

# NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

## REPORT

2021-2021



# 2021 National Executive Report

## Land Acknowledgement

We would like to begin by acknowledging that although this meeting is taking place virtually, we currently each reside on the unceded and unsurrendered territories of Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge the land both as an explicit reminder of the ongoing colonialism taking place here in Canada and as a reminder of the work that is yet to be done towards reconciliation between the Indigenous peoples of this land, settlers and the people who have been historically and violently displaced from their home territories to be placed here.

We encourage you to utilize the resource [www.native-land.ca](http://www.native-land.ca) and take the time to learn about the territories on which you currently reside. It is not enough to just read these words at events, it is important to understand them, their historical context and their connection to promoting real reconciliation based dialogue and action.

## About The Canadian Federation of Students

Established in 1981, the Canadian Federation of Students is the largest student organization in Canada, uniting more than 500,000 college, undergraduate and graduate students from coast to coast. We're working to achieve a universal system of high-quality, public, post-secondary education in Canada that is tuition-free for domestic and international students.

# Message from the At-Large Directors

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 40th annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students! As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our communities, students across the country carry on in their work to push students' issues to the forefront and demand a better future for students that calls for education for all.

We all know students across the country have a strong history of holding governments and university administrations accountable for making our campuses accessible, affordable, and safer places to pursue higher education.

We, the students, proved to the government that there is strength in numbers. We, as students, steadfastly demonstrated that we will not back down and will always demand a better post-secondary education—not only for us but also for a future generation of learners.

The victory against the Ontario government is one for the books! The Ontario government's Student Choice Initiative (SCI) has been defeated not once but twice in its entirety. This victory comes as a reminder that students are unapologetic about seeking justice, and we stand united.

Student voices also demanded to be heard in our Generation Vote federal election campaign. As a united voice for free and accessible post-secondary education, we demanded pandemic relief for student recovery, introduction to debt alleviation, elimination of differential fees for all International students, access to post-secondary education for all Indigenous students, and so much more. Many thanks to the students on the ground who organized debates, helped students learn about the issues, and encouraged Generation Vote to head to the polls!

With all said and done, we are still in the throes of navigating a global pandemic. The pandemic has exposed many of the pre-existing gaps within the post-secondary landscape, and has even exacerbated challenges for so many. Students quickly learned how to adapt to online learning, hybrid classes, and some of us even returned to in-person schooling. These past two years have been a unique and challenging time, indeed.

Always united in one voice, Newfoundland and Labrador showed up as a force to be reckoned with, fighting against the 40% tuition hikes and an austerity budget that sets students and youth back years. From rallies to roundtables, their fight for affordable and accessible education for all involved community members and youth from across the province.

Newfoundland's neighbours in Nova Scotia organized for Indigenous peoples' awareness month and launched Vote for the Future to remind decision-makers that students' votes matter. Students in Manitoba came together for the fight for education for all that echoed so strongly as students geared up to fight against Bill 33 and tirelessly advocate for international students in the healthcare system. And, we witnessed as students in Ontario stood in solidarity with community members against the cuts at Laurentian University, and took a strong stance to rename X University.

Despite the ongoing challenges of a global pandemic, we, the students, are resilient and found ways to adapt and reimagine what the future of post-secondary education looks like. It is clear that change is within our grasp and that students and youth are at the forefront. Free and accessible post-secondary education no longer seems impossible; it is just the beginning of building a future grounded in equity and sustainability where no one gets left behind!

