

Conestoga Students Inc.
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July 17, 2017

Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Clerk of the Committee – Eric Rennie
Room 1405, Whitney Block
Queen’s Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A2

To Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs,

Conestoga Student’s Inc. (CSI) is writing to you on behalf of its 13,000 members and the College Student Alliance (CSA) membership of over 70,000 students regarding the public consultations on Bill 148: Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017. We were hoping to participate in the public consultations regarding Bill 148 as currently there are not any speakers representing the rights of college or university students in Ontario, but will outline our concerns in this letter.

This bill is an improvement for the multiple acts it will amend to protect many Ontarian workers. Although there are many positive amendments, such as fair wages that will allow Ontarians to live a sustainable life, the ability for people to take paid personal emergency leaves, and equal pay for equal work, it does not extend these rights and protections to students working in co-operative education, work integrated learnings, and internship programs.

As the government continues to make work integrated learning opportunities a priority in post-secondary education, there should be protections and considerations for these types of programs added to Bill 148. The members of the CSA believe if these protections are not extended to post-secondary programs, employers may take advantage of students. The rights of a worker should apply, in any setting, and all workers, including students, and should be properly compensated and protected.

If there are any questions regarding this recommendation to improve Bill 148: Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017, please contact Aimee Calma or Abdullah Mushtaq through the contact information provided.

Regards,



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