



**For Immediate Release  
Monday, March 9, 2009**

### **Students Seeking Fairness in 2009 Ontario Budget**

**Toronto, ON**—The College Student Alliance (CSA) along with Ontario's college and college/university students have launched a campaign to tell the McGuinty government and all elected Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) that colleges are worth more and deserve an equal share of all infrastructure investments expected in the Budget.

"Students want the government to know that the traditional 70/30 split between funding for universities and colleges is not good enough anymore," says Jenn Howarth, President of the College Student Alliance. "With the current state of the economy, Ontario's colleges and its graduates are what is needed for today's recession and tomorrow's re-growth."

In 2007, the Educational Consulting Service Corporation concluded that a \$700 million cash infusion was needed to deal with the deferred maintenance backlog at Ontario's colleges. It is also estimated that college facilities and equipment are depreciating at the rate of \$140 million annually. A fact that both the federal and provincial governments have recognized, but as of yet have not appropriately responded to with the necessary funds to address the challenges of our crumbling infrastructure and aging buildings, classrooms and labs.

"Students are asking Premier McGuinty and Minister of Finance, Dwight Duncan, to do what is fair and just and provide Ontario's 24 colleges with an equal share of infrastructure stimulus dollars. Our institutions and classes are suffering from years of disrepair just as much as our universities and as such should be provided with the same resources to tackle the issues of deferred maintenance and infrastructure." adds Ms. Howarth.

Knowing the already positive return-on-investment received from colleges, the government must also recognize that this current recession will create a larger demand for the knowledge, skills and training provided by colleges on the more than 100 campuses across the province. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business' says that college graduates are needed over university graduates by ratio of six to one.

"If Ontario is to meet this current challenge head on, we must ensure that all citizens have access to the education that will guarantee not only their competitive advantage, but Ontario's," says Tyler Charlebois, Director of Advocacy. "It is time for 'real' leadership; it is time to provide Ontario's college with their fair share."

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The College Student Alliance (CSA) is an advocacy and services organization which has been proudly serving Ontario's college students since 1967. The CSA currently represents 16 colleges and 23 student councils with over 109,000 full-time student members throughout the province.

For further information:

Tyler Charlebois,  
Director of Advocacy  
College Student Alliance  
(416) 340-1212  
(416) 346-9951

[Charlebois@collegestudentalliance.ca](mailto:Charlebois@collegestudentalliance.ca)

Jenn Howarth  
President  
College Student Alliance  
(705) 566-8101, ext. 7729  
(705) 521-4776

[president@collegestudentalliance.ca](mailto:president@collegestudentalliance.ca)