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Ed.Sine, January 23, 1987 Private colleges want matching grants

Two private Christian colleges want the provincial government to change the way funds private post-secondary it institutions.

Their major concern is a policy whereby private institutions cannot get matching grants for capital projects and endowment funds the way public institutions can.

Representatives of Edmonton's Concordia College and King's College told an advisory committee on college affairs the government should re-examine the funding situation so private institutions can do long-term planning.

"The opportunity given to the general public to have their gifts matched by the government, provided the gift is made for

endowments to the public institutions, is unfair and penalizes not only the affiliated (private) institutions, but the citizens of Alberta as well," said Frank Belden, dean of development and communication at Concordia College.

Tuition fees are a major concern at Concordia, Belden said.

"Students should not be penalized for seeking an alternative to the major university in Alberta," said Belden.

Simon Kouwenhouven, chairman of the King's College Foundation, agreed with Belden.

"We want to be considered in the same vein as public institutions (in terms of matching grants for private donations)," said Kouwenhouven. "We depend more on charitable funding — this is a plea for equal time and equal measure."

About 60 per cent of the revenue from King's College comes from private donations and about 20 per cent comes from the government.

About 40 per cent of Concordia's operating budget comes from the government with 12 per cent private.

The committee also heard a pitch against education funding cutbacks from the University of Alberta's Anti-Cutbacks Team, a U of A Students Union committee.

Robin Boodle, who represented the anti-cutbacks group, said if the government is interested in creating jobs, it should not cut back education.