

# Budget breaks down education barriers

By BOB SAVAGE  
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Thomson News Service

TORONTO - More workers are expected to gain access to the community college system under Ontario budget initiatives released Monday.

In the NDP's release of its first budget Monday, Treasurer Floyd Laughren announced plans to help workers wishing to upgrade their education. For example, work experience and prior learning will count towards college credits.

It will also be made easier to

transfer credits from one college to another when a person moves to a new city.

"It is time to break down unnecessary barriers between different educational institutions and between our educators and the workplace," Treasurer Floyd Laughren said in a speech to the Legislature.

"By building partnerships, in the context of long-term planning, we can begin to make this happen."

The government committed \$3 million in its 1991 budget towards the launch of the revisions.

The changes, based on a report

called Vision 2000, are designed, in part, to create universal standards for colleges. The government will create a College Standards and Accreditation Council to set the criteria.

Changes are expected to be in place within a few years.

The 1991 budget committed \$832 million in operating grants to colleges and \$1.95 billion for universities.

Meanwhile, the budget also committed \$152 million towards research and development. About \$81 million will go towards research in such areas as robotics, telecommunications and biotechnology.



## Promoting a green environment

This is just one of several small Christmas trees the Georgetown Central Business Improvement Area has donated to various groups and agencies in Town in the spirit of promoting a green environment. This tree belongs to Elizabeth Fashions on Main Street and is being donated to the Town of Halton Hills. Downtown business Up Up and Away will donate a similar tree to the North Halton Development Association for Developmentally Handicapped, and Mackenzie Lumber and the

Village Shoppe will donate another tree to Park Public School. Those participating in the program include (left to right) BIA General Manager Margaret Vint, BIA members Martha Marino, NHADH representative Anne Sidebottom, UP Up and Away owner Trudy Thomas, Mayor Russ Miller, Elizabeth Fashion manager Heather Burke, Mackenzie Lumber owner Sandy Mackenzie, Village Shoppe representative Zena Skafed and Park Public School Principal Rick Nodwell.



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