



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **McGuinty Recognizes Colleges' Need for Quality Improvements & Research Capabilities**

**TORONTO, ON** - Ontario's college and college/university students will benefit from increased quality improvements and from capital improvements in the coming year as the McGuinty government invests \$140 million into Ontario's college system, says the College Student Alliance (CSA).

"After 15 years of under-funding and seeing classrooms and buildings crumbling at their feet, the McGuinty government is investing additional funds to renew our learning institutions for the future," says Tyler Charlebois, Director of Advocacy of the CSA.

In its last budget before the October 10th election, the McGuinty government has continued its investment in advancing Ontario's competitive advantage and prosperity with additional funding to colleges, universities and skills training. This budget includes an additional \$390 million to support quality improvements and infrastructure and equipment renewal and finally recognizes the role colleges are playing in the advancement of applied research and innovation.

"We are pleased to see that both the federal and provincial governments are now recognizing Ontario colleges' and polytechnics' contribution to economic competitiveness through applied research and innovation," adds Charlebois. "With roughly two per cent of college faculty and students engaged in applied research, development and commercialization activities, this recognition validates their work."

With Monday's federal budget announcing increased funding for postsecondary education in 2008-09, college and college/university students will be looking to the government to expand the 'Reaching Higher' plan to ensure that all qualified and willing Ontarians find their way into our colleges and universities.

The College Student Alliance (CSA) is an advocacy and services organization that has been serving Ontario's college and college/university students since 1967. The CSA currently represents 16 colleges and 22 member councils with over 109,000 full-time students.

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)