



Sault College News Release
For immediate release

College education will be strengthened by the 2016 Ontario Budget investments

(Sault Ste. Marie, ON Feb. 26, 2016) – College education in Ontario will be strengthened by the measures announced today in the 2016 Ontario Budget.

“Improved access to college education is one of the clear priorities in the budget,” said President Common. “We are pleased with the enhanced support for students and the new investments into college-based applied research. Lack of financial support is a major impediment to participating in a college education for many prospective students. At Sault College over 58% of our students are receiving OSAP and many will now benefit from this much needed government initiative.”

The budget helps more low-income students pursue higher learning that leads to a good job without incurring debt. For example, the budget measures will result in free average tuition for every student with a family income of \$50,000 or less, starting in the 2017-18 school year.

There are also commitments that students in families with incomes of \$83,000 or less will receive non-repayable grants in excess of average tuition, and students in families with family incomes of less than \$50,000 will have no provincial student debt. The maximum debt level for higher-income families will be capped at \$10,000 annually.

Another budget highlight was an important investment of \$20 million over three years for college-based applied research projects. This funding will allow colleges and businesses to work together on real-world research that helps businesses become more innovative and create new jobs.

As well, colleges were pleased with the increased investments for aboriginal education and the commitment to consult on college funding as the sector approaches its 50th anniversary in 2017.

“The budget recognizes that college education is a necessity for greater numbers of people,” said President Common. “This budget demonstrates a strong commitment to helping more students acquire the qualifications and professional skills that lead to rewarding careers.”

Laurie Burrows, Director of Enrolment and Financial Services said “Every day we see first-hand the needs of students in our financial assistance department and we are excited that this announcement will provide relief for many and open up new doors for students who couldn’t previously consider post-secondary education”.

About Sault College

The vision of Sault College is to provide a transformative life experience through empowering those who study with us to think and learn in progressive, innovative ways, including those we have not yet imagined. Ranked #1 in the province for two years in a row with a score of 88.6% in overall student satisfaction by students themselves, Sault College grants Ontario College certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, graduate certificates, and degrees to its graduates. The College is one of the largest deliverer of apprenticeship training in all of Northern Ontario. Educating over 3,900 students each year, Sault College has a significant economic impact on the community, with spin-offs in excess of \$158 million. Over \$2 million dollars in scholarships, bursaries and awards are distributed annually to students at the College. Located on the border to the United States and situated in the middle of three of the largest great lakes on the planet, Sault College is one of 24 publicly-funded colleges in the province of Ontario. Visit our website at www.saultcollege.ca to learn more.

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