



**For Immediate Release  
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## **Students Welcome New Minister and Government Focus**

**TORONTO, ON** - This afternoon Premier Dalton McGuinty and his cabinet were sworn in with a focus on bringing equality and fairness to all Ontarians. The second majority mandate for the liberals will focus on the anti-poverty agenda and bringing our underrepresented and most vulnerable peoples into the fold, says the College Student Alliance (CSA).

"Ontario's college and college/university students welcome the focus on our most vulnerable and underrepresented citizens in Ontario," says Tyler Wiles, President of the College Student Alliance. "We also welcome new Minister John Milloy - Member of Provincial Parliament for Kitchener Centre - to his new portfolio as the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities. Students are ready to get back to work on improving the accessibility, affordability, and transferability of our colleges and universities for all Ontarians."

Since coming to power in 2003 the McGuinty government has made postsecondary education a priority ministry. They have turned the tables from cuts and under funding to major investments and commitments aimed at making Ontario competitive in the ever growing knowledge based economy. After a comprehensive review led by former Premier Bob Rae; Premier McGuinty announced the 'Reaching Higher' plan and its investment of \$6.2 billion over five years.

"Students will now be looking to Minister Milloy to lead the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) and Ontario along with Premier McGuinty into a new phase of Reaching Higher," says Wiles. "Reaching Higher was undoubtedly the largest investment in postsecondary education in 40 years, but that investment is set to expire in 2009-10 and there is much more that needs to be tackled."

With a pending labour shortage in the province of approximately 360,000 expected by 2025, Ontario college per student funding still lagging well behind the rest of the country and rising student debt; the Liberals will have some major challenges to overcome in their next mandate if Ontario is to continue to be the economic engine of Canada.

"The CSA and its members across the province have been speaking out about these issues," says Tyler Charlebois, Director of Advocacy. "The time to move forward is now!"

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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