Hello Everyone!!

I'm Chaten Jessel, a third-year medical student at the University of Calgary, and it was an absolute pleasure to serve as your Director of Government Affairs and Advocacy during the 2023-2024 school year!

My journey in advocacy began during my undergraduate years when I represented my faculty in student government. During that time, I served on over 20 committees, including my faculties Dean Selection, Teaching and Learning, Research and Scholarship, Equity Diversity & Inclusion (EDI), and Indigenization committees. As a representative, I initiated projects to reduce financial burdens on students, break down systemic barriers for Indigenous applicants, and create scholarships for marginalized communities. I also led study-space renovations to make university spaces more accessible for all!

This past year as the Medical Student Representative with the Canadian Medical Forum (CMF) EDII Task Force, I’ve helped shaped initiatives aimed at combating racism, promoting EDI best practices, and advocating for diverse representation in leadership roles. Notably, my contributions include spearheading projects such as establishing universal inclusive French gender labeling and contributing to the CMF's statement on reconciliation and anti-racism.

In my free time, I love reading, running, and working out at the university's basement gym, colloquially referred to as "The Dungeon”. I am a passionate advocate with a drive for leadership and a commitment to social justice. I believe in listening to student ideas and priorities to shape my advocacy and promote transparency, inclusivity, and collaboration. I am excited to continue making a positive impact in my community and beyond.