



For Immediate Release
Tuesday, March 25, 2008

McGuinty Delivers for Students and Ontario

TORONTO, ON - The McGuinty government is delivering for Ontario's college and university students in today's budget with improvements to the affordability of postsecondary education, and building a stronger and more prosperous Ontario with a \$1.5 billion Skills to Jobs Action Plan, says the College Student Alliance (CSA).

"College and college/university students welcome the Textbook and Technology Grant that will start to ease the pressures felt by the growing cost of obtaining a postsecondary education," says Tyler Wiles, President of the College Student Alliance. "As the cost and demand for highly educated workers goes up, so does the pressure for students to not only make ends meet but to persist."

The 2008 Ontario Budget commits \$150 per student in 2008-09 to lower the cost for full-time college and university students, with the new Textbook and Technology Grant growing to \$300 per student in 2010-11. Students living in rural and remote areas of the province will now benefit with the introduction of a new Distance Grant to assist with the transportation costs.

"The skills and training of our citizens must be a focus and priority if Ontario is going to compete with the best in the world," adds Wiles.

With the Skills to Jobs Action Plan and the Second Career Strategy being the centerpiece of today's budget, the government has made it clear to all Ontarians that it is taking the pending skills shortage seriously. Second Career Strategy will help 20,000 unemployed workers make the transition to new careers and well-paying jobs in growing areas of the economy.

"The McGuinty government has recognized that through the education and training of our citizens, we can build a strong economy that will allow Ontario to compete with the best in the world," says Tyler Charlebois, Director of Advocacy. "Ontario possesses the human capital to tackle this challenge and with today's commitments and investments, Ontario will have a fighting chance."

Students applaud the government for hearing the calls from students and other partners in Ontario's Workforce Shortage Coalition to address the skills shortage.

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

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