

I believe in
FAIRNESS
for part-time college workers!

Dear Mr. Bentley and Mr. Peters,

I am writing to ask you to amend the Colleges Collective Bargaining Act to allow part-time faculty and support staff in Ontario colleges the right to unionize.

Part-time faculty and staff are poorly compensated, receive no benefits or job security, and receive no preference for full-time positions. The current law is used to avoid paying full-time salaries and benefits and providing reasonable working conditions. A further injustice is that college part-timers are also denied some basic protections of the Employment Standards Act.

Ontario's colleges now employ about 17,000 part-time academic and support staff, outnumbering the 15,000 full-time staff. Over the past 15 years, (fall 1988 to fall 2004), the total of academic full-time staff has decreased 21 per cent while full-time enrolment has increased 49 per cent (ACAATO). Meanwhile, support staff is now at about the same level it was in 1988-1989, while administration has increased about 16 per cent in the past 6 years.

In Nov. 2006, the International Labour Organization in Geneva added its voice to those asking Ontario to move rapidly to allow union rights for these workers. In the same month, workers formed the Organization of Part-time and Sessional Employees of the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology, or OPSECAAT, to fight for these rights. As citizens and as workers, college part-timers deserve the same rights enjoyed by other Ontarians.

Ontario is alone in Canada in discriminating against part-time college employees. Please take action immediately to change this situation. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,