

Hon. Jill Dunlop
Minister of Colleges and Universities
438 University Ave. | Toronto, ON | M7A 1N3

And

Hon. Monte McNaughton
Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development
14th Floor | 400 University Ave. | Toronto, ON | M7A 1T7

March 16, 2022

RE: Ontario Student Associations – Request for Immediate Action

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

On March 4, 2022, 15 student associations across Ontario came together in unprecedented numbers to collaborate on how we can best advocate for **our** students during this time of uncertainty. As a result, a letter was addressed to all applicable stakeholders, including the Ministry, CAAT-A, and the CEC, about the stalled bargaining process. We have received responses to our letter from both bargaining parties. The CEC maintains their desire for final offer selection, and CAAT-A maintains their desire to return to the bargaining table or refer the remaining issues to binding interest arbitration. As of Monday, March 14, CAAT-A has submitted a strike deadline of March 18, which will impact students' ability to graduate and move into the workforce.

With the strike looming, neither party is willing to accept the solution put forth by the opposite party to come to a new collective agreement. This leaves the future of 240,000 college students in an increasingly precarious position as they try to finish this year without further disruption to their learning. Without immediate action, the remainder of this unprecedented year will leave students with a bitter experience at Ontario colleges. Students have experienced enough hardships throughout the pandemic, which have been complicated by the bargaining process. With the Winter semester coming to an end and the provincial legislature winding down, students **need** to see actions taken to move both parties forward and reduce further harm to students' education.

We have been experiencing escalating labour action for 12+ weeks, with no movement to resolve the issues. For this reason, we, the signed and duly elected Ontario student associations, are requesting the Ontario Government to immediately step in to bring the parties together to resolve their disputes. We suggest preemptive action be taken alike to the 2017 legislation imposed by the Ontario Government to get students back to school after a 5-week historical strike. This preemptive legislative action would ensure students stay in class and that both parties work towards a unified collective agreement.

We value the fact that neither party wants to harm students' learning. However, the collective bargaining process has stalled and requires extraordinary measures. We ask that the Ontario Government not allow students' learning to be further disrupted.

The 20 signatories below represent approximately 200,000 postsecondary college students across Ontario. We eagerly await a solution to the current collective bargaining impasse. We hope that, with your aid, the parties can come together and finalize their agreement, keeping students in class and moving into the workforce uninterrupted.

Thank you for your time, consideration and action on these matters.



Sam Jemison,
NCSAC President



Adam Folland,
FSA President



Taranjeet Singh,
CCSAI President



Alannah Kennedy,
FCSAC President



Tori Arnett,
CSU President



Ronnie Kasana,
SUCCI President



Ricardo Souza,
FSU President



Shubham Sharma,
SRC President



Lynn Courville,
CSC President



Ahmad Alkosani,
SCSU President



Hannah Lacroix,
SCCTSI President



Terry McGinn,
SASLCK President



Ashik Ashik,
MSA President



Jenna Peace,
DCSA Executive
Chairperson



Ritik Sharma,
SSF President



Ishaan Sachdeva
GCSA Barrie President



Koray Ozkan
GCSA Orillia President



Shay Kedroe -Hamilton
IGNITE Board of
Directors Chair



Sana Banu
CSI President



Samantha St. Pierre
CSC President