

Part-timers have nothing to fear

Part-time support staff and part-time and sessional faculty have nothing to fear by signing a card (other than fear itself).

A few part-time workers have expressed a concern that by signing a card with OPSECAAT, they could be leaving themselves open to reprisals from management. But there is no need for fear.

The part-time organizing campaign has the full support of OPSEU, and its 120,000 members, including 15,000 unionized full-time staff in the colleges, and is supported by the Canada-wide network of labour activists. There is strength in numbers.

We also have assurances from the employer. The **College Compensation and Appointments Council — central authority for the 24 colleges**, wrote Feb. 15 to OPSECAAT President Roger Couvrette. In this letter, Don Sinclair, Executive Director of the Council, says: "Of course all persons have the freedom to associate or participate in an association if they choose to do so."

Sinclair also said that there is no history of reprisals in the colleges when other employee groups have associated.

Some colleges are even more explicit. At **La Cité collégiale in Ottawa**, the director of human resources wrote to all administrators, informing them of the OPSECAAT drive. Patrick La Ferté, HR director, reminded his management team Jan. 19 that : "freedom of association is a recognized right and we should avoid any suggestion or comment that could be perceived as intimidation by these employees or any other employee of the college."

In his memo, La Ferté notes that we are currently in a period of peaceful labour relations in the colleges, and expresses hope "that this peace continues and that each person feels free to express their wish to associate."

One more thing: There is strength in numbers. Realistically, if everyone in our workplace signs a card, we are that much stronger. We protect each other by standing together. That's the best assurance we have.

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your membership is confidential**
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www.collegeworkers.org