



For Immediate Release
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Students Welcome Provincial and Federal Cooperation on Skills Agenda

TORONTO, ON- Ontario's college and college/university students welcome today's announcement by the federal government to deliver \$1.2 billion to the province for labour market training, says the College Student Alliance (CSA).

"Students are pleased that both levels of government are coming together to tackle the challenge of the labour shortage in this province," says Tyler Wiles, President for the College Student Alliance. "This announcement shows that when push comes to shove the federal and provincial governments can work together to bring about positive change that will effect many Ontarians."

The new Canada-Ontario Labour Market Agreement will infuse an additional \$1.2 billion over the next six years into the provinces labour market. As of April 1, 2008, these investments will focus on supporting skills development for unemployed individuals in Ontario; especially those from under-represented groups and individuals entering and re-entering the workforce.

The Conference Board of Canada has stated that if Ontario is going to meet the challenges of a pending labour shortage throughout the province, we must not solely rely on immigration, but focus on the education and training of those currently being under-represented in today's workforce.

"With at latest 70 per cent of the jobs in Ontario needing some form of postsecondary education, it is paramount that every Ontarian/Canadian have access to the education and training that will lead them to a successful career," says Tyler Charlebois, Director of Advocacy of the CSA. "This new agreement will definitely assist in meeting that challenge."

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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