

## **New Year's Resolution from the Conservative Government to Make Part-Time Study for Students More Accessible**

OTTAWA, December 22, 2011. The Conservative government of Canada announced on Wednesday that part-time university and college students would be exempt from paying interest on student loans while in-study.

"This is a positive step toward increasing the accessibility of post-secondary education for part-time students" said Zach Dayler, National Director of CASA. "This change in policy signifies that the government is getting the message that the needs of students are changing."

CASA is pleased to see the Conservative government invest in part-time students and remains optimistic. Combined with earlier changes in budget 2011, in which all students on federal financial assistance saw an increase in the income eligibility threshold, it will now be a bit easier to work and study.

CASA continues to look ahead. With the recently announced changes to health transfers for the provinces, concern is growing about the Canada Social Transfer and what funds will be made available for post-secondary education in the years to come. "Many students must work while studying and for part-time students this announcement represents a recognition that government sees value in what they are doing," added Dayler.

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*The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit national student organization composed of 26 student associations, representing over 320,000 students from coast to coast.*

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