



THE

Quality Times



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Strike Bulletin of OPSEU Local 655
Cambrian College Academic Personnel

Negotiations Update

Go to the OPSEU website for the latest on bargaining.

For the Line

Just so you know. OPSEU has come out strongly in opposition to the announcement about increased tuition. Through media releases and interviews, the union is working to make sure that message is heard loud and clear.

On the Line

Today, members of Local 655 who are on picket duty are getting a change of scenery, at least for an hour or two. Instead of taking up their usual stations around Cambrian College, at 11 a.m. they are going to be in front of MPP Rick Bartolucci's constituency office on Elm Street in Sudbury.

Thank you

The support staff at Cambrian College have demonstrated, in very real terms, that they support us. Local 656 has issued a cheque for \$200 to our strike fund.



Members on the picket line continue to try to educate the public, management and politicians.

Editor's Note: This release was put out by the Canadian Federation of Students on March 7, 2006

Quality Education means more Teachers in the Classroom

Today (Tuesday), over 9,000 college faculty withdrew their services in protest of deteriorating quality in Ontario college classrooms.

"For too long, colleges have been short-changed by our provincial government," said Jesse Greener, Ontario Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students.

In the past 15 years, the number of college students increased by 53% while real, per-student government funding declined by 41%. At the same time, the number of full-time faculty has decreased by 21.84%.

"The evidence shows that for every two percent increase in the number of college students enrolled, there is a corresponding one percent decrease in full-time faculty," said Greener. "This decline in quality is unacceptable, and unless the deterioration stops now, it will only get worse." "Administrators have said they want to increase services for students—not hire more faculty," said Greener. "But having qualified, full-time teachers in the classroom is a service—it's the very heart of our education system."

Students say the lack of full-time faculty makes it difficult to get any additional time with their instructors. "We've heard reports of students meeting with their instructors on the subway as their teachers dash off to other jobs," said Greener.

"How can we claim to provide a quality education when faculty members often have neither an office nor a desk?"

According to the Federation, colleges have coped with systemic underfunding by not hiring adequate numbers of full-time faculty, and instead relying on increasing the number of students in the classrooms and part-time workers. But such a situation cannot continue indefinitely warn students.

"What we're seeing is just the tip of the iceberg," said Greener. "Last year, college presidents made it clear to the Ontario government that at least \$150 million in additional funding was required for the current year—just to stop the steady decline in quality. Yet colleges received \$50 million less than required just to maintain the status quo, never mind making improvements."

"In this context, it is outrageous that the Ontario government is preparing to increase college tuition fees next September," said Greener. "Why should Ontario families keep paying higher and higher fees for less and less quality?"

Ontario students are demanding that the Ontario government immediately:

- inject the funding necessary to resolve the faculty / management dispute by funding a 10 percent increase in the number of full-time faculty within the college system;
 - place a moratorium on tuition fee increases until the full-time faculty-student ratio is restored to 1990 levels; and
 - provide a full reimbursement of costs borne by students as a result of the disruption of classes.
- "Premier Dalton McGuinty has the ability to resolve the situation immediately," said Greener. "The question is: will he step up to the plate?"

Visit Local 655's Website for more information

WWW.OPSEU655.CA

Strike Headquarters Phone Number: 521-1530

“What’s your Sign” Contest


Stand out in the crowd

OPSEU Local 655 wants to award you prizes for the best picket signs in the following categories:

- Best Slogan
- Best Artistry
- Theme that best defines “quality education”

Nominate your brothers and sisters to win great OPSEU prizes!

Express your solidarity through originality





The message on the line was about both ‘quality’ and ‘safety’ on Thursday.

Tuition Increase: What They Have to Say ...

"We aim to give students the best postsecondary education possible. Through our Reaching Higher Plan, our government is investing in more spaces, increased student aid and improved quality. But more needs to be done to enhance quality. To achieve our goal, we need an additional contribution from students. For every \$3 extra Ontario invests under Reaching Higher in postsecondary education, we are asking students to contribute \$1."

ward, both for this government and for working families."
Jesse Greener, Chair, Canadian Federation of Students (Ontario)

"After participating in many stakeholder consultations, and after 26,000 college students across Ontario asked the government to cap tuition increases at the rate of inflation, the government ignored students plea."

"Students in high cost programs will be the hardest hit. While the government has maintained the cap on the number of programs institutions can class as "high cost", they have put already expensive programs further out of the reach for most working class Ontario families."
Matt Jackson, President of the College Student Alliance (CSA)

"As part of the government's commitment to students and to ensure Ontarians get the best value for their investment in postsecondary education, our government is also creating the Higher Education Quality Council to monitor quality and access. The council is an independent body that will help us ensure continued improvement of the postsecondary education system by monitoring quality in the sector, access to postsecondary education and the accountability of institutions."

Chris Bentley—Ontario Minister of Training Colleges and Universities

"Although we are very disappointed in today's tuition fee announcement, this government has finally begun to improve the administration of our student financial aid and grants system. This will correct a major, systemic problem that no previous government has adequately addressed,
Tyler Charlebois, Director of Advocacy for the College Student Alliance.

"The government is attempting to deflect anger over tuition fee increases by pointing to changes in student assistance but the fact is a 5% annual tuition fee increase over the next four years will effectively wipe-out more than the student financial assistance investment to be phased in over the same period. In fact, for every dollar invested in student aid more than a dollar will be clawed back through tuition fee increases."

"We have been on record for years stating that we support the long-term goal of zero tuition for post-secondary education in Ontario. Today's announcement takes us farther away from that goal. ... There is no way that raising tuition fees can make post-secondary education more accessible to students."
Paddy Musson, Chair of OPSEU's College Academic Division.

"This is a bad day for Ontario families who are already struggling to pay high tuition fees. At a time when the Ontario government could well be sitting on a \$1 billion surplus, today's announcement is shameful. Other provinces, with fewer resources than Ontario, have taken the lead by freezing and reducing tuition fees."

"The resolution of our bargaining dispute is not higher tuitions. It is for the colleges to table an offer that addresses the issue of quality to provide more faculty, and more faculty time, for each and every student."
Ted Montgomery, chair of OPSEU CAAT(A) bargaining team.

"The money allocated to colleges and universities through McGuinty's Reaching Higher" plan last year was barely enough to bring Ontario funding up to the national average and only after five years. These tuition fee hikes are a huge step back-



Laurels

VP of Student Services and Security brought hot soup to picket lines this morning.

People donated fire-wood.

Cambrian College president brought donuts this morning.

Support Staff president brought coffee.

Music students baked muffins and distributed them to picketers.

Students are bringing coffee to faculty on a regular basis.



Darts

People are still refusing to slow down or stop for picket lines.

Lockerby Taxi ran picket line last night.