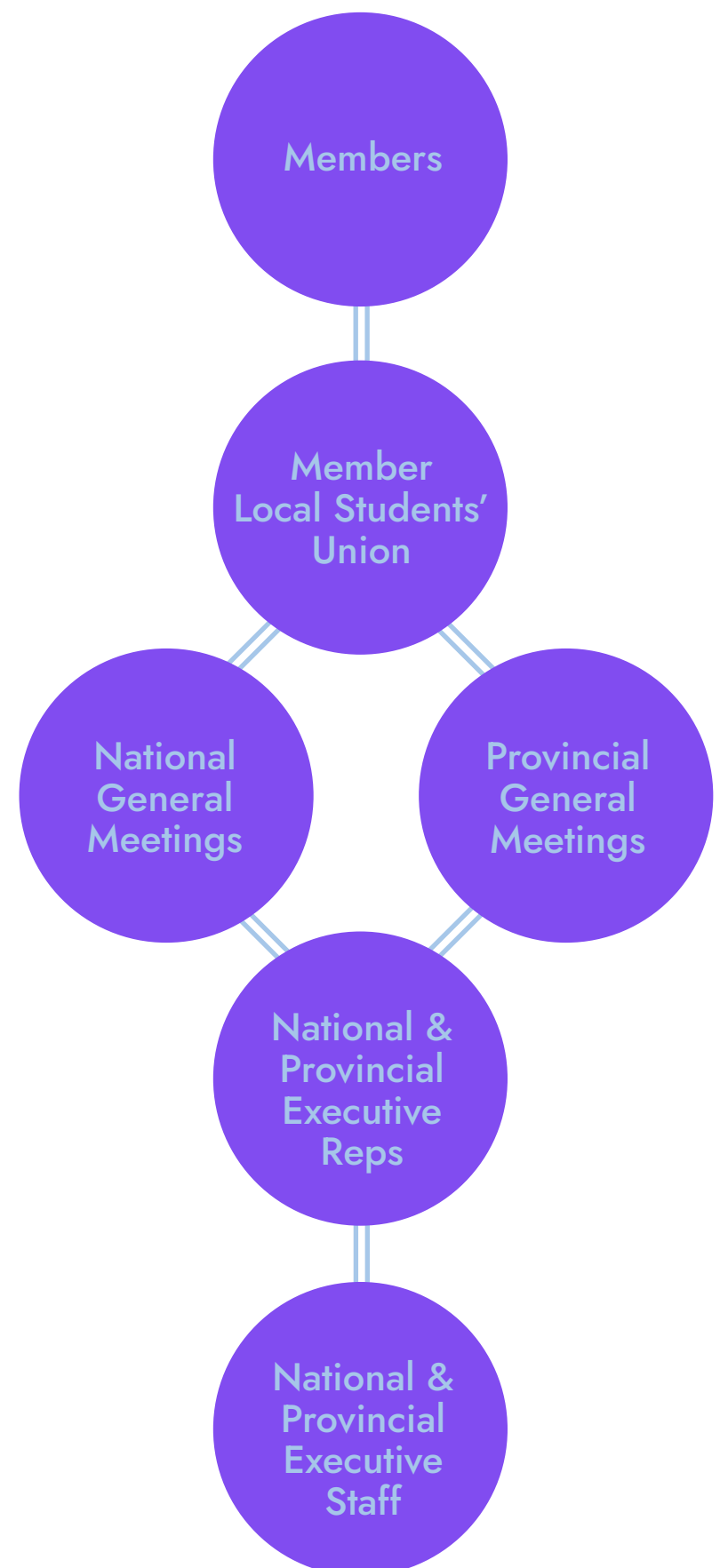
In solidarity,  
Your National At-Large Executive

# CFS Structure

Member local students' unions set the priorities and direction of the Canadian Federation of Students.

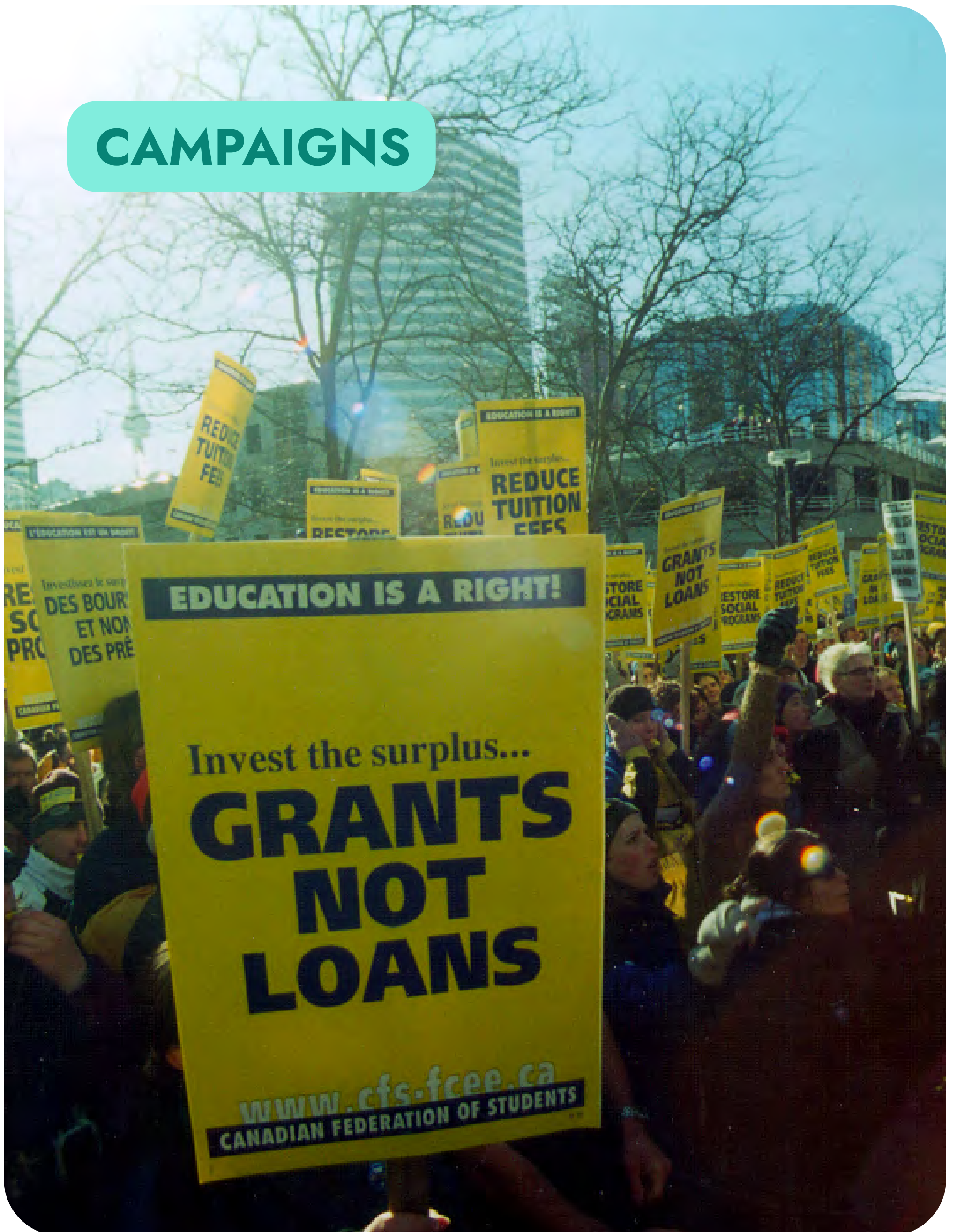
Each year, the Federation holds national general meetings where delegates vote on motions brought forward by member local students' unions and determine campaign priorities for the period that follows. During the meetings, sub-committees, constituency groups, caucuses and provincial components discuss these motions and offer amendments before all member local students' unions vote on them. With the principle of "one member, one vote," each member local students' union has an equal say in all major decisions.

