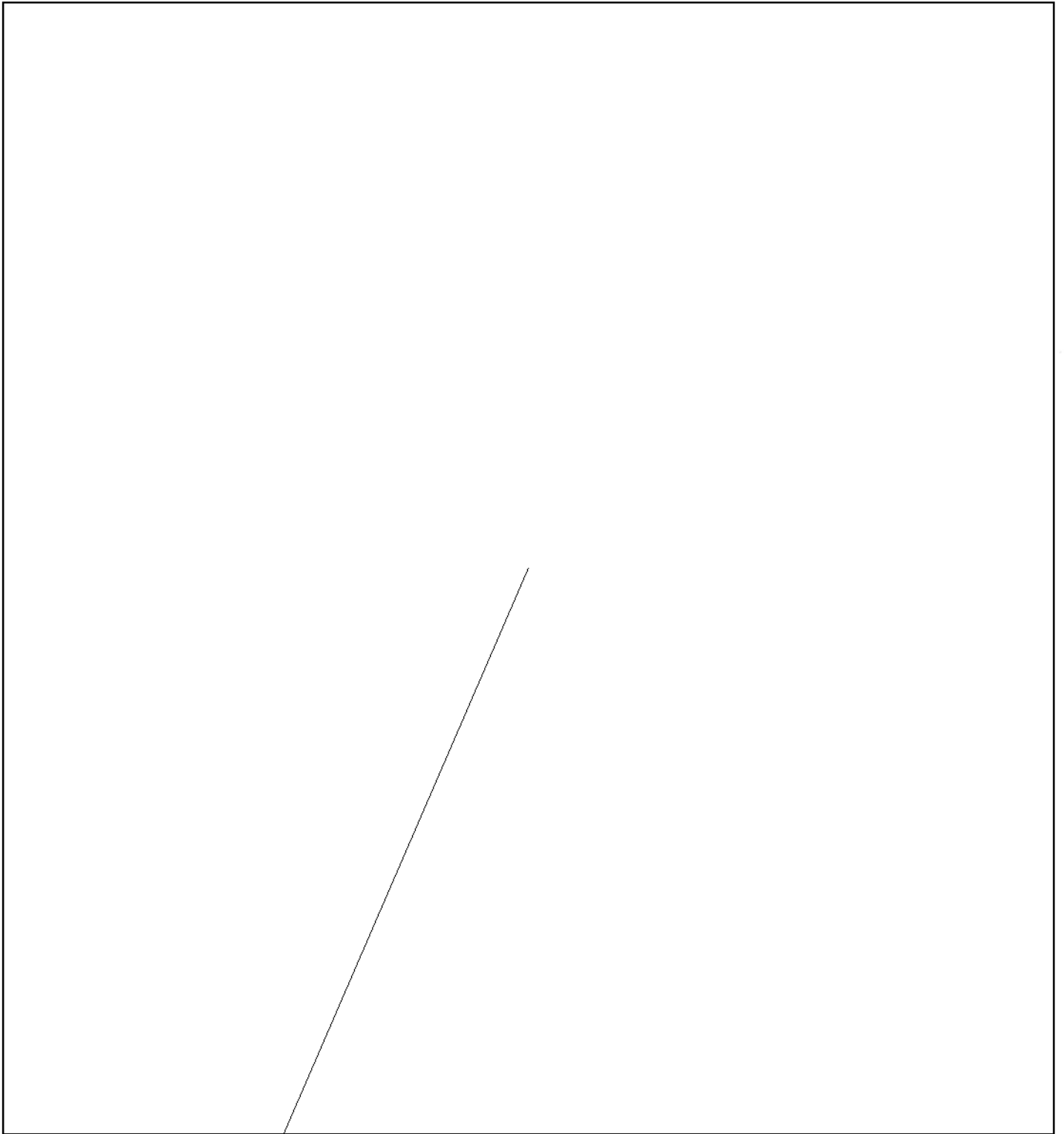
- This meeting is an opportunity for the Minister to provide a high-level overview of government priorities going forward.
 - Overview highlights could include:
 - Free speech: The government is committed to protecting and promoting free speech as a fundamental tenet of the academic experience, as reflected in the University of Chicago Statement on Principles of Free Expression.



