



**For Immediate Release**  
**Tuesday, February 26, 2008**

## **Students Look Forward to Shaping New Grant Program**

**TORONTO, ON** - Federal government says 'good-bye' to the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation (CMSF) with introduction of a new consolidated Canada Student Grant Program, says the College Student Alliance (CSA).

"Ontario students are very optimistic that today's federal budget will lead to a renewed discussion with the government on how we can make postsecondary education in Canada more accessible and affordable," says Tyler Wiles, President of the College Student Alliance. "The government has signaled to students with today's announcement of a new grant program and increased investments targeted to the Canada Student Loans Programs (CSLP) that they are ready to talk."

Budget 2008 delivers a commitment of \$350 million for 2009-10 increasing to \$430 million by 2012-13 for the new Canada Student Grant Program. These grants will be targeted towards low- and middle income college and university students. A low-income student can expect to receive an up-front grant of \$250 per month for the entire length of their program of study; while a middle-income student will receive \$100 per month. Some 245,000 students are expected to benefit from the new grant program; an increase of 100,000 students.

"The CSA is pleased that the government has heard the calls of Ontario college and college/university students for a grant program that is delivered up-front, for the entire program length and directed to low- and middle income students," adds Wiles. "We are also pleased with the recognition that the current Canada Student Loans Program needs to be modernized and enhanced."

Starting in 2009-10, the federal government will invest \$123 million into the streamlining and modernizing of the Canada Student Loans Program. As part of this investment, students will see and experience a new service delivery vision that will expand online services and enable students to manage their loans from application to repayment as well as support for part-time and married students and flexibility for students who experience difficulty once in repayment.

"Today's budget shows that the federal government is keeping an eye to the future and our future leaders of tomorrow," says Tyler Charlebois, Director of Advocacy. "It is important for all Canadians to have access to postsecondary education that is affordable and of the upmost quality, if we are to compete in the global knowledge-based economy."

Ontario college and college/university students are united in our position to work with the federal government and the province to ensure that students see the true benefits of today's announcements.

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.

For further information:

Tyler Charlebois  
Director of Advocacy  
College Student Alliance  
T: (416) 340-1212  
C: (416) 346-9951  
E: [advocacy@collegestudentalliance.ca](mailto:advocacy@collegestudentalliance.ca)

Tyler Wiles  
President  
College Student Alliance  
T: (519) 566-7211  
E: [srcpresident@stclaircollege.ca](mailto:srcpresident@stclaircollege.ca)

372 Richmond Street West, Suite 301 Toronto, ON Canada M5V 1X6  
T 416.340.1212 TF 1.800.660.9656 F 647.438.1979 W [www.collegestudentalliance.ca](http://www.collegestudentalliance.ca)