The National Executive Committee is composed of representatives elected by member local students' unions.





# CAMPAIGNS



# Campaigns

## Generation Vote: Gen-V Federal Election Campaign

The writ of election dropped in August 2021. Recognizing that students and young people made up the largest voting block, the Federation developed and launched the Generation Vote (Gen-V) campaign.

The five pillars of the Campaign included “fairness for international students”, “honouring Indigenous learner’s right to education”, “climate justice and a liveable planet”, “investment in free post-secondary education”, and “pandemic relief that didn’t leave students behind”. These campaign pillars represented what members of the Federation felt were most important.

In support of the campaign the Federation produced a video, hosted a skills symposium, and developed resources to support the provincial offices and student organizers. The organizing guide included discussion points, common push backs, and pandemic outreach tools.

During the month of September, the Federation engaged students in its first ever National Skills Symposium titled “**Skills for Gen-V**”. Recognizing a gap in digital campaigning and organizing capacity, the Federation listened to feedback from members and ensured that their wishes were reflected in the Skills programming. The event brought together activists, organizers, and campaigners from various institutions to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to advocate both on and off campus.

The first two workshops took place on September 16, 2021. The workshops for this day revolved around pandemic organizing tactics, accessibility, and how to build community both on and offline. The first workshop, titled “**Digital Campaigns 101**” was facilitated by Point Blank Creative. The second workshop “**(Pandemic) Organizing 101**” was facilitated by Serisha Iyar, the Executive Director of grassroots organization Leading in Colour.

The last two workshops took place on September 23, 2021. The third workshop, titled “**Winning the Spin Wars**” featured progressive journalist and former Ontario chairperson, Nora Loreto. Members have been asking for media relations support and this workshop took participants through some crucial questions and considerations for navigating the Canadian media landscape. The final workshop “**Engaging your Audience Online**” was facilitated by New Mode. This event ended the first ever National Skills Symposium on a high note.

# Campaigns

## Drag Out The Vote

On September 17, 2021, Ahmed Abdallah, 2Spirit and Queer Commissioner, hosted the “**Drag out the Vote**” event. Recognizing a heightened engagement with Queer issues during the election cycle, the Federation planned an evening event that aimed both to entertain and get out the vote. The event featured Canada’s Drag Race Winner, Priyanka, along with Ottawa based drag queen, Saltina Shaker. Through a combination of performance and engaging conversation, this event marked a new way of engaging members.

## Education for All Campaign

Students and supporters have been mobilizing for years in response to increasing tuition fees, skyrocketing student debt, and government funding. The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic crisis has created an environment where students need to escalate demands to ensure that they don’t get left behind. The Federation, along with solidarity partners (CAUT, CUPE and PSAC), will be launching the Education for All campaign in the winter of 2021. This campaign will have three phases with the goal of mobilizing students, workers including faculty, contract, academic staff, librarians, researchers, teaching assistants and support staff, community members, and political decision-makers to take action to achieve a high quality, universally accessible and fully publicly-funded education system for all.

In 2022, the campaign will continue to raise awareness of the need for a high quality post secondary education system, engage students and supporters and mobilize thousands of students, community members, teaching assistants, contract academic staff, librarians, researchers, and support staff from coast to coast to demand that the government implement high-quality, and fully publicly funded education for all.

In March 2021, the Education for All Coalition hosted the Equity and Education for All Virtual Event which featured chairperson Alannah McKay. The event focused on the various intersections of educational affordability and the lived experience of the presenters.

# Campaigns

## Anti-Racism Toolkit

During the past year, the Federation facilitated workshops for member locals working on anti-racism initiatives on their campuses. In the last year, post secondary institutions released statements affirming their commitment to anti-racism, in particular the elimination of anti-Black racism. A year later, institutions are still working on making good on their promises from last summer. Racialized student leaders on campus faced increased pressure to navigate advocating for students and navigating administrative committees.

