

# FacultyUpdate

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## STRIKE OF 2006

GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE • LOCAL 556  
College Professors, Counsellors & Librarians

### We're moving the system *Up!*

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## BRILLIANT RALLY

Close to 5000 spirited and determined OPSEU members and supporters – including delegations from the Canadian Federation of Students, teachers' unions like the OSSTF and OECTA and other unions like UNITE HERE — gathered at Dundas Square on Thursday for rousing speeches from Ted Montgomery and Paddy Musson, among many other prominent labour supporters. Marchers then took to the streets, led by the Samba Squad and a line of picketers spelling out Q-U-A-L-I-T-Y, and were greeted at the Mowat Block with 20 GBC volunteers staffing the pizza tables.

More speeches from key supporters included Jesse Greener, president of the Canadian Federation of Students, who said, "For every two per cent increase in the number of students at college, we see a one per cent decline in the number of faculty. That's a shame. That's not right." Peter Kormos, NDP MPP, said, "New Democrats are pleased that finally you'll have an opportunity for at least a Cabinet minister to sit down with you tomorrow. But I want to tell you, you don't want to sit down with the monkey, you want to be sitting down with the organ grinder, and it's time for Dalton McGuinty to come to the table."

You can access more photos and highlights of the rally speeches at [www.opseu.org](http://www.opseu.org) . ↵ ↵ ↵

## **HOT FROM QUEEN'S PARK —FRIDAY, MARCH 17**

We received a phone call from Damian Wiechula around 1:00 on Friday afternoon concerning the meeting which the Minister had with both parties. The Minister did not offer anything concrete. He met with the management team before meeting with ours. The management has requested a mediated meeting with our team at 9:30 Monday morning. It will involve the mediator we had before, as well as a more senior mediator. We hope the management team got the message from the rally and the Minister. At this moment the old offer is still on the table. The key to the settlement is management addressing quality improvement. We view a meeting with management as a step in the right direction. The team remains optimistic, but if the offer doesn't address the issue of quality then we need even more government involvement. ↩

### **“MAIS NON, UNE GREVE EST GRAVE”**

In the first issue of Faculty Update we pointed out that a faculty strike is a collective effort to stop the college from doing its business as usual. Here's yet another example of doing that effectively and professionally.

This coming Monday the Hospitality building was to be the site for the celebration of 20 years of French services in Ontario. As a result of a strike awareness telephone campaign to visiting dignitaries and event organizers mounted by our local and UNITE HERE, the event has been cancelled! ↩

### **“YOURS TO DISCOVER”...**

#### **LEGALIZED DISCRIMINATION IN ONTARIO'S COLLEGES**

Part-time faculty are not only underpaid, uncompensated for their evaluative and preparatory work, and given large classes to teach, they're also denied a fundamental democratic right recognized by the United Nations – the ability to organize for collective bargaining.

Ontario is the only province in Canada to bar part-time college faculty as well as support staff (and farm labourers) from joining a union. Ontario's Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities and the Labour Minister need to make legislative reforms to end the discrimination as well as the economic inequities faced by these college employees. While some people may be just discovering this little known, out of the way scenic injustice, part-time faculty and support staff have been aware of it for far too long. They are second-class citizens in our college system and this really needs to change. Not tomorrow, NOW!

For more information, go to [www.collegeworkers.org](http://www.collegeworkers.org) ↩

### **ACTION ALERT — FAKED ANTI-FACULTY RADIO "NEWS"**

Faculty at Casa Loma report that a local radio station renowned for its vulgar, ignorant and abusive programming sent a vehicle to the Casa Loma picket line carrying a recording crew and an allegedly angry student. The "student" viciously insulted one of the picketing faculty for the benefit of the so-called reporters. The faculty member wisely responded calmly and the intimidation and propaganda operation departed. It is thought that they visited other colleges to pull the same stunt. Please calmly support any colleague targeted by these horrid people. If we respond angrily, they win. For an example of honest, responsible journalism, see the report on the underlying causes of the strike by a Sheridan colleague in The Toronto Star, on March 17th. ↩