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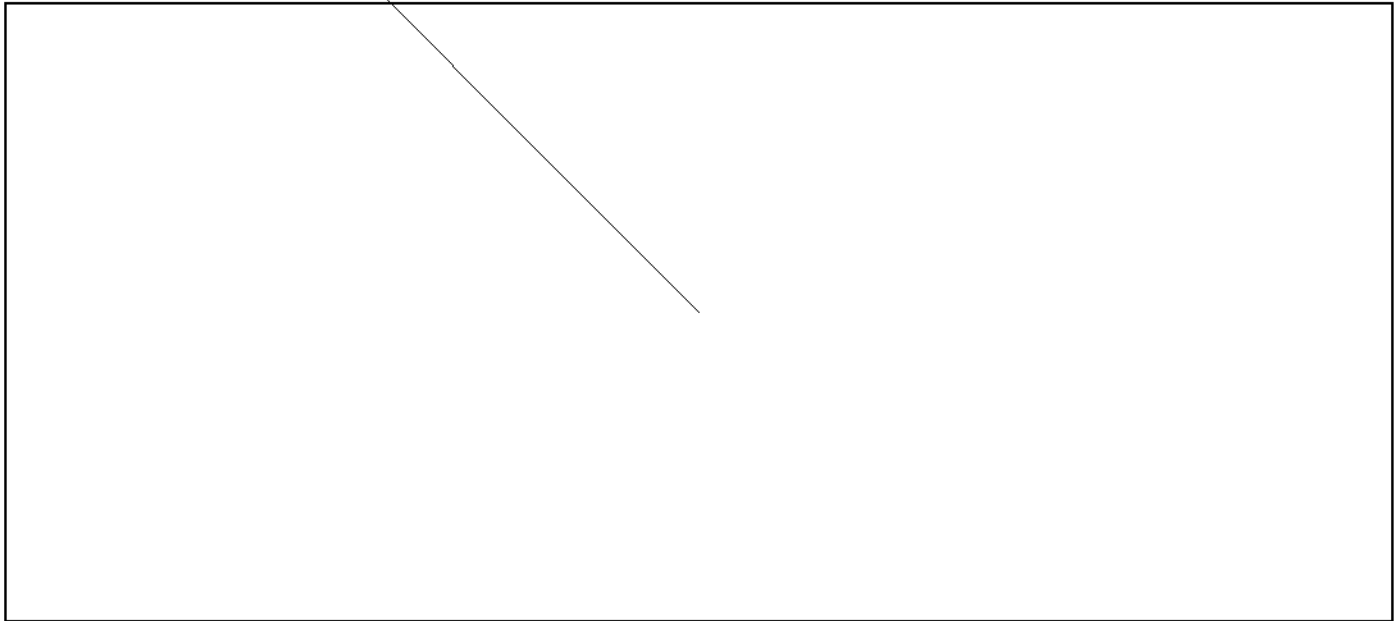


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CONTACT: Peter Leclaire, Assistant Deputy Minister
Advanced Learning and Community Partnerships, 780-641-9349

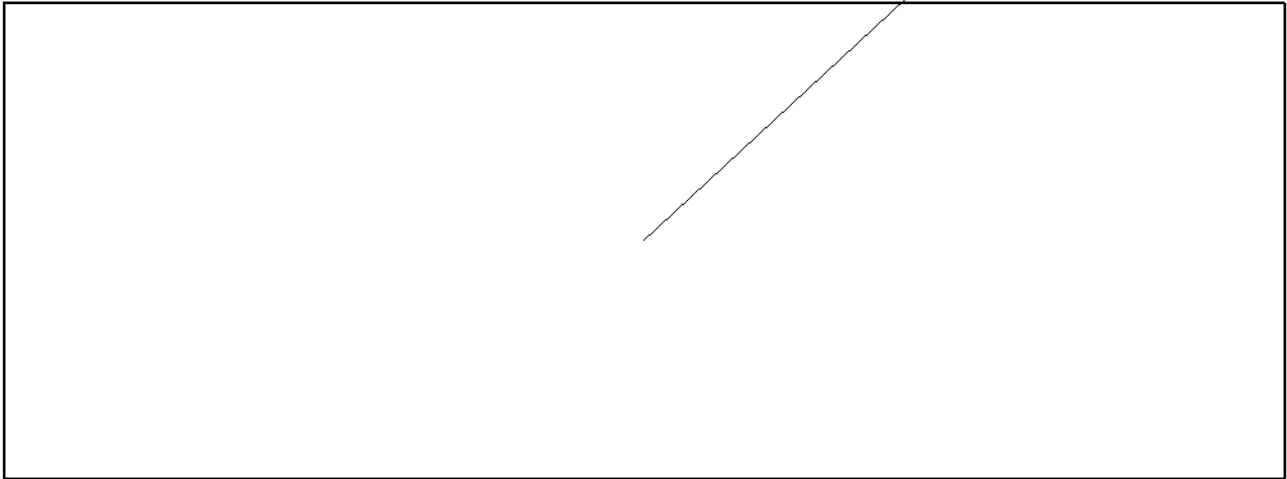
**ADVICE TO HONOURABLE DEMETRIOS NICOLAIDES
MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION**

