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OPSEU ActionFax

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OPSEU ActionFax is an electronic publication of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union

A Victory for the Union

Collège des Grands Lacs to stay open

OPSEU has achieved the first step of keeping Collège des Grands Lacs open – for now. Lawyers for the Union and the College have reached a court-ordered facilitated agreement, which will allow the College to stay open for all first and second year students. OPSEU brought a motion before the Ontario Superior Court of Justice last week to block the closing of Toronto's only French-language college.

"This is another victory for OPSEU, for the students and for the francophone communities of southern Ontario," said OPSEU President Leah Casselman. OPSEU represents the academic and support staff of the college. "It gives all of us more time to think about what's best for the staff, for the students, and for the community."

"Remember, this college was closed down in an illegal process that did not involve the community at large, the students, or the union. It was all done behind closed doors in the most undemocratic way imaginable," she added. Union members were joined in court by students, representatives of the francophone community of Toronto, ACFO (l' Association canadienne française de l' Ontario) and NDP MPP Gilles Bisson, who have supported the bid to keep the college open. The closing of the College was first announced three weeks ago.

The Court ruled that the college must stay open pending further hearings on the injunction. Students who have accepted offers to study elsewhere may return to the College with no penalty. Classes must resume and OPSEU says

OSAP money must now be released to students so they can continue. Hearings are scheduled for Nov. 15. and Nov. 26.

Julie Gigliotti, President of OPSEU Local 272 representing the college staff, said negotiations took more than three hours. "We need continued support from the francophone community, from ACFO and from opposition MPPs to keep the college going," Gigliotti said. "I'm confident we can do it."

MTO Driver Service Privatization Bill receives Third Reading

Now we'll have to worry about driver records being made available to the wrong people and about who might be doing driver examinations.

Bill 65 passed a third reading vote Oct. 24 by a count of 47-36, with all opposition members voting against. The Bill has yet to receive Royal Assent, timing of which is at the government's discretion.

This happened despite OPSEU's concerted efforts and work with the NDP and the Liberals in the Legislature.

"The government has proved once again it is not listening to the public, the opposition, or to the workers who understand how this service is delivered," said OPSEU President Leah Casselman.