



Minimal Support for College Students in PC Budget

Friday April 29th, 2022

TORONTO, ON – On Thursday April 28th the governing Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, led by Premier Doug Ford, released a budget and election platform that detailed minimal support for the province’s college students. Despite consistent advocacy from the post-secondary sector to improve conditions and the government itself referring to college students as being integral to the post-pandemic economic recovery of Ontario, the budget provided minimal support for college students.

“Actions speak louder than words. What is clear from this budget is that the current government is not prioritizing college students, especially international college students, who continue to be exploited by the colleges and the government,” said Eli Ridder, President of the College Student Alliance.

Ontario continues to have the lowest full-time equivalency (FTE) student expenditures and one of the lowest college operating grants in Canada. As emphasized by the Ontario Auditor General’s report on post-secondary, colleges are only staying afloat by relying entirely on significant increases to international student tuition. Currently, international student tuition provides half a billion dollars more in funding than the provincial government; a policy by the colleges that puts the entire sector at risk.

“There has been no effort by the government or colleges to commit to increasing provincial college funding. Ontario used to have “public” post-secondary, but decades of cuts have driven up the financial burden on students and pushed our system closer to privatization,” said Mr. Ridder.

With Ontario’s election swiftly approaching college students are asking who has their back. In order to secure a strong economic recovery in the years ahead, it is essential that Ontario’s next provincial government take actionable, evidence-driven steps to support college students.

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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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