MINISTER/BOARD CHAIR MEETING

PURPOSE

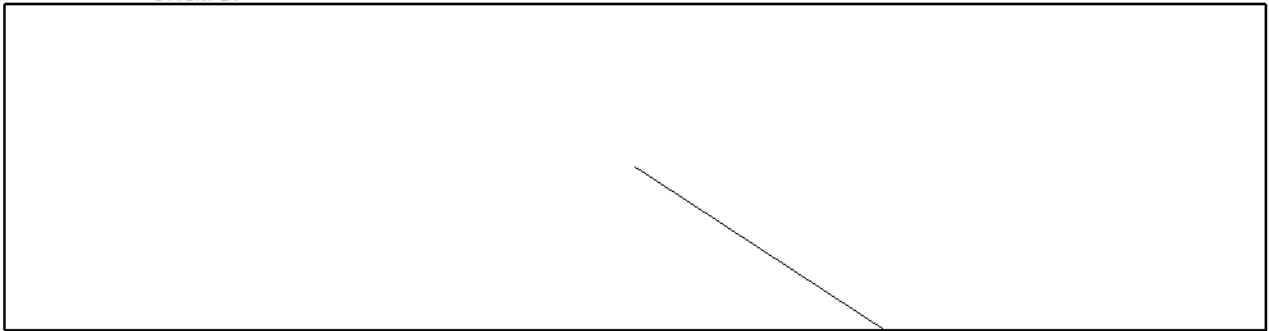
To prepare the Minister for a meeting with the board chairs of the publicly funded post-secondary institutions on June 21, 2019.

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STAKEHOLDER STRATEGY

- This meeting provides an opportunity for the Minister to share information, build relationships, and help fulfil the accountability relationship between the Minister and board chairs.
 - This is the inaugural meeting between Minister Nicolaides and the board chairs.



- The Minister will share information and facilitate discussion around key department initiatives:

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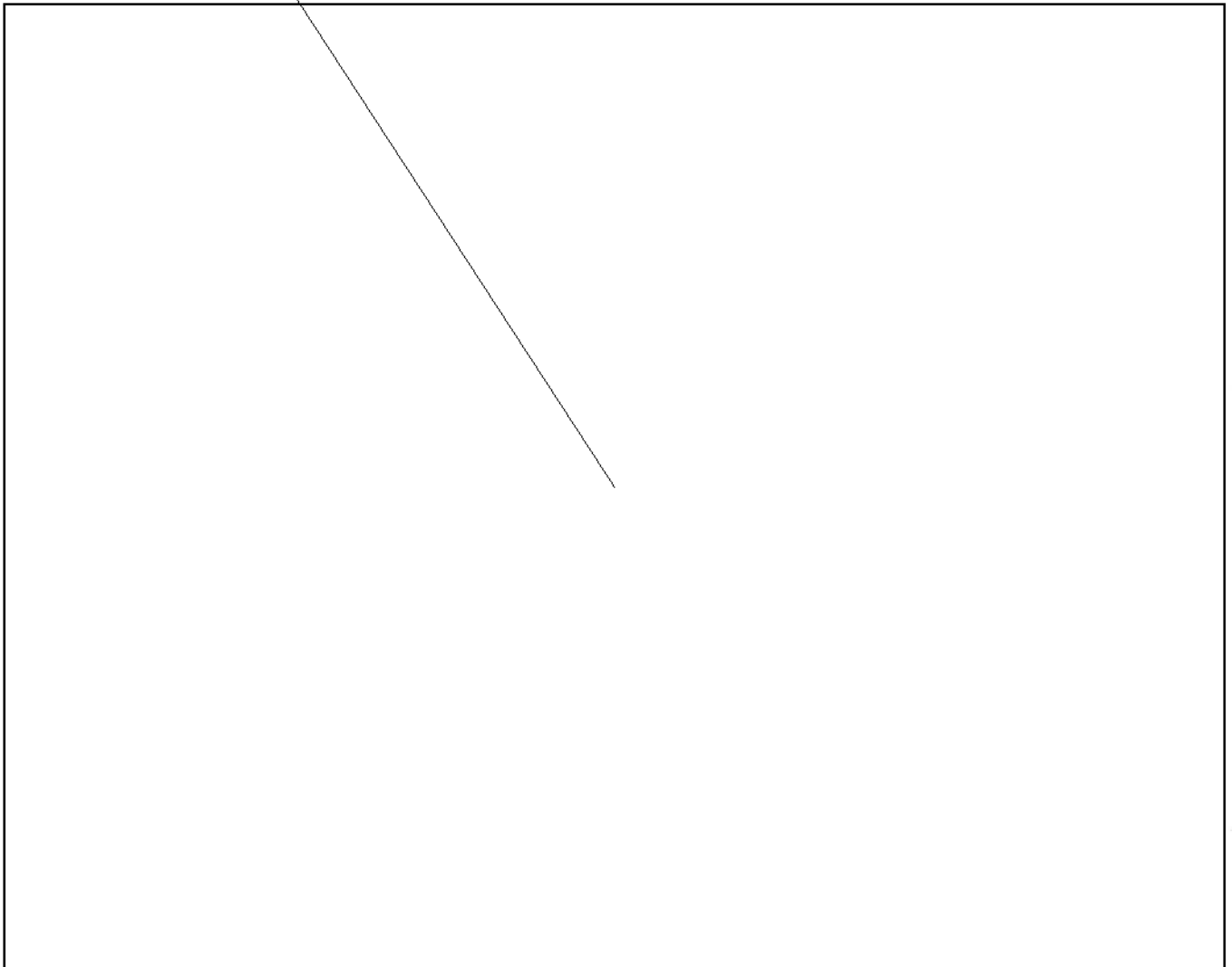
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- free speech, and

