



**For Immediate Release**  
**Wednesday, February 1, 2007**

## **College Made More Affordable for Students with Disabilities**

**TORONTO, ON** - This morning the McGuinty government moved towards making obtaining a college education more affordable for students with permanent disabilities, says the College Student Alliance (CSA).

"This investment by the government shows that they are committed to improving the accessibility and affordability of postsecondary education for those Ontarians who are currently under-represented within our higher education systems," says Matt Jackson, President of the College Student Alliance. "College students with a permanent disability will no longer have to pay twice as much as a student without a disability to obtain the same designation."

Currently, students with a disability are forced to overpay tuition fees for their program as they may take longer than the prescribed duration to complete their program. Today's announcement of \$40.7 million will allow these students to have their tuition fees capped once they reach the regular time frame for completion. After that they will pay \$20 per course.

"This is a true victory for students with disabilities and something that has been a long time coming," says Jackson. "As a province we need to ensure that all Ontarians have equal access to pursue their goals and dreams within the walls of our colleges, universities and training facilities."

During last year's tuition consultations the CSA brought forward the proposal and recommendation from the College Committee on Disability Issues (CCDI) to the Minister and explained that the issue with disability students' tuition fees should be addressed within the government's new tuition framework.

"The College Student Alliance is committed to working with the government to ensure that accessibility and affordability is had for all Ontarians that wish to pursue a postsecondary education at either a college, university or within the skilled trades," adds Tyler Charlebois, Director of Advocacy.

The College Student Alliance (CSA) is an advocacy and services organization which has been proudly serving Ontario's college and college/university students since 1967. The CSA currently represents 16 colleges and 22 student councils with over 109,000 full-time student members throughout the province.

For further information:

Tyler Charlebois  
Director of Advocacy  
College Student Alliance  
T: (416) 340-1212  
C: (416) 346-9951  
E: [advocacy@collegestudentalliance.ca](mailto:advocacy@collegestudentalliance.ca)