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Toronto Star 12.12.4

# Students confront colleges minister over funding cuts

By Rita Daly  
TORONTO STAR

University students stormed Ontario government offices yesterday to voice their anger against the NDP's recent cuts to post-secondary education.

About 80 students pushed past security guards and into a room where Colleges Minister Richard Allen was scheduled to meet with student leaders.

When the minister arrived, the students from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, the University of Toronto and York University began shouting at him, demanding he rescind cuts announced last week.

"I understand the anxiety that some students have felt about the announcement," Allen said.

He told students the government had to impose drastic measures to wrestle a deficit that threatens to grow to \$12.3 billion next year.

Last week, the government announced the abolition of student grants, a 7 per cent hike in tuition fees and a cap at 1992-93 levels on operating grants.

Allen denied the government is killing the entire student grants system. He said \$11 million in bursaries is be-

ing put aside for disabled students, sole support parents and married students with child care costs.

Last year, the government gave out \$235.5 million in grants.

Students began their protest at Ryerson, then marched over to the ministry offices chanting: "(Premier) Bob Rae, what's the story, why are you acting like a Tory?"

"Now more than ever we need to get our voices together and let the NDP government know this is not acceptable," said Pam Frache of Ryerson Students Union.

"Women, people of color and the disabled are all disproportionately disadvantaged by this."

As the noisy marchers headed up the street, Ryerson student Colin MacLellan stayed behind, but for different reasons.

"I don't believe in it," said MacLellan, a 21-year-old radio and television arts student.

"For the most part I think people need the money, but I know a lot of students who take advantage of it.

"They get their grants but the money is spent on other things."