[Redacted]

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Meeting Agenda (detailed version for Minister)
2. Meeting Agenda (version to share with participants)
3. List of Attendees (will be updated as participants confirm attendance)
4. Minister Speaking Notes, Key Messages and Background on Agenda Items
5. Board Chair Biographies
6. Board Chair Expiry Report
7. COPPOA Letter

CONTACT: Peter Leclaire, Assistant Deputy Minister
Advanced Learning and Community Partnerships, 780-641-9349

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Agenda Item #5 –**10:45am – 11:00am****Discussion: Free Speech Discussion (15 minutes)****Overview of Agenda Item:**

- a) Minister identifies government expectation on free speech principles.

Key Messages

- Free speech is at the heart of the academic experience and is integral to a healthy democracy.
- We are committed to protecting people's fundamental freedoms, and our post-secondary students and faculty members are no exception.
- The Chicago principles will help ensure that students are exposed to differing views and opinions, and that they develop strong critical thinking skills.
- We recognize that your institutions are already committed to protecting free expression on campus, as almost all of you currently affirm the importance of free speech and freedom of expression in various documents.
- Thank you for your work and efforts to date to ensure everyone on post-secondary campuses can express themselves freely.
- Recently, a letter was sent to each of you with more information on our approach to free speech.
- We are asking you to either formally adopt the Chicago Principles or draft your own stand-alone policy at your institution that aligns with the Chicago principles.
 - Drafting stand-alone policies will provide the opportunity to consolidate your current policies and reflect the specific context at your institution.
- These policies should be provided to the ministry by September 23 for review and approval.
- We will provide you with timely feedback so the policies can be shared widely and posted to institution websites by October 15.
- Thank you in advance for your efforts. We are endeavoring to deliver on this important commitment without placing further onerous administrative requirements on your institutions.

If time permits, the floor can be opened for questions.

Background

- The platform commits government to "require all universities and colleges to develop, post, and comply with free speech policies that conform to the University of Chicago Statement on Principles of Free Expression."
- In July 2014, the University of Chicago tasked a committee with drafting a statement to articulate the institution's commitment to "free, robust, and uninhibited debate and

deliberation” among community members, and the Chicago principles were produced as a result.

- In May 2019, the department conducted a preliminary, high-level analysis of existing free speech policies in the system. It found that almost all institutions have one or multiple documents committing to free speech, expression and/or inquiry.
- To date, no post-secondary institution has adopted a specific, stand-alone policy on free speech, nor has any formally endorsed the Chicago principles.
- Alberta’s post-secondary institutions generally appear to be committed to the principle of free speech, as demonstrated through a variety of policies, codes of conduct and other documents.
- In mid-June, Advanced Education sent a letter to the board chairs of all 26 publicly funded post-secondary institutions asking them to either formally adopt the Chicago Principles, or develop a policy that consolidates their existing protections and demonstrates their commitment to free speech.
 - They have been asked to ensure that their policy, or formal adoption of the Chicago principles, is publicly available by October 15, 2019.
- Institutions have been informed that should they choose to draft their own stand-alone policy, it should align with the substance of the Chicago Principles, while also respecting the unique context at each institution. To achieve this, their policies should reflect that:
 - Institutions are places of open discussion and inquiry, committed to protecting and promoting free expression.
 - Community members have the right to criticize and question other views expressed on campus, but cannot obstruct or interfere with others’ freedom of speech.
 - Institutions should not attempt to shield students from ideas or opinions they disagree with or find offensive. Mutual respect and civility are valued, but do not constitute sufficient justification to limit free speech.
 - Free speech may be limited if it violates the law.
 - Free speech may be limited if it is incompatible with the functioning of the institution.

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SPEAKING NOTES
HONOURABLE DEMETRIOS NICOLAIDES
MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION

