

2008/2009 Federal Budget Points of Interest for Colleges and Institutes

Supporting Canadian students with a \$350-million investment in 2009–10, rising to \$430 million by 2012–13, in a new, consolidated Canada Student Grant Program that will reach 245,000 college and undergraduate students per year when it takes effect in the fall of 2009. The Millennium Scholarship Foundation mandate ends in 2009. (The alternative funding arrangements for non-participating jurisdictions currently in place for the Canada Student Loans Program will apply to the Canada Student Grant.)

Committing \$123 million over four years starting in 2009–10 to streamline and modernize the Canada Student Loans Program

Enhancing the flexibility of Registered Education Savings Plans by increasing the time they may remain open to 35 years from 25 years, and by extending the maximum contribution period by 10 years.

A Textbook Tax Credit amount of \$65 per month of full-time study, or \$520 for a typical full-time academic year, and a full exemption of scholarship, fellowship and bursary income.

Concurrently, the Government will continue to engage Aboriginal groups and other stakeholders on a successor approach to the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy, expected in 2009. The new approach will better place the skills and training available for individuals in the context of employer and labour market demands

The Government will also continue to review its First Nations and Inuit post-secondary education programs to ensure they are coordinated with other programs and that they provide the support that First Nations and Inuit students need to stay in school and complete their education.

The Budget documents also note:

\$3.2 billion earmarked for post-secondary education in 2008–09 to provinces and territories through the \$10.6-billion Canada Social Transfer, increasing by 3 per cent annually as announced in Budget 2007.