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Students Call for Increased Investment in Wake of Economic Challenges

TORONTO, ON - College and college/university students across the province are united in calling upon the McGuinty government to continue investing in postsecondary education as a strategy to combat economic challenges and further promote our future prosperity, says the College Student Alliance (CSA).

"We believe that a continued investment in postsecondary education will build the foundation for a stronger economy," says Jenn Howarth, President of the College Student Alliance. "Educating Ontarians in various skilled trades, social and business programs will fill in gaps in sectors that currently face a shortage of workers in today's economy and in the not so distant future."

The loss of thousands upon thousands of jobs in the manufacturing sector to less expensive labour abroad continues to be a great challenge for the economy. Coupled with the nearing of a retired baby boom era means that Ontario will soon be positioned to either change course or continue a downward spiral into a depression. The change we need is to focus on the under-represented Ontarians who are not currently living up to their full potential.

"Students are constantly reminded that an investment in their education presently is an even greater investment in their future," adds Ms. Howarth. "Students face various debts above and beyond tuition - housing, books, supplies, travel and other day-to-day expenses. It's imperative that the McGuinty government reach further to assist students in their journey through PSE to ensure that our students can, with little deterrence, focus on their studies instead of their bank accounts."

The McGuinty government must show further leadership in these hard times on improving the accessibility and affordability of postsecondary education. It is through investments in education and our citizens that will lead us to social and economic success.

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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