



**For Immediate Release  
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## **Federal Budget Falls Short of Expectations: Ontario College Students**

**TORONTO, ON** - Canada's new government fails Ontario's college and college/university students again. In Budget 2007, significant increases for postsecondary education do not come until 2008-09, says the College Student Alliance (CSA).

"College students expected Canada's new government to come through on their 2006 election promise to create the Canada Education and Training Transfer (CETT)," says Matt Jackson, President of the CSA. "Students across Canada united with provincial and territorial premiers and Ministers of Education calling for a dedicated postsecondary education transfer."

Within its budget the government announced that postsecondary education funding will remain within the Canada Social Transfer (CST) but earmarked with an increase of \$800 million in 2008-09 and 3 per cent annual increases each year thereafter until 2013-14. In contrast, before the implementation of the CST in 1992-93 federal funding for postsecondary education was \$2.9 billion and with today's announced increased funding it will only be \$2.4 billion for 2007-08, which falls short if you take into account inflation and demographic growth.

"Students were looking to the federal government - in today's budget - to step up to the plate with provinces and territories to ensure that all Canadians have an equal opportunity to an accessible, affordable and transferable postsecondary education," says Jackson. "Without major investments in per student funding, targeted student assistance and a national dialogue on postsecondary education, Canada will allow emerging countries like Brazil, India and China to soon surpass us in the global knowledge based economy."

On a positive note, Budget 2007 did announce the launch of a review of the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP). The CSA along with numerous student advocacy groups called on the federal government to embark on a holistic review that would address the needs-assessment process and focus on providing students assistance without an unreasonable debt load.

"This review could not have come at a better time as a third of college students will graduate with debt levels more often associated with university graduates," says Tyler Charlebois, Director of Advocacy. "As the importance of obtaining a postsecondary designation is at an all-time high, Canada must ensure that all Canadians have the chance to access postsecondary education and skills training."

The College Student Alliance (CSA) is an advocacy and services organization which has been proudly serving Ontario's college and college/university students since 1967. The CSA currently represents 16 colleges and 22 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)

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)