

To the:

College Employers Council, Ontario Public Service Employees Union, Ministry of Colleges and Universities

Friday, March 4, 2022

RE: Ontario Student Associations – For Immediate Action

On September 30th, 2021, the Collective Agreement between The CEC and OPSEU's CAAT-A expired, and contract negotiations were unsuccessful, leading to college faculty beginning labor action on December 18th, 2021. This impasse has left the education of more than 240,000 students across 24 Ontario colleges in a concerning state of uncertainty.

Students face many challenges and have many concerns, but the most pressing concerns for our students are:

1. A fear that they will see a repeat of the 2017 strike which left students feeling that the culminating weeks of their year were rushed and incomplete, that they were unprepared for the workforce, and that their relationships on campus were damaged,
2. The disappointment that students are caught in the middle of these negotiations, and
3. That the quality of the product they paid for, their education and college experience, will suffer.

This is happening alongside various other global events, the most pervasive being the ongoing pandemic and the restrictions and difficulties it poses to students. Students are already experiencing surges in mental health crises, financial insecurity, and reduced quality of education. Considered individually, these are stressful events, but having all this happening at once is causing a significant decrease in quality of life for post-secondary students across Ontario.

The impact that further job action could have on students is immeasurable. We insist that these negotiations not further disrupt students' lives and for assurances that they can enjoy a return to normal college routine as soon as possible.

As united representatives of our individual student associations, and as advocates for the students we represent, we are calling on you to take immediate action toward a resolution to this impasse that does not further negatively impact the quality of life and education of our students. Every day of uncertainty, and every day that tensions are ratcheted higher, hurts students and their ability to learn.

We eagerly await your solution to this deadlock and look forward to hearing from you on a productive way out of this situation for all parties, especially for our (and your) students. Please forward any responses or opportunities for further discussion regarding this address to FSU President, Ricardo Souza at r_desouza110240@fanshawec.ca, who will be available for comment via email.

Thank you for your time and consideration on these matters.

Best regards,



Sam Jemison,
NCSAC President



Adam Folland,
FSA President



Taranjeet Singh,
CCSAI President



Alannah Kennedy,
FCSAC President



Tori Arnett,
CSU President



Ronnie Kasana,
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Ricardo Souza,
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Shubham Sharma,
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Lynn Courville,
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Ahmad Alkosani,
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Hannah Lacroix,
SCCTSI President



Terry McGinn,
SASLCK President



Ashik Ashik,
MSA President



Jenna Peace,
DCSA Executive
Chairperson



Ritik Sharma,
Seneca Student
Federation President