



**For Immediate Release  
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## **College Students Working to Better Accountability and Affordability in Ontario's Colleges**

**TORONTO, ON** - Ontario college and college/university students along with the College Student Alliance (CSA) have been working with the government, colleges and Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) to strengthen the accountability and affordability of a college education through enhancements to the mandatory ancillary fee policy.

"The CSA has for years been working with our student governments and their students to address the enormous issues with the current mandatory ancillary fee policy to ensure that students are only paying for their fair share of the cost their education," says Tyler Wiles, President of the College Student Alliance. "Ensuring accessibility and affordability of our college system has and always will be priority number one for the CSA."

Colleges and universities across the province and throughout Canada supplement government operating funding and tuition fees with revenue from mandatory and non-mandatory ancillary fees. These fees are to fund services and programs and facilities not covered by operating funds and tuition fees. In Ontario, all mandatory fees are subject to a protocol that ensures the elected representatives for the students - the student government - has the second to last say on whether or not a fee is increased or a new one is implemented.

"As the cost of obtaining a postsecondary education designation continues to increase; it is important that where ever possible students are the ones controlling the level of increase," adds Wiles.

The CSA has a proven track record of representing the interests of Ontario college and college/university students in matters related to tuition and mandatory ancillary fees. This year alone we've seen results for students at Sheridan and Sault College as students were incorrectly charged an ineligible fee under the current policy and were issued a refund by the college. We also have been working with the student government at Conestoga College and the MTCU to tighten up some of their fees. In fact, a few years ago, the CSA alongside the Mohawk Student Association worked with the MTCU to reverse a new fee imposed to students without their approval by the college, which resulted in Mohawk College refunding over \$225,000 to the students.

"The CSA remains committed to ensuring that Ontario's postsecondary education system remains accessible, affordable and accountable," says Tyler Charlebois, Director of Advocacy. "For over three decades, the CSA has been the champion of the college system and the rights of students."

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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