



**For Immediate Release
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McGuinty Government Recognizes Contribution of College Part-timers

TORONTO, ON - This afternoon, the McGuinty government announced that following a full consultative review, part-time and seasonal college employees will be granted the right to bargain, says the College Student Alliance (CSA).

"Ontario college and college/university students are pleased with today's announcement that will ensure that all employees of Ontario's Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (CAATs) and Institutes of Technology and Advance Learning (ITALs) are treated fair and equally no matter if they are full- or part-time employees," says Tyler Wiles, president of the College Student Alliance.

Currently, Ontario is the only province in Canada where part-time college workers are denied the right to bargain collectively. This simple right has been denied to part-timers since the Colleges Collective Bargaining Act was passed in 1975. Following the October 10th election, the respected Kevin Whitaker, Chair of the College Relations Commission will lead a review that will provide guidance on how the rights should be given.

"A consultative review will allow all stakeholders involved an opportunity to provide their input and advice on such an important issue facing Ontario's 24 colleges," adds Wiles. "Students will be looking to Mr. Whitaker to ensure that their part-time on-campus employment is not threatened or reduced as a result of the unionization of part-time workers."

Of the 17,000 part-timers working at Ontario colleges 5,136 are students working part-time funded by the Ontario Work Study (OWS) program and/or tuition set-aside. In 2003-04, 2,538 students working on-campus were OSAP recipients and another 3,689 were non-OSAP recipients. Confederation College in Thunder Bay has found that 75 per cent of students who worked part-time on OWS graduated compared to the college average of only 55 per cent.

"The CSA supports and respects all staff working day in and day out at our colleges to educate the future leaders of tomorrow," says Tyler Charlebois, Director of Advocacy. "The knowledge and experience that part- and full-time faculty bring to the classroom is what the college system was founded on," adds Charlebois.

The CSA looks forward to working with Mr. Whitaker and all other stakeholders to see that any decision made is in the best interest of our students and works to improve the overall quality of education.

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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