



Response to the FAO Expenditure Monitor Report for 2021-22

March 4th, 2022

TORONTO, ON – Last week, the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario (FAO) released their Expenditure Monitor 2021-22: Q3 Report. This report provides a detailed overview of the Province's current spending plan for 2021-22, and analyzes the Province's spending over first three quarters of the fiscal year, from Apr 1, 2021 to Dec 31, 2021.

Regarding Ontario's postsecondary education (PSE) sector, the report contained the following insights:

Actual vs Planned Spending

- Ontario's Planned spending on PSE, originally set at \$6.987 billion, was increased slightly by 12 million to \$6.999 billion.
- Ontario's Actual spending on PSE (as of Dec 31 2021) was much lower than expected, down 7.3 per cent (\$391 million) to \$4.943 billion.
 - o This figure included \$364 million less spent on Colleges, Universities, and student support, which included funding for operating grants for colleges and universities, and financial aid for students

Year-on-Year Spending

- The PSE sector spent \$269 million (5.8 per cent) more in the first three Quarters of this fiscal year, than compared with 2020-21, largely accounted for by higher spending on student financial aid.

CSA applauds the year-on-year increases in PSE spending, however we acknowledge that there is much more work to be done provincially.

As demonstrated in last year's Attorney General's report, Ontario continues to have the lowest full-time-equivalency (FTE) student expenditures and one of the lowest college operating grants in Canada. These funding policies have forced many public colleges to heavily rely on international tuition increases to subsidize gaps in funding, which in turn has had substantial impacts on student mental health, education affordability, and other aspects of student life.

We continue to call on the provincial government to increase student financial aid and college operating grants, which will have substantial positive impacts on the provincial economy and outcomes of Ontario's future workforce.



For more information, read the report [here](#).

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About College Student Alliance:

College Student Alliance (CSA) advocates on behalf of Ontario college students in partnership with student leaders. Through our member student associations, CSA represents the collective voice of Ontario's college students.

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