**MEETING WITH POST-SECONDARY
INSTITUTION BOARD CHAIRS**

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2019

**MCDUGALL CENTRE
455 – 6 STREET SW
CALGARY, ALBERTA**

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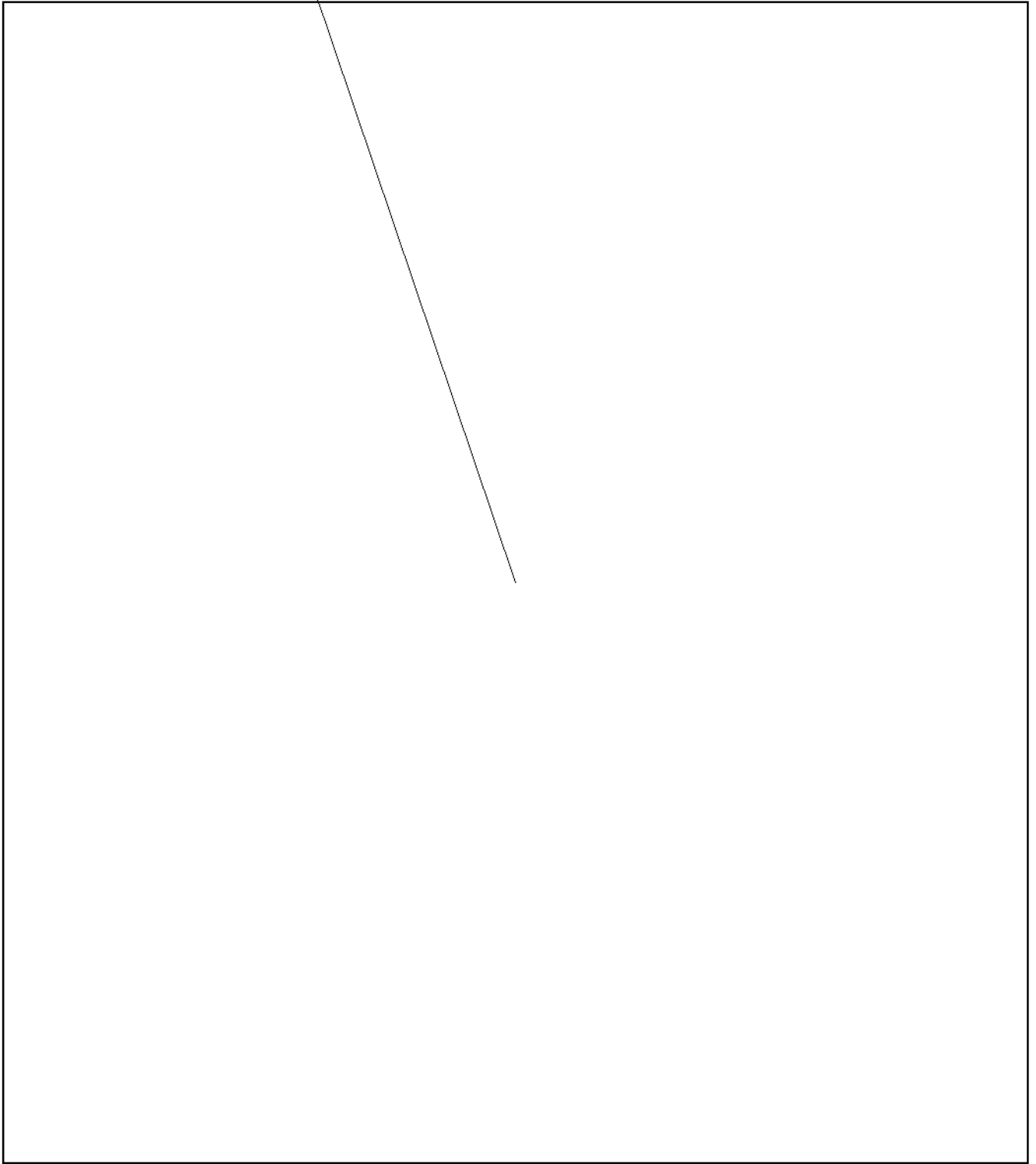
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During the campaign we promised to protect free speech on campuses and we intend to keep our promise.

We will do that by implementing the Chicago Principles.

The principles have been a success on campuses in the United States.

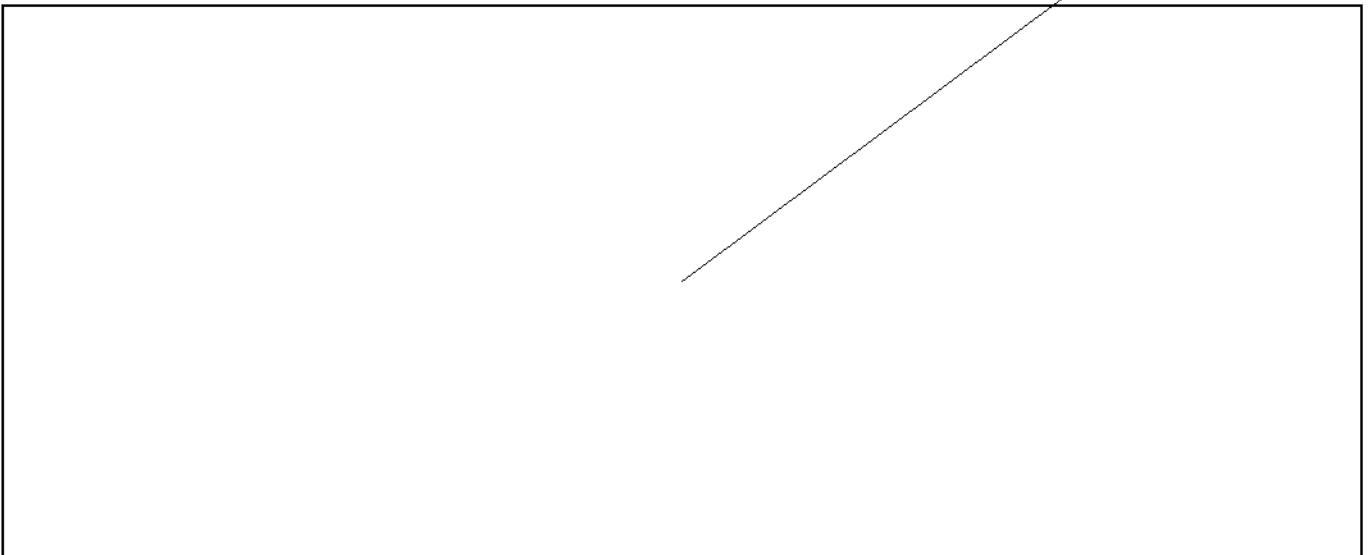
And we're bringing them here to provide safeguards so everyone can speak freely, think critically and learn from differing views and opinions.