As student leaders continue to push their institutions for tangible commitments to anti-racism, this resource has proven timely and relevant. In the last year, students have worked with the Federation to engage in conversations around race based data collection on campus, organize against racism on campus, and form coalitions to support their work. The Federation hopes to continue using the anti-racism tool kit and its accompanying workshops to help students fight and speak truth to power.

## 2021 RISE Summit

Post secondary institutions were not built with racialized students in mind. With that in mind, the RISE summit was built out of the necessity for racialized students to form communities all over the country. The 2021 edition of RISE took place in October.

This year's RISE summit featured six sessions. The first session titled "Utilizing The Student Movement as a BIPOC student" discussed how BIPOC students could not only get involved in the student movement but also how to get involved in wider progressive movements.

The second session was a roundtable discussion hosted by the RISE committee about on the ground experiences of racialized students. The third session focused on abolition and discussed how community could imagine a more just society for all of us. The fourth session "Indigenous Centered Approaches to Environmental Justice" featured First Nations, Inuit, and Métis voices that engaged participants in a discussion about how climate movements must always center Indigenous perspectives and ways of knowing.

Finally, the last two sessions "Keeping Community Alive and Well along with an "Art Workshop" ended off the month-long summit reminding participants that self care, community, and art creation are all important ways of keeping the movement going.



**GOVERNMENT**

**RELATIONS**





# Government Relations

## Lobby Week 2021

Each year the Federation hosts lobby week to allow representatives from across the country to lobby their Members of Parliament and Senators regarding student issues with the hopes of seeing them addressed within the new federal budget. Lobby week's purpose is to advocate for a publically fully funded post-secondary education system, while also highlighting the key intersections of student interests, including climate justice, racial justice, fairness for international students, and ending funding and work precarity for post-secondary researchers and employees.

The Federation held the annual lobby week at Parliament Hill from February 15 to 19, 2021, with three preparatory delegate trainings that fell on January 28, February 2, and February 9 to ensure delegates received adequate and thorough training. Delegates from across the country lobbied Members on 5 recommendations:

- 1) Following through on commitments to students and grads
  - Move to immediately invest in emergency measures and utilize the remainder of the more than \$9 billion committed to post-secondary students
- 2) Understanding the impacts of COVID-19 on current and future students
  - Commit to and execute within a timely manner, studies that will highlight the short- and projected long-term intersectional impacts of COVID-19
- 3) Innovating post-secondary education through a student-centered approach
  - Commit to developing a costed framework that ensures both the immediate and long-term universal funding of post-secondary education
- 4) Developing a national vision for Canada's post secondary education system
  - Move to strike a post-secondary education committee that is made of elected officials, the provinces, and nonpartisan experts that will develop a shared vision for a renewed post-secondary education system
- 5) Relieving the burden of student debt
  - Move to immediately extend the loan freeze moratorium as an emergency measure on student loan repayment until December 2021

# Government Relations

## Federal Election

A federal election was held on September 20, 2021, after a 36 day campaign period—the minimum campaign length permitted. Even with the short writ period, the Federation was able to hold several voter engagement events and initiatives through its Generation Vote (Gen-V) campaign. Resources to mobilize and aid provincial offices and student organizers were disseminated, along with educational tools on platform analysis. Furthermore, earlier in the year, the Federation met with Democracy Exchange, and drafted a letter to Elections Canada regarding on-campus polling, to address the concerns about voting accessibility and increase voter turnout and engagement.

## Education for All

In 2021, the Federation continued its work with labour partners, PSAC, CUPE, NUPGE, and CAUT on the Education for All campaign. The campaign continues to advocate for the need for a fully publicly funded system of post-secondary education as well as the intersections of education access with issues such as climate change, racial justice, and fairness for international students. However, the campaign had to be paused during the federal election, due to a combination of the short writ period, as well as Election Canada's regulations for third parties. Third party rules indicate that while two groups may both register separately as third parties, they cannot work together on a unified campaign or coalition during the election period if this causes their spending limit to exceed the regulated expenses set out by Elections Canada. With the federal election behind us, the Federation will once again focus on the Education for All Campaign.

## Submissions & Recommendations

In 2021, the Federal government sent numerous requests for submissions, recommendations, and feedback to the Federation. Through these requests, the Federation was able to continue to advocate on behalf of post-secondary students' and graduates' needs and shape the federal government's priorities around PSE in this country. The following requests for submissions and recommendations occurred in 2021:

- 1) In April, 2021, the Federation submitted a request to the Parliamentary Budget Officer, MP Lyndsay Mathysen, to estimate the cost of a COVID-19 recovery package for post-secondary

# Government Relations

students and graduates. This cost request would offer clarity on the potential short and long-term solutions that would make significant differences in the lives of those that have been left behind during the COVID-19 government response. Although there was an allocation of \$9 billion in pandemic relief funds promised to students in 2020, instead, 2021 saw the end of numerous support programs, including the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) in September. The submission requested that estimate costs of the following be determined:

- Free Tuition
- Loan Forgiveness
- A full breakdown of the outcomes, usage and remainder of the \$9 billion dollars in COVID-19 support promised
- Direct support for students in: Mental Health support, Basic Universal Income, and the expansion of the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)

The costing request also highlights the need for better data collection to further identify the barriers that are impacting post-secondary students and graduates.

