

WHY DO WE WEAR BLUE RIBBONS?

When we wear these ribbons on our shirts, backpacks, and jackets we show everyone around us that we are standing together to demand the high-quality education that will help us succeed.

In 2019, the UCP created the Blue Ribbon Panel. Their job was to evaluate government spending and see what could be cut to 'balance' the budget. The panel suggested wide-sweeping cuts to post-secondary funding and education incentives. **There was zero mention or consideration given to how much more financial aid is available in comparator provinces to make up for their lower post-secondary funding.**

Blue ribbons are also used to symbolize high quality (like a first-place ribbon), but the cuts to post-secondary have resulted in the opposite effect. At the recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Panel in the past three years:

- \$170 million has been cut from the UofA's budget
- 2000 layoffs have been made at the UofA, and many of those laid off were support staff
- Our tuition and education tax credits were slashed, meaning we pay more in taxes and get less money back at the end of the year
- The cost of our education and services at the UofA have gone up for many
- And the quality of research, programming, and much more have been seriously impacted

Altogether, this means that the cost of our education has increased while the quality of education has decreased. The ribbon symbolizes both the cuts that have been made to our education and the quality education that we demand and deserve.