



For Immediate Release
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New Grant Eases Some Financial Pressures for Students

TORONTO, ON - This afternoon, the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, John Milloy, announced the roll out of the new Textbook and Technology Grant at Centennial College.

"The new Textbook and Technology Grant is a good start to easing some of the financial pressures being felt by students," says Jenn Howarth, President of the College Student Alliance (CSA). "Many students across the province are struggling to purchase the necessary textbooks, tools, and supplies needed to start off on the right foot and this grant will help those struggles."

Starting this fall, full-time college and university students will be eligible to receive a grant of \$150 to assist with the purchasing of textbooks, technology and any other supplies or tools needed for their program. Originally announced in the 2008 Budget by Minister of Finance, Dwight Duncan, the Textbook and Technology Grant will grow to \$225 in 2009-10 and again in 2010-11 to \$300 per full-time student.

"As the costs associated with obtaining a postsecondary education continue to increase, it is imperative that Ontario continue to expand its grants available to those Ontarians that find themselves without the financial means to access postsecondary education," adds Ms. Howarth. "Grants like this one and the new Distance Grant will open the doors to postsecondary education for some who face many barriers."

This new grant, albeit small is part of a larger shift from a strictly loan based student financial aid system to one that provides a mixture of grants and loans and in some cases all grants. The CSA urges the McGuinty government to continue to make investments in the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) and to bring in further grants that will reach out to those Ontarians that are currently under-represented within our postsecondary education institutions.

For more information or to apply for this grant, visit www.ontario.ca/osap.

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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