



MEDIA RELEASE

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Budget and Grants for Student Needs Emphasize Importance of Education in Economic Recovery

(Toronto) – The 2009 Ontario Budget released yesterday by Finance Minister Dwight Duncan emphasizes the important role education has in helping the economy recover by creating what the minister calls “an advanced and competitive workforce.” OSSTF welcomes Minister Duncan’s remarks that the government will ensure that Ontarios’ universities, colleges and schools will remain “fiscally whole.”

The release of the Grants for Student Needs (GSNs), which have increased by almost \$600 million this year, also demonstrate the government’s commitment to publicly funded education. Education Minister Wynne’s remarks that a strong publicly funded system is an important foundation for Ontario’s long-term economic health and prosperity is also a positive signal that the government wishes to continue investing in education and work with stakeholders to ensure that all students receive the best education possible.

Ken Coran, President of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, commented that “the \$780 million committed to strengthening post secondary infrastructure needs to include funding for the hiring of support staff at the university level to address the increased demands on our members by a growing student population.” The investment of \$3 million to help establish community hubs in selected neighbourhoods, is a step in the right direction. Establishing the school as the hub of the community allows a team of school board employed professionals to provide multi-faceted services to students and their families.”

Coran concluded by saying that “the government’s restated commitment to a complete review of the funding formula in 2010 will ensure that we examine how we can put students first and ensure that they are able to develop the knowledge and skills that will help them be successful in the fluid and competitive global economy.”

OSSTF/FEESO, founded in 1919, has 60,000 members across Ontario. They include public high school teachers, occasional teachers, educational assistants, continuing education teachers and instructors, psychologists, secretaries, speech-language pathologists, social workers, plant support personnel, attendance counsellors, and many others in education.

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