



Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario
Fédération canadienne des étudiantes et étudiants–Ontario
302 - 225, rue Richmond Street West / Ouest | Toronto, Ontario | M5V
1W2
Telephone / Téléphone: (416) 925-3825
www.cfsontario.ca

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release
18 October 2018

Students and Community Members Rally to Protest Ford Government Policy Directive

Toronto – Ontario’s universities and colleges are vital spaces where a culture of rich academic debate and free expression should be fostered. Core to the mandate of our postsecondary institutions is the advancement of knowledge, and that requires our campuses to be places where all community members have the right to speak their minds and respectfully challenge each other intellectually. Faculty associations, labour unions, and student unions deeply believe in these rights, and will continue our collective work to uphold them.

There is no free speech crisis on Ontario campuses. This is an ideological fiction advanced by the government to justify interference in the academic governance and autonomy of Ontario’s universities and colleges.

“It is telling that the government did not consult any sector stakeholders before announcing the new requirement for campus “free speech” policies and disciplinary measures tied to possible cuts to university and college funding.” said Nour Alideeb, Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students Ontario.

“Threatening to discipline students, staff, and faculty actually limits expression rights on campus, especially for systemically marginalized groups.” said Alideeb.

Students have organized a rally at Ryerson today in protest to the attacks on building activism on campus. Students are unwilling to allow such a policy directive that in every sense threatens the growth of activism and critical thought.

-30-

For more information contact:

Ian McRae, Government Relations and Policy Coordinator: **416-925-3825** or **306-852-0128**