



I believe in **FAIRNESS** for part-time college workers! A special fax about quality education in our colleges

To: _____

Fax Number: _____ Date: _____

I am writing to ask your help in ensuring fairness for part-time college workers.

Ontario is the only province in Canada where it is illegal for part-time college workers to join a union. Because part-timers cannot unionize, colleges are free to exploit them as a source of cheap labour. Part-time college workers have no job security or benefits. Their wages are much lower than their full time counterparts. College part-timers are considered Crown employees, and so are denied the basic protections of the *Employment Standards Act*, including the right to statutory holiday pay and vacation pay. Ontario's colleges now employ close to 17,000 part-time academic and support staff, outnumbering the 15,000 full-time staff.

Over the past 15 years, from the fall 1988-1989 school year until fall 2004-2005, the total number of academic full-time staff has decreased by 21 per cent while full-time enrolment has increased by 49 per cent (ACAATO 2006 Environmental Scan). In that same period, support staff has fluctuated and now remains at about the same level as it was in 1988-1989. Administrative staff has increased by approximately 16 per cent in the past 6 years. This also reduces the quality of education college students receive.

In November 2006, the International Labour Organization in Geneva added its voice to those asking the Ontario government 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.

Please add your voice to theirs:

- Please raise this issue with Premier McGuinty, Labour Minister Steve Peters and Chris Bentley, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities,
- Tell them Ontario must treat all community college employees in a fair and equitable manner,
- Urge the government to amend the Colleges Collective Bargaining Act and make allow union rights for part-time college workers.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Address: _____