



For Immediate Release

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McGuinty Shows Leadership during Tough Economic Times

Toronto, ON – Ontario's college and college/university students are pleased with the leadership shown by the McGuinty government in the 2009 Ontario Budget; delivered this afternoon by Minister of Finance, Dwight Duncan. Budget 2009 provides billions of dollars to stimulate the economy and create job growth across the province.

"Students applaud the provincial government for recognizing the needs and role of colleges in Ontario. We are thrilled to see significant infrastructure investments in the Budget to enable institutions to tackle a backlog in deferred maintenance and to modernize facilities to educate current and future students," says Jenn Howarth, President of the College Student Alliance.

Budget 2009 commits over \$780 million in capital funding for Ontario colleges and universities over the next two years to modernize facilities and boost the long-term research and skills training capacity of the province. Ontario's colleges will also be receiving an additional \$488 million over two years to improve infrastructure and deferred maintenance.

"Thousands of students across Ontario faxed letters to their Member(s) of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) encouraging the government to fairly recognize and support colleges. Thanks to the hard work of college and college/university students in the province, there will be increased capacity to manage the influx of new students that will be entering the system to gain the needed knowledge and skills for these tough economic times," says Howarth.

Recognizing the immense fiscal pressures felt by Ontario's colleges and universities, the McGuinty government has committed an additional \$150 million in one-time funding to tackle the enrolment and operating challenges at postsecondary education institutions.

"The CSA was looking to Premier McGuinty and Minister Duncan to make tough decisions and smart choices in today's budget leading to a plan that would see Ontario through the current challenges," says Tyler Charlebois, Director of Advocacy. "We are pleased to say that this is not only a budget but an action plan and we are encouraged to continue to work with the government to witness prosperity in Ontario."

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The College Student Alliance (CSA) is an advocacy and services organization, which has been proudly serving Ontario's college and college/university students since 1975. The CSA currently represents 16 colleges and 23 student councils with over 109,000 full-time student members throughout the province.

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