- 2) In June 2021, MP Heather McPherson tabled Private Member's Bill C-312: the Canada Post Secondary Education Act. The Federation was consulted as a stakeholder in the making of the bill, and provided recommendations. The Act would ensure that federal support for post-secondary education promotes high-quality and accessible education through establishing dedicated criteria and conditions that provinces would have to meet to obtain federal funding amounts. Once tabled, the Federation met with MP McPherson and staffers to provide feedback on the legislation, and continued to push for the inclusion of international students in any Federal legislation covering post-secondary education, as well as for education as a treaty right and meaningful funding for Indigenous learners. This bill completed its First Reading in the House, however with the Federal election, and subsequent dissolution of Parliament, it will have to be re-introduced in 2022.
- 3) The Federation was asked to submit a pre-budget submission in advance of the 2021 Budget. The Federation provided a list of 6 recommendations the federal government should adopt and follow in order to address the needs of post-secondary students:
  - Universally Accessible Post-Secondary Education
  - Fairness for International Students
  - Graduate Students and Research
  - Improvements to Healthcare and Mental Health Supports
  - Decolonize Learning
  - Bold Action on Climate Change



# SOLIDARITY





# Solidarity



## Save Laurentian University Action

On June 16, 2021, a digital petition with the Education For All Coalition was launched demanding for a national action regarding the insolvency at Laurentian University, resulting in the loss of critical programs.



## Canada Post-Secondary Education Act

On June 17, 2021, National Treasurer Marie Dolcetti-Koros and staff attended a meeting with the Education For All coalition to provide comments to the office of Member of Parliament, Heather McPherson regarding the recently tabled private members bill proposing a Canada Post-Secondary Education Act. The proposal borrows from policy recommendations put forward by the Canadian Federation of Students and Education for All Coalition.



## Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Alternative Federal Budget 2021

On June 24, 2021, the Federation submitted recommendations to the Social Infrastructure cluster of Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2021 Alternative Federal Budget. Recommendations included cost estimates and policy recommendations from the Federation's Just Recovery for Students and Education For All lobby documents.

# Solidarity



## Canada's Post-Secondary Education Act Pledge

On June 28, 2021, the Federation launched a digital action with the Education For All coalition calling on Members of Parliament to pass the Canada Post-Secondary Act presented by Heather McPherson as a private members bill. The act calls on the Federal Government to enact legislation that ensures provinces commit a portion of social transfer funding to funding affordable, accessible and high-quality post-secondary education.



## Democratic Engagement Exchange

On June 28, 2021, The Federation met with the Democratic Engagement Exchange (run out of X University) and is a signatory to an open letter to Elections Canada calling for the reinstatement of the vote on campus program, and calling attention to the importance of accessing the vote for young people and students. The coalition received a response and will continue to push for accessible voting.



## On Campus Voter Suspension Joint Letter Submission

On June 29, 2021, the Executive At-Large signed a joint letter submitted by the Democracy Engagement Exchange to Stephane Perrault, Chief Electoral Officer of Elections Canada. The joint letter raised concerns regarding the suspension of the Vote On Campus program for the upcoming Federal Election and urged stakeholders to protect students' right to accessible voting.

# Solidarity



## Acorn Ottawa - City-Wide Internet For All

In June 2020, the Federation met with ACORN Ottawa to learn about the city-wide Internet For All campaign and discuss ways the organizations could support each other.

## Proctortrack - Knowledge Sharing Session



Having heard from various member locals, the Federation has been working on bringing members together for a knowledge-sharing session on Proctortrack, an artificial intelligence (AI) online proctoring tool used by some universities to administer exams. This technology has been proven to collect data unrelated to exam administration and is discriminatory particularly towards BIPOC users. The session will be held in August, and anyone is welcome to attend.



## Solidarity Bill 21 Constitution Challenge

On December 13, the Federation released a statement in support of the CCLA's, the NCCM's, and Ichrak Nourel Hak's efforts to overturn Bill 21, a law introduced in Quebec against religious freedoms. The statement outlines that while Quebec's Court of Appeal did not mandate the province to suspend the ban until the Supreme Court hears the case as a constitutional challenge, it mentioned that such a Bill will cause irreparable harm to those affected.

# Solidarity

## Education for All Coalition Report

The Federation continues to work within the Education for All coalition in a variety of capacities. The collaboration includes hosting panels on sector-related issues such as performance-based funding and mobilizing to raise awareness around the insolvency of Laurentian University and Canada's Post-Secondary Act.



