



# News Release

For Immediate Release

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## COLLEGE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE: AUDITOR GENERAL

(TORONTO) Buildings on the campuses of Ontario's 24 colleges of applied arts and technology are deteriorating and the backlog of required maintenance is getting worse, Auditor General Jim McCarter says in his *2010 Annual Report*, released today.

"Provincial funding hasn't been nearly enough to maintain these buildings, many of which are now more than 30 years old," McCarter said today after his Report was tabled. "While the colleges welcomed recent federal-provincial infrastructure funding, it was directed mainly toward new projects rather than maintaining existing properties. The issue of aging infrastructure still needs to be addressed," he said.

For the past 10 years, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has provided to colleges \$13.3 million a year for facilities maintenance, and this has been supplemented by occasional additional sums for infrastructure maintenance averaging about \$27 million more a year.

However, one annual capital maintenance standard suggests that, over the last four fiscal years, Ontario colleges would need to have received annually between \$80 million to \$135 million for infrastructure renewal—about twice what they have been getting.

What follows are some of the Auditor's more significant findings:

- According to the asset management system, as of April 2010, the backlog of needed maintenance and repairs at colleges was estimated to be well over \$500 million. This backlog has been increasing annually and could reach \$1 billion in 15 years.
- More than \$70 million of the repair backlog has been classified as critical and should be dealt with in the next year.
- College administrators say they have had to use funds from their operating budgets to help address the most urgent cases of building deterioration.
- The Ministry is in the process of implementing a long-term capital planning process, but it did not have a formal plan in place at the time of the audit for overseeing the maintenance of the province's investment in colleges' infrastructure.

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