

# NEWS RELEASE

## TTC votes to include PCC students

Students will be eligible for metropass in February 2011



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 2010

**TORONTO** – On December 15, 2010 the new TTC commission went against a staff recommendation and voted to extend eligibility for the discounted \$99 Post-Secondary Student Metropass program to 15,000 full-time students at private career colleges in Toronto.

“Our association welcomes this important policy change by the Commission that fully supports the equitable treatment of all post-secondary students,” said Paul Kitchin, Executive Director, Ontario Association of Career Colleges (OACC).

This victory comes after months of hard work by students, OACC staff and the association’s Board of Directors. Deputations were heard from OACC Vice-President George Hood, Consultant John Nunziata and three career college students. Hood and Nunziata spoke about the issue as a matter of equality – citing support for equality in letter from the Honourable John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities. Students Bob Mandel, Justin Potvin and Paul Goid spoke about what the cost saving, compared to the adult metropass, means to them.

Shortly before the meeting, 50 career college students and staff gathered in front of Toronto City Hall to garner support, chanting “Be Fair With The Fare.” Students filled the meeting room showing silent support by wearing buttons embossed with the slogan.

Commission Vice Chair Peter Milczyn put forward the motion that the eligibility criteria be amended to include post-secondary students enrolled full-time in programs offered at private career colleges registered under the Private Career Colleges Act, 2005. Milczyn followed his motion by saying “Clearly, to me, it’s an equality issue.”

Since January of this year, the Ontario Association of Career Colleges (OACC) has asked the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) for information in regards to private career college students’ eligibility to receive the new \$99 TTC Post-secondary Student Metropass. The metropass was launched in September 2010 for public college and university students. OACC representatives along with private career college students presented deputations at the TTC Commission meetings on September 30 and December 15 in an effort to change the eligibility criteria for the metropass.

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**ABOUT OACC**

The Ontario Association of Career Colleges is a non-profit organization that has grown to include over 250 members. OACC exists to create a stronger voice and better sector quality. OACC offers a Financial Aid Office in partnership with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities’ Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) office.