## Canadian Alliance of University Teachers -Copyright Case at the Supreme Court of Canada

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) intervened in a Supreme Court of Canada case about copyright. The case between York University and Access Copyright — a collective society under the Copyright Act — was heard in May. CAUT/CFS made a 10-page submission on both Access Copyright's appeal on mandatory tariffs and York University's appeal on fair dealing, helping the Court to connect both issues to the fundamental principle of academic freedom and to teachers' and students' perspectives on the appropriate ways to respect copyright in post-secondary education. CAUT/CFS assisted the Court to affirm the public interest position of the education sector that educational institutions can opt-out of collective licensing arrangements and choose other legal routes to copy and use works, including through site licensing, open access materials, transactional licenses, and fair dealing.



CCPA  
CANADIAN CENTRE  
for POLICY ALTERNATIVES  
BC Office

## Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives Alternative Federal Budget

The Federation continues to work with the CCPA and contributed to drafting this year's Alternative Federal Budget (AFB), to be released publicly this fall.

# Solidarity



## Green Economy Network

On August 9, 2021, the national Treasurer met with the Green Economy network. This meeting included the NDP leadership office and the main goals of the meeting were to provide student perspective on climate action, youth employment, green jobs, and a just transition.



## Apathy Is Boring - Canadian Voter Coalition

Throughout August and September 2021, the Federation engaged with Apathy is Boring to share resources during the Federal election. This involved joining the Canadian Voter Coalition. The coalition included other youth serving organizations who were mutually interested in raising the youth voter count and promoting educational tools to increase turnout. The voter coalition developed resources like FAQs and shared information to assist on the ground outreachers.



## Basic Income Youth Network

In September 2021, the Federation met with the Basic Income Youth Network to engage them in the Gen-V campaign and learn more about how youth across the country were mobilizing around basic income. On October 5 2021, the BIYN hosted a panel discussion in Hamilton and invited the Federation to share how basic income in tandem with free and accessible post secondary education would improve the lives of students.



# Solidarity



## Orange Shirt Day

On September 30, 2021, the Federation participated in the first Orange Shirt Day. Orange shirt day is a day to honour Indigenous children who were forcibly removed from their home communities and placed in residential schools. The orange shirt refers to the new shirt that Phyllis Webstad was given by her grandmother before she went to St. Joseph's Mission residential school. The orange shirt symbolizes what was taken away from Phyllis and so on September 30, all wear orange shirts to remember that every child matters. The At-large executives and staff members all wore orange shirts featured on Federation social media. Additionally, the Federation directed members to resources like books, movies, and podcasts so that they could educate themselves and show solidarity.

