

# News Release

## Communiqué

For Immediate Release  
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### **MCGUINITY GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS HIGHER EDUCATION IN DURHAM** *\$10 Million Expansion Funds, Authority to Grant Degrees Backs Reaching Higher Plan*

Durham Region – Students at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) and Durham College will reap the benefits of additional space for high quality education, Wayne Arthurs, MPP for Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge, announced today. The government is also recognizing the proven academic excellence of UOIT programs by providing the university with unrestricted degree granting authority.

“The University of Ontario Institute of Technology has established a record of academic quality that justifies our wholehearted support in passing to them the right to grant degrees on their own terms,” said Arthurs. “The McGuinty government is also proud to assist in the growth of quality education for students by providing \$10 million for UOIT and Durham College to build new facilities.”

“Over the last four years, UOIT has experienced truly remarkable growth as it quickly established a national reputation for excellence in post-secondary education,” said Dr. Ronald Bordessa, President of UOIT. “However, this continued growth produces its own challenges in meeting the needs of our students. Therefore, we are very pleased that the Government of Ontario has made this investment and supports our efforts to provide more opportunities for students to access state-of-the-art facilities, our innovative programs, and award-winning, high-tech campus environment.”

New facilities would house lecture halls, classrooms, student study space, laboratories, and faculty and support staff offices, all of which will provide active, flexible learning spaces for both Durham College and UOIT students. UOIT and Durham College occupy shared facilities in Oshawa.

“All of us at Durham College welcome this significant financial commitment by the provincial government,” said Leah Myers, President of Durham College. “We share a unique and vibrant campus with UOIT, and we are pleased that the provincial government recognizes that something special is happening here. The building of new facilities on our unique campus will provide critical new space and opportunities for students. It is essential that all our students have the high-quality classrooms and lab facilities that they need to excel in our market-focused programs, to be successful in their future careers, and ultimately to contribute to the prosperity of our region and province.”

The new funding is part of a \$50 million investment announced in the 2007 budget in 2007-08 for new capital projects. These investments support the McGuinty government's historic \$6.2 billion Reaching Higher plan, the most significant multi-year funding investment in Ontario's postsecondary education system in 40 years.

"We've made progress through the Reaching Higher plan by adding 86,000 more students to Ontario's colleges and universities since our government started," said Chris Bentley, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities. "But there is always more to do. That's why we're expanding UOIT and Durham College to create even more postsecondary opportunity for the people of Oshawa."

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