



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ontario's budget bolsters student Financial Aid

BRANTFORD, ON (February 25, 2016) – Career Colleges Ontario (CCO) applauds the provincial government for taking affirmative action in making tuition more affordable for students in this year's Ontario budget.

With the announcement of the 2016 Ontario budget, the Government of Ontario developed a “transparent, timely and targeted” approach to student financial assistance. For the first time, students will know how much they will receive in non-repayable student financial assistance, which will allow them to better balance their finances as they map out their plans for a postsecondary education.

The budget included the introduction of the Ontario Student Grant, which is a single upfront grant that came to light at the release of the annual Ontario budget this evening. The OSG simplifies the student grant and loan application process for students by combining 100 per cent of the funding from the 30% Off Ontario Tuition Grant, Ontario Student Opportunity Grant, Ontario Access Grants and other OSAP grants. The grant is slated to come into effect for the 2017-18 school year.

The budget also extends eligibility to mature students, regardless of how long they have been out of high school.

“By increasing the weekly maximum amount of financial assistance the government can provide to a student, it makes postsecondary education more affordable,” said Career Colleges Ontario's CEO, Sharon Maloney.

“It's refreshing to see a budget that places student success and experience at the centre of the postsecondary education transformation agenda.”

About Career Colleges Ontario

Career Colleges Ontario (CCO) is a not-for-profit association that was established in 1973 to advocate on behalf of career colleges in the province of Ontario. The association's purpose is to help governments, key decision makers and the public understand the critical role its members and their students play in supporting Ontario's post-secondary education system and improving the province's economic well-being. CCO members contribute to Ontario's economy by providing highly qualified graduates in hundreds of essential, skilled fields such as Applied Arts, Business, Healthcare, Human Services, Information Technology, Services and Trades.

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