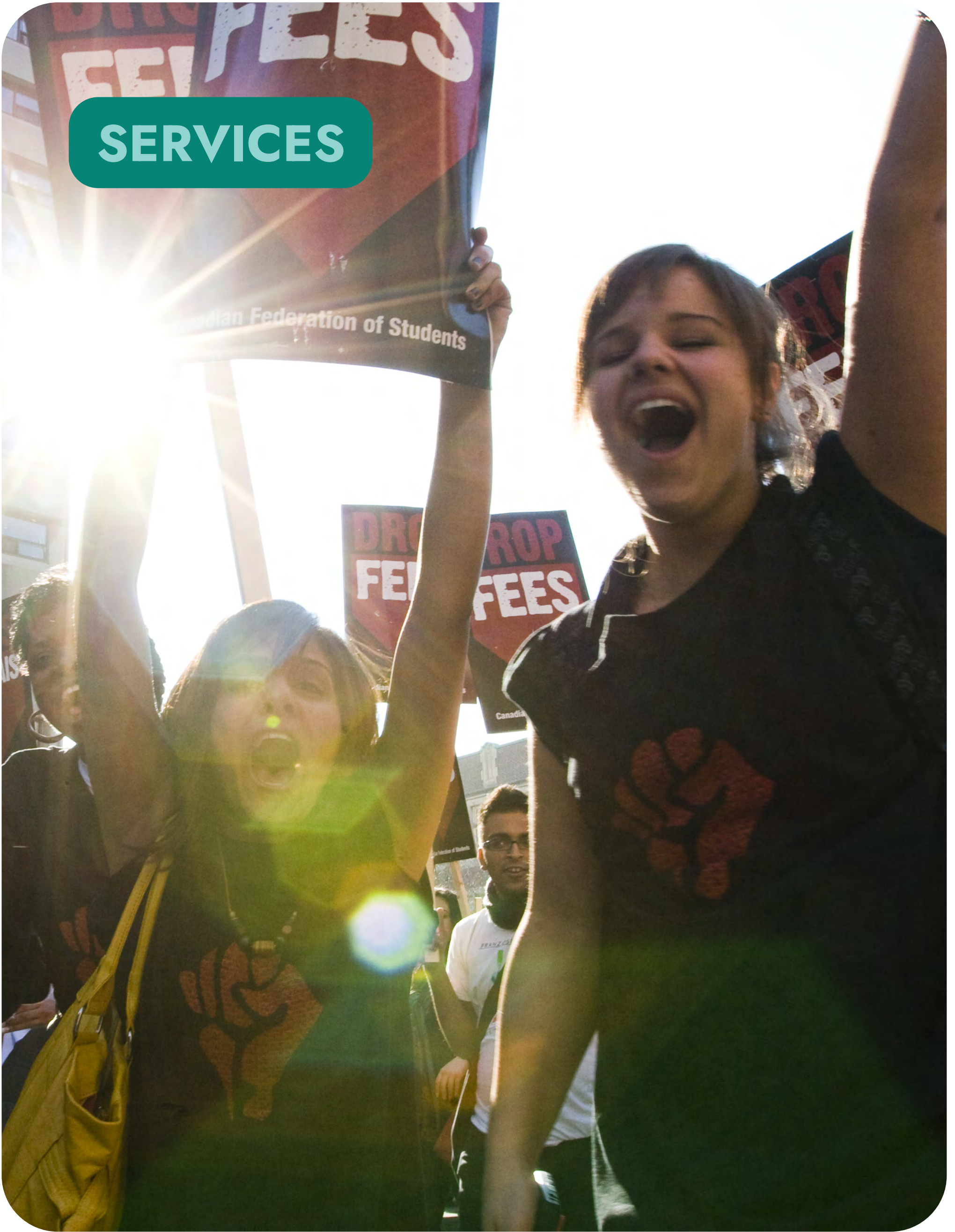


## Canadian Association of Graduate Students Conference 2021

On November 2021, The Federation attended the Canadian Association of Graduate Students to present the National Graduate Caucus' Mental Health Toolkit to members and executives.



# SERVICES





# Services

The Federation has a dual mandate to advocate on behalf of students and provide them with cost-saving services. These services offer member locals and individual members access to quality programs that promote ethically sourced materials, an added value of membership and cost savings. By using our services, students can immediately offset the high cost of education through savings on a day-to-day basis. The goals of the services are to bring additional revenue to the Federation to support campaigns and equity mandates and to bring added value to member locals and members through cost savings.

## National Student Health Network

The National Student Health Network (NSHN) is a consortium for health and dental insurance that uses the combined purchasing power of Federation members to secure lower rates and better coverage. Working with Canada's only national non-profit insurance provider, Green Shield Canada (GSC), means that we can provide students with the best value and health outcomes and work collectively to move the industry in a positive direction. The NSHN also emphasizes annual rather than predatory multi-year rate contracts and more inclusive and holistic coverage options.

The Federation assists any member local with reviewing their plan renewal each year. This collaboration aims to ensure that member locals receive the best possible services and rates for their members in a profit-driven industry. The objective of this service is to ensure member locals are being told factual and transparent information from their health and dental insurance broker. For members of the NSHN and Green Shield Canada, each unique plan is reviewed each year by an independent consultant. This has saved participating member locals over \$3.4 million dollars in premiums, since beginning this initiative in 2018.

Primary services of the NSHN include preparing promotional plan materials for each participating member local, processing opt-out refunds, negotiating for the best possible rates, forming strategic partnerships with quality service providers, and implementing innovative solutions for all members. The NSHN assists member locals and health plan administrators with the day-to-day operations of the health and dental plans to ensure the best possible experience for students.

This year, both the NSHN and GSC completely refreshed all materials, including print and digital resources. The GSC website was transformed into a fully accessible website with refined content and tailored student focused pages. The Student Centre platform, which is a custom website dedicated for each participating member local, was included in this refresh. The NSHN followed suite, rebranding all print and digital materials which matched the design of digital assets for a

# Services

seamless and recognizable experience for students. Furthermore, GSC Plan Member Online Services was completely overhauled. Students now have access to GSC Everywhere – a leading online experience for students to submit claims, sign up for direct deposit reimbursement, participating in exclusive GSC programs, and access their plan member ID card. GSC Everywhere is also completely mobile, available on major app store to be downloaded to smart devices.

Brand new to the NSHN, participating members had the option of adding Maple telemedicine to their plan. Maple is a fully digital option for members to connect with a primary care physician or nurse for medical consultation. Maple offers various services, from medical consultations and advice, prescription medications, mental health support, diagnosis, imaging, labs, and referrals. Participating members receive customized promotional materials to ensure all members are aware of this service.

Another new partner to the NSHN this year is PocketPills. This service is a digital pharmacy, connecting students with pharmacists right from their computer or smartphone. PocketPills provides students with the lowest cost dispensing fee and drug costs. Combine this with the ease of access, PocketPills can transfer of fill prescriptions with a few actions through their smartphone app. Besides prescriptions, PocketPills offers a variety of vitamins and other wellness products that empower members to prioritize their health. Medications are couriered to students addresses, no matter where they are located, with the quickest priority setting. All members of the NSHN have access to this service, including customized promotional materials. Soon, members will have the option of increasing their prescription medication coverage, reducing or eliminating any copay for students who choose PocketPills.

The NSHN is currently working on another strategic partnership which would bring members access to discounted therapy rates to licensed social worker and psychotherapist practitioners – all through a convenient digital platform. Having on-demand scheduling to speak with a trusted and reoccurring practitioner is essential to helping students navigate their mental wellness. Launching soon, members will have access to the discounted rates for the remainder of the 2021-2022 plan year. The NSHN aims to introduce this service throughout the winter period for a fully integrated launch of September 2022.