That's a fundamental part of the post-secondary experience.

We're asking your institutions to either formally adopt the principles or draft your own policies that align with them.

We ask you to have them in place by October 15.

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**SPEAKING NOTES
HONOURABLE DEMETRIOS NICOLAIDES
MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION**

**MINISTER MEETING WITH COUNCIL OF POST-SECONDARY PRESIDENTS OF
ALBERTA**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2019
1:00 P.M.**

**DELTA HOTELS CALGARY AIRPORT
2001 AIRPORT ROAD NE
CALGARY, ALBERTA**

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Prepared by:	Reviewed by:
Kandice Kew Communications Advisor	
	Laurie Chandler, Press Secretary to the Minister
	Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides, Minister

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During the campaign we promised to protect free speech on campuses, and we intend to keep our promise.

We will do that by implementing the Chicago Principles.

The principles have been a success on campuses in the United States.

We're bringing them here to provide safeguards so everyone can speak freely, think critically and learn from differing views and opinions.

That's a fundamental part of the post-secondary experience.

We're asking your institutions to either formally adopt the principles or draft your own policies that align with them, by fall of this year.

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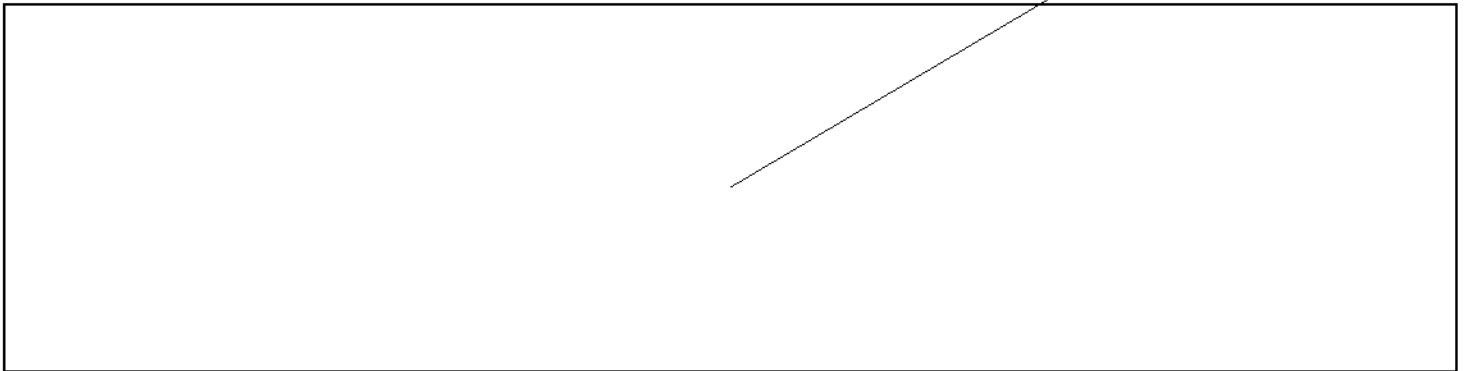
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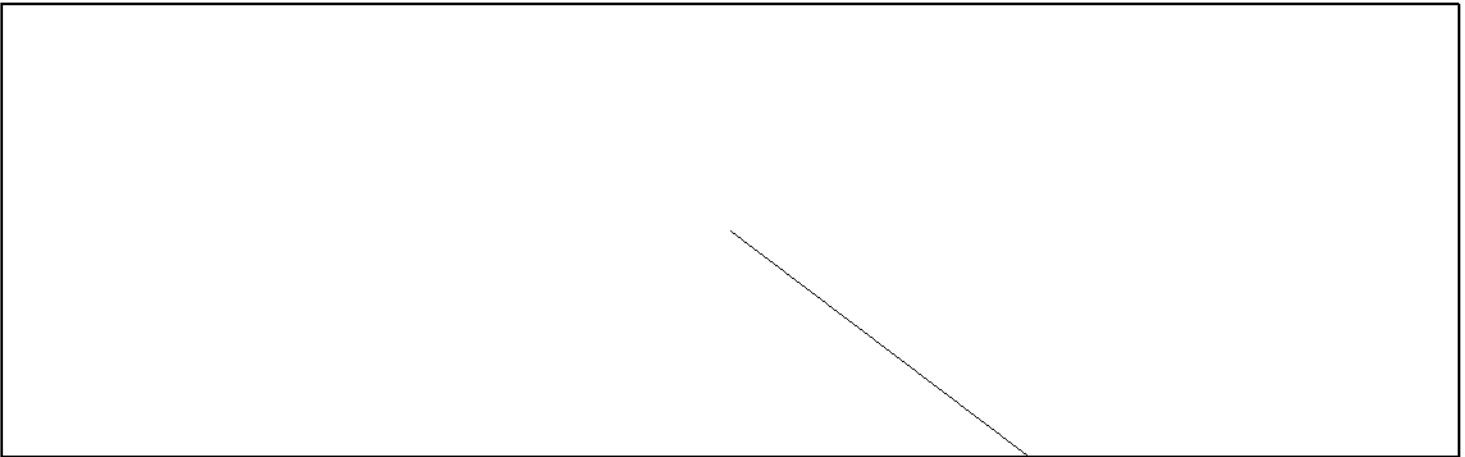
Student Leaders' Orientation Event – June 24-25, 2019

