



November 16, 2007

Kevin Whitaker, Advisor  
Colleges Collective Bargaining Act Review  
c/o Mike Uhlmann, Senior Project Consultant  
505 University Avenue, 11th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2P1

Dear Mr. Whitaker:

**RE: Support for Part-Time College Worker Unionisation**

Please accept this contribution to the review of the Colleges Collective Bargaining Act on behalf of the Canadian Federation of Students—Ontario.

The Canadian Federation of Students represents over one-half million college and university students across Canada, over 300,000 of which are from Ontario. Our Federation has a strong history advocating that workers who operate in our learning environments have the tools they need to be successful in their responsibilities to students and the public.

As you may know the Canadian Federation of Students—Ontario has long advocated that college part-time staff should have the same right to collectively bargain as other workers in Ontario. This position arises from two main values: fairness, and quality of education, both of which are undermined by the current prohibition against collectively bargaining among part-time staff at Ontario's colleges.

These values were upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada, the International Labour Organization, and most recently the Ontario government, who have all agreed with the position shared by our organisation and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) that part-time college workers in Ontario must have the right to unionise. We feel that a change to the current laws in Ontario to enshrine this right is an important step forward for workers' rights in Ontario and serves the best interests of Ontario's colleges.

We believe that the OPSEU has fulfilled its role representing full-time college employees effectively. This is evidenced by the overwhelming stability in our college sector over the last 30 years. We are also supportive of the inclusive, centralised model of bargaining that OPSEU has developed, which represents both academic and support divisions within community colleges. Finally, their commitment to high-quality, student-focused post-secondary education in Ontario is also strongly appreciated.

For all of these reasons we believe that OPSEU is well-positioned to represent part-time academic and support staff in Ontario's public college system.

I thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on the important goal of modernising the Colleges Collective Bargaining Act and invite you to contact me for further details.

Sincerely,

Jen Hassum  
Chairperson, Canadian Federation of Students—Ontario

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