



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Students Ready to Tackle Poverty Through Education**

**TORONTO, ON** - Ontario's college and college/university students stand ready and able to assist the government in tackling the poverty agenda, says the College Student Alliance (CSA). Today's Speech from the Throne delivered by the Lieutenant Governor David Onley, focused on strengthening all Ontarians with an emphasis on less fortunate.

"Students are pleased to see that the government is following through on its election promise to improve the knowledge and skills of all Ontarians," says Tyler Charlebois, Director of Advocacy. "A postsecondary education is essential to achieve future success, not only as an individual but as a province and country."

Today's Throne Speech promises to ensure more accessibility and affordability of postsecondary education through a new special distance grant for students from the north and remote areas as well as a textbook and technology grant of \$300 for every college and university student each year they are enrolled in higher education. Access to postsecondary education and its relative affordability must be addressed as the Conference Board of Canada has projected a labour shortage of some 360,000 for Ontario by 2025.

"When it comes to our under-represented citizens and students in Ontario, we must do more," says Jon Hendel, Vice President of the College Student Alliance and President of the Student Union of Confederation College (SUCC1). "If Ontario wants to compete with the growing powers of India, China and Brazil then we must act quickly to bring all Ontarians into the fold and that includes our Aboriginal students, students with disabilities, first generation students, rural students and students from low-income families."

The CSA is encouraged by the signs that this government is willing to turn the corner on the under-funding of our postsecondary education system and we are looking forward to future discussions on how to make our colleges and universities more accessible and affordable for current and future students. Per capita funding for college students in Ontario still lags behind that of secondary and university students as well as our counterparts in all other nine Canadian provinces.

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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