Presentation to:	Board of Governors
Subject:	Ontario Special Bursaries Program (OSBP)
Date:	June 11, 2012
Presenter(s):	Duane McNair, Vice-President, Administration Cathy Dempsey, Director, Finance and Administrative Services

Purpose:

To provide the Board of Governors with an update on the discontinuation of the Ontario Student Bursaries Program (OSBP) Funding.

Background:

The OSBP assists part-time students studying at a public university or college in Ontario for their first degree, diploma, or training program certificate who are unable to study on a full-time basis; as well as full or part-time students studying in academic upgrading programs (e.g., English as a Second Language (ESL), Basic Training for Skills Development, upgrading for high-school equivalency offered through community colleges).

The Ontario budget speech, on March 27, 2012, announced the cessation of Ministry funding for the Ontario Student Bursary Program. In addition, it has been implied that Colleges will be expected to fund these programs from the anticipated savings in Tuition Set Aside (TSA) funding resulting from the Ontario Tuition Grant.

Discussion/Consideration:

As reported in the addendum to the Draft 2012-13 Budget titled "2012 Ontario Budget Highlights" a preliminary negative budget impact of $900,000 for upgrading students, ESL students and Students with Developmental Disabilities was estimated.

Under the current TSA guidelines the students eligible for OSBP are not eligible for TSA funding. As of the date of this report, there has been no formal communication regarding changes to the Tuition Set-aside eligibility requirements from the Ministry. Changes to the eligibility criteria that may allow the use of TSA to fund the discontinued OSBP program may reduce the direct impact to the College budget.

It is not known whether the reduced demand for financial aid under the Tuition Set-Aside program anticipated by the Ministry will fully offset the cost to continue offering student aid under these two programs.

Programs that are affected by the discontinuation of OSBP funding include; the Academic Assistance for Adults with Developmental Disabilities (AAADD) programs, Academic upgrading (AU) both daytime and evening and ESL Canadian program. Appendix A is attached with details of each of these programs.

Before management is in a position to recommend any changes to the affected programs an updated TSA Guideline and further analysis will be required. Management will assess the situation and will provide options for Board of Governors' consideration, once further information becomes available.

Ensuring that students are not negatively impacted unnecessarily is one the primary values of "caring" that the College ascribes to, therefore, Management recommends continuation of these programs through the Fall 2012 term. Once further information is received, Management will return to the Board with recommendations on how best to proceed.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Governors receives the report as presented.

Programs Affected by OSBP Funding
Appendix A

Academic Assistance for Adults with Developmental Disabilities (AAADD)

BACKGROUND

- AAADD has been in operation for 27 years. The program provides adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to build academic and social skills within the College environment.

- The program runs 41 weeks of the year from late August to the end of June. Students attend day (3 hours AM or PM, 5 days per week) or evening classes (3 hours, one or two evenings per week). Students can be in day programming for a maximum of four years and evening programming for a maximum of two years.

- To be financially viable the program must operate at capacity, filling all **63** seats (36 day and 27 evening). It has achieved this goal every term since fall 2006. The waitlist to attend AAADD currently has **54** names on it.

- AAADD is staffed by two full time support staff and three part-time support staff

- Tuition and fees for AAADD, split between what was covered by OSBP and what was paid by the student are approximately as follows:

	Tuition + Fees /year	OSBP Pays/year	Student Pays/year
Day	$4,500	$2,500	$2,000
Evening	$900	$900	$0

Academic Upgrading (AU) – Daytime

BACKGROUND

- Students take Academic Upgrading courses to meet the admission requirements for postsecondary college or apprenticeship programs and/or to earn the Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) Certificate, a grade 12 equivalency recognized by colleges for admission purposes and by many employers.

- At the Woodroffe campus, AU operates 51 weeks of the year on a continuous intake model. New students start every two weeks and students leave at any time so enrolment changes from week to week. Enrolment is lowest in early August (approx. 250-300) and peaks in Oct/Nov and March/April (approx 500-550).

- In addition to tuition paid through OSBP and the grant that is generated, AU is funded through the Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) Service Agreement with MTCU. The two funding mechanisms are used in conjunction to maximize revenue for AU.

- By optimizing these funding mechanisms, Algonquin's AU program is the largest and most successful of the 24 college upgrading programs in the province. In 2010-11, 607 former AU students qualified for and entered postsecondary or apprenticeship programs.

- The 607 students make AU is the single largest feeder to the College, representing about 5% of the level 1 intake in Fall 2010 and 7% of the Winter 2011 intake. Of these 607 students, 77% passed level 1 and 84% were retained (77% enrolled in level 2 of the same program while 7% enrolled in a different program).

- Revenue (tuition, fees and grant) to the College in 2010/11 from former AU students attending postsecondary programs (all levels) is estimated at $6.1M.

- Five fulltime positions are funded through tuition and grant generated by the OSBP. Two support staff positions are also funded through tuition paid by OSBP.

Academic Upgrading – (AU)

BACKGROUND

- Academic Upgrading offers courses in communication, mathematics, computer skills, biology and chemistry in the evening in the fall, winter and spring terms.

- These courses can be used to meet college postsecondary program admission requirements and/or earn the Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) Certificate, a grade 12 equivalency.

- Day AU students can move seamlessly to the evening programming if they are unable to maintain a day schedule due to family or work commitments. Similarly, evening AU students can move easily into day programming.

- Registration ranges from 110 – 150 students per term for a total of about 380 registrations per academic year.

English Second Language (ESL) Canadian

BACKGROUND

- Students take ESL Canadian programming to meet the admission requirements for postsecondary college or apprenticeship programs and/or to improve their english language skills for employment.

- ESL Canadian operates 48 weeks of the year with new intakes every eight weeks. Enrolment is lowest in July-August intake (approx. 130-150) and peaks in Oct/Nov to March/April (approx 180-200).

- The curriculum for ESL Canadian is identical to ESL International. Students move between the two programs to maximize class size and effective use of teacher resources and classroom space.

- ESL Canadian is the only ESL, academic credit program in the Ottawa region. In 2010-11, 41 ESL Canadian students from Levels 7 & 8 students qualified for entry into postsecondary or apprenticeship programs.

- Revenue (tuition, fees and grant) to the College in 2010-/11 from former ESL Canadian students attending postsecondary programs (all levels) is estimated at $1.4M, not including grant.

- Five full-time faculty positions are budgeted for this program and one full-time support staff position.