



Dear OPSEU Member,

OPSEU is working hard to right a longstanding wrong in Ontario. We need your help.

Our college system functions with large numbers of part-time faculty and support staff. These workers are denied the right to unionize, receive benefits, draw pensions, or collectively bargain their working conditions in Ontario colleges.

That's 17,000 workers who are denied their basic rights, and are subject to exploitation and discrimination, low wages, and few benefits compared to their full-time colleagues.

This is unacceptable for the workers of Ontario, for the students, and for the taxpayers.

The International Labour Organization agrees. On November 8, the Geneva-Based ILO ruled there was **no reason why the basic principles on the rights of association and collective bargaining should not apply to these workers**. They also said the Ontario government should 'rapidly' make the legislative changes to allow these workers to organize.

Students are being shortchanged. Part-time teachers are often unavailable: they have no office space, they have another job. This puts more stress on the full-time academic and support staff.

Everyone knows that to compete, to be productive, **we need a well-trained, well-educated workforce**. Educating and training people on the cheap won't help us compete in the global economy. But Ontario's college system ranks 10th out of 10 in provincial funding on a per student basis. We are dead last.

But part-timers are working to end this abuse. At a founding meeting Nov. 17 -19, workers from all 24 colleges formed the Organization of Part-time and Sessional Employees of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (OPSECAAT). With OPSEU's help, OPSECAAT will be pressing Premier McGuinty to do the right thing and implement the ILO ruling.

Please contact Premier McGuinty and Ministers Bentley and Peters via the www.collegeworkers.org website. Tell them you believe in fairness for college part-timers. Tell them the government must change the *Colleges Collective Bargaining Act* now to allow part-time college workers to join a union and bargain a contract. Please forward this to everyone in your address book.

Working together, we can end this injustice and win a voice in the workplace for these workers. We can end the legalized discrimination against these workers. It's only fair.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah Casselman".

Leah Casselman, President

www.collegeworkers.org