Key Topics and Messages

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Free Speech on Campus5



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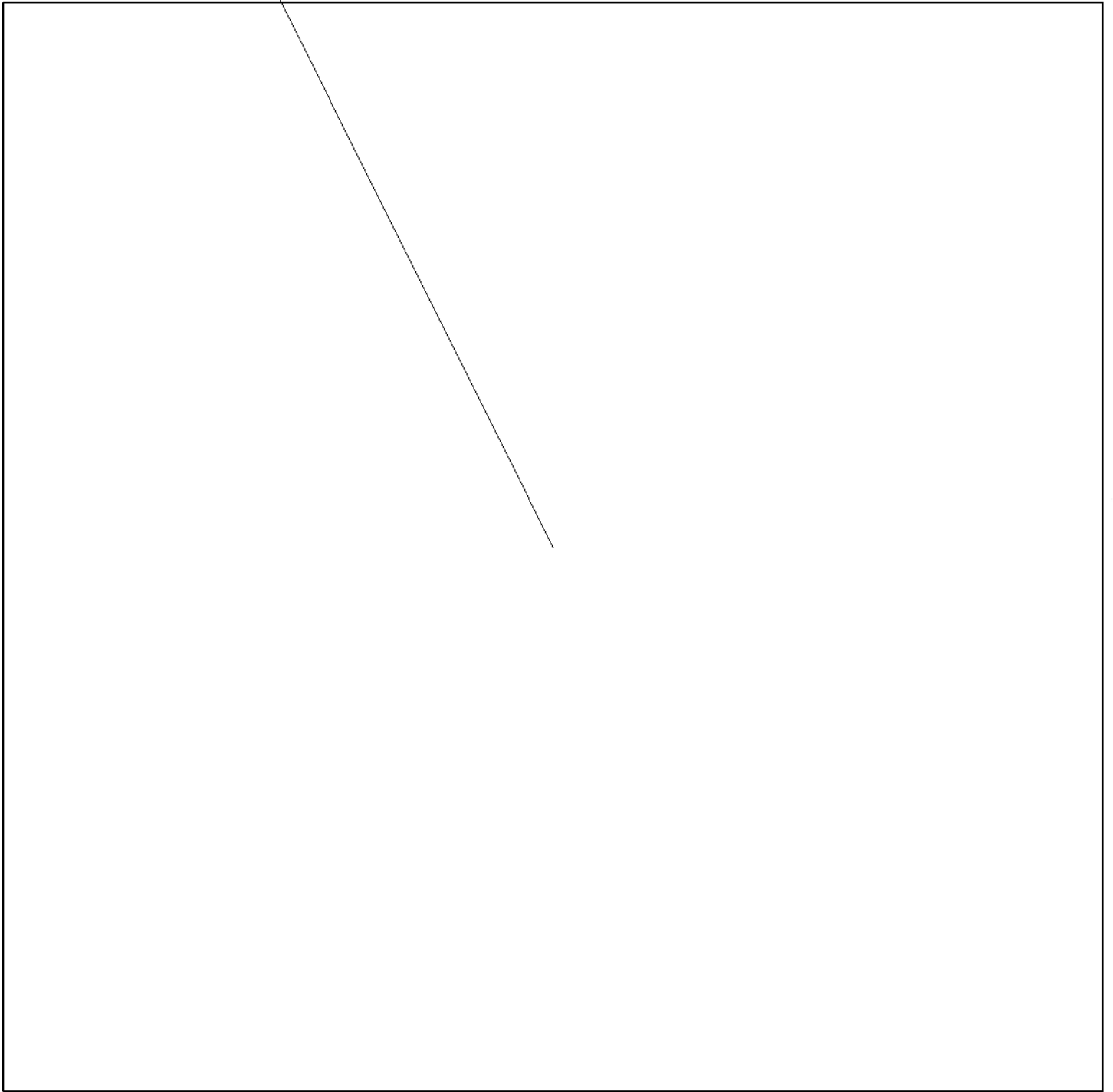
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Student Leaders' Orientation Event – June 24-25, 2019

