

March 12, 2019

## **Accounting Club students offer free tax clinic**

Edmonton – MacEwan University's Accounting Club (MUAC) will once again be offering a free tax preparation clinic to help low-income members of the community and students who cannot easily afford to pay to have their taxes prepared.

"Having a free clinic like ours helps support these individuals who may otherwise not file their taxes and miss out on tax credits and additional financial support," says club member Dalin Duce. "Our clinic has assisted many refugees, new residents, and immigrants."

"For the last few years, we have worked with immigrant organizations who have come to our clinic in buses, and this year we will be meeting another immigrant organization outside of MacEwan to prepare their tax returns." Now in its ninth-year, many of the student volunteers speak multiple languages, and they are able to translate into the client's native language.

"As a registered organization under the CRA's Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP), we are restricted to who we can offer the services our services to," says Duce. "All returns must only be for personal tax returns and not include business income. The CRA gives us recommended limits that we must follow. For an individual, their income should not be greater than \$35,000, and a combined income of \$45,000 for a couple."

Last year the MUAC filed 627 tax returns, which included more than 250 students. "It can be hard to afford the cost of having taxes prepared by a public tax preparation service, especially when you are not familiar with the tax system and don't know if you'll be getting a refund," adds Duce. "Having a free service dedicated to low-income individuals, allows more members of the community to take advantage of the tax credits and support that are available to them."

When: Monday, March 18 - March 30 (excluding Sunday, March 24)

Where: Robbins Health Learning Centre (Building 9, 2nd Floor Atrium)

Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MUAC student volunteer members are available for media interviews to discuss why this initiative is important for the club members.

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**For more information, please contact:**

David Beharry, Media Relations Advisor

780-497-5586

Cell: 780-231-5954

Email: [beharryd@macewan.ca](mailto:beharryd@macewan.ca)

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