



For Immediate Release
Tuesday, January 29, 2008

McGuinty Government Recognizes Infrastructure Shortfall at Ontario's Colleges and Universities

TORONTO, ON - This morning the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, Hon. John Milloy, and Minister of Health and Long-term Care, Hon. George Smitherman, announced that the McGuinty government is investing an additional \$200 million in campus renewal projects across the all colleges and universities.

"Students are grateful for the recognition that our institutions, classrooms and labs are in desperate need of repairs, says Tyler Wiles, President for the College Student Alliance. "This announcement shows that the McGuinty government is focused on making our institutions and campuses a better place to learn and work."

Today's announcement will provide Ontario's 24 colleges with an additional \$65 million, which will be targeted towards three main priority areas. Institutions have been given the options of spending their resources on energy efficiency initiatives, campus safety and security initiatives and/or renewal of existing infrastructure. It will not be hard for colleges to determine their spending as the system is currently being faced with a backlog of deferred maintenance and infrastructure renewal projects.

"These funds could not have come at a better time as our college system is currently facing a \$77 million budget shortfall for 2008-09," says Tyler Charlebois, Director of Advocacy of the CSA. "Students across the province will now see their institution making the necessary improvements that will ultimately improve the quality and overall experience of learning inside and outside of the classroom."

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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