Key Topics and Messages



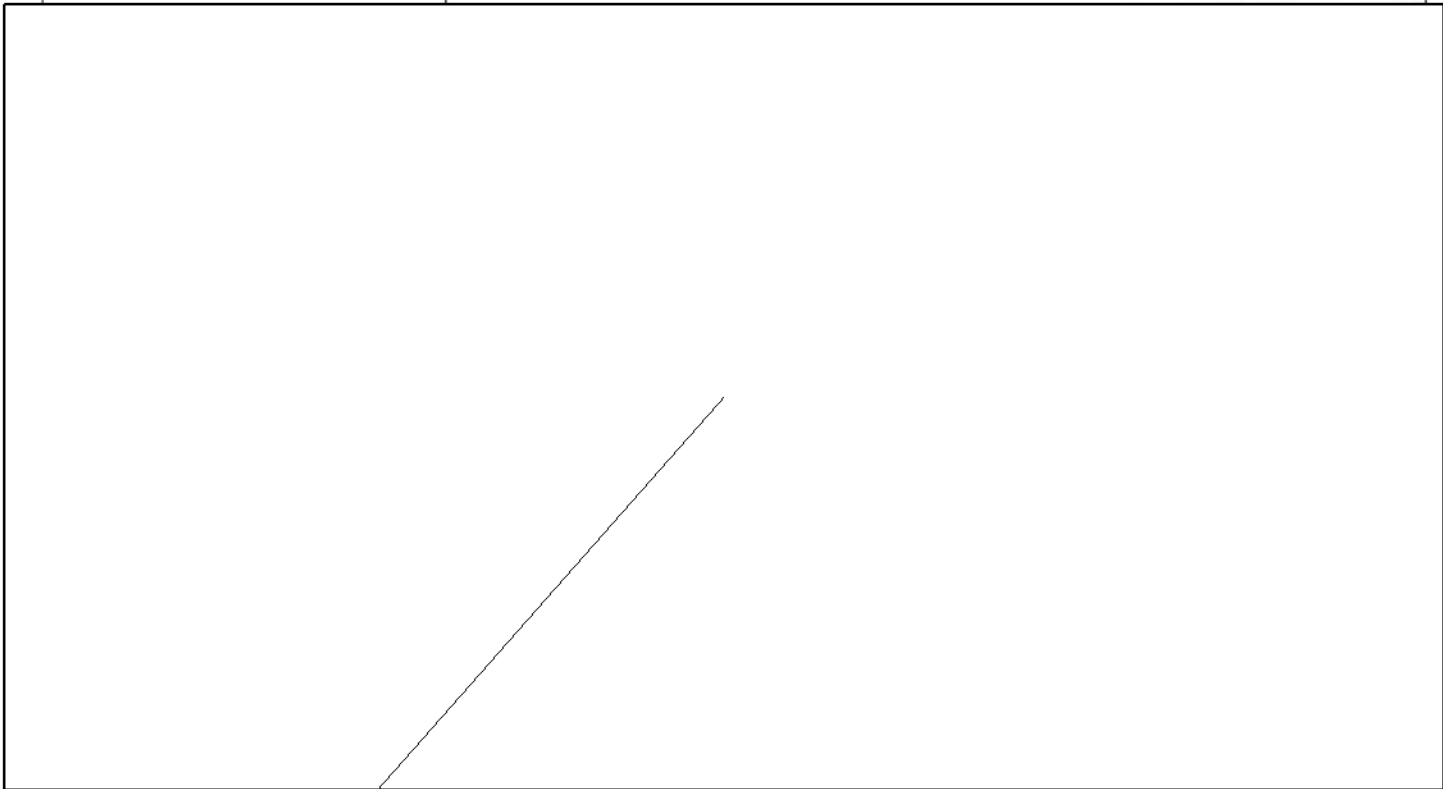
Free Speech on Campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Government of Alberta is committed to free speech as a fundamental tenet of post-secondary education. In the U.S., an effective means of protecting free speech on campus has been through the Chicago Principles.• The Chicago Principles are a brief statement affirming the rights to
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Student Leaders' Orientation Event – June 24-25, 2019

Key Topics and Messages

free and open debate and exchange of ideas on post-secondary campuses within legal parameters, even if some ideas may be considered unpopular.

- We are asking institutions to implement free speech policies to promote and protect free expression on post-secondary campuses, to ensure that students continue to learn in an environment of diverse views and opinions.
- Many institutions already affirm the importance of free speech, expression and/or inquiry in various policies and documents.
- Institutions have been asked to either formally adopt the Chicago Principles, or draft their own stand-alone policy that aligns with the Chicago principles and reflects the specific context at the institution.
- The free speech policies will apply to all community members, including students, faculty and administrators. They will also apply to guests at institutions.
- Government would like all Free Speech policies or endorsements of the Chicago Principles to be in place and publicly available in the fall of this year.
- The long-term impacts of ensuring freedom of expression on our campuses will be beneficial to the entire post-secondary sector and the province as a whole.



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