Mind Beacon is now in its third year of availability. This is a CBT (cognitive behaviour therapy) program that is delivered digitally to students. Students can access Mind Beacon through their GSC coverage, where they can connect with a mental health professional and begin the iCBT based program through a self-paced, supported delivery. The NSHN and GSC have delivered promotional materials to all member locals on the NSHN and continue to bring new and exciting materials from Mind Beacon.

# Services

All participating NSHN member locals have access to a fully facilitated opt-out refund process. Touting Interac e-transfer, the opt-out process is quick and easy for members to accept their refunds, in cash, as quickly as possible to their bank account of choice. The Interac e-transfer opt-out solution is available in addition to the standard printed cheques refund option if a member local prefers.

The NSHN is refining the Continuing Coverage care plans to bring refined materials for member locals. Continuing Care plans are specifically designed for any member to purchase as they transition from their Students' Union health and dental plan. These customized plans offer low rates for members so that they continue to be covered for health and dental essential services such as drug, extended healthcare, and dental after graduating, reducing to part-time, or no longer qualifying for the mandatory health and dental plan. This service is available to all members of the Federation, even if their previous health and dental plan were not GSC.

The Federation continues to diligently work on bringing new additions to the NSHN. Introduced in November of 2019, an International Student Health Care plan is being perfected that will allow international students to access primary care coverage. This service allows member locals to take control of international health care plans on campus, which are typically outsourced to companies such as UHIP and Guard Me. The NSHN's International Student Health Care plan will provide transparent, quality coverage for international students without the extremely high commissions that other companies currently charge. The Federation is seeking interested member locals who would like to learn more about this plan so that, together, we can bring higher quality coverage to international students at a cheaper price. These plans will also engage members to take action and join the Federation's Fairness of International Students campaigns across the country calling for international students to have access, at no additional cost, to provincial health care plans.

Based on member local demand, the Federation also offers discounted pricing on sexual health products. Through a bulk order, the Federation is able to purchase sexual health products on behalf of member locals, passing on the savings directly to the member local.

In the health and dental industry, there recently has been a shift in the ownership of health and dental providers in Canada, which greatly affects members of the Federation. In Canada, there are a variety of health and dental brokers, which provide insurance to students. These include brokers such as Studentcare, We Speak Student, Gallivan, and Student VIP. Brokers charge students' unions a commission to offer their services, and act as the middle person between the students' union and the insurance company. As this middle person, Brokers often dictate to students' unions how much their members must pay to access the health and dental plan.



# Services

Unfortunately, there are a variety of commission charges and other fees usually opaquely disguised within these rates that students pay.

As of December 2020, Gallivan, We Speak Student, and Studentcare have been purchased and are now wholly owned by a for-profit, once publicly traded on the TSX company called People Corporation. In early 2021, People Corporation was acquired by Goldman Sachs, buying out the shareholders of People Corporation, selling to one of the world's largest publicly traded banking conglomerates. For Federation members that partner with these providers, this means that students' health and dental premiums are funding investor's pockets and propelling the actions of such large investment banking institutions. People Corporation describes the student market as "highly attractive" and clearly has identified students as a large revenue generating component for their business and acquirer's shareholders.

This news only emphasizes that the Federation can bring better service, cheaper premiums, and be a voice to fight privatization and capitalism in collaboration with our member locals. The Federation's National Student Health Network is partnered with Green Shield Canada, Canada's only national not-for-profit health and dental provider. The Network eliminates the need of for-profit brokers and brings members affordable health and dental insurance from a Canadian owned, not-for-profit company.

## Handbook and Day Planner Service

The members' Handbook and Day Planner Service was initiated to reduce the time and cost of producing handbooks and improve the overall quality of student union-produced day planners. Each day planner includes a calendar, a fully customized member local section and a Federation section. Through our ability to purchase in bulk and by using economies of scale, the Federation can offer member locals a quality handbook for a significantly reduced price compared to market pricing. By member locals joining the order, all member locals benefit through the bulk buy purchase. Additional value add is provided by the Federation offering the complete administrative coordination and logistics of the order.

This year, many member locals returned to ordering and increase their order quantity as campuses offered more in-person learning. The Federation was able to support participating member locals and kept costs as low as possible for quality, ethically produced books.

The Federation hopes to continue its partnership with a Toronto-based, unionized printing company but is actively sourcing quotes from various printers to ensure members receive the lowest price

# Services

possible. Like previous years, the program continues to produce the handbooks with post-consumer recycled paper and vegetable ink.

New for the handbook and day planner program is a completely redesigned calendar section. This customized calendar section provides more space for members to record their to-do lists, assignments, notes, and mood. The Federation plans to redesign many sections of content for the handbook program this year.

Member locals can accept 2022-2023 pricing for the handbook and day planner service in early 2022.

## International Student Identity Card

The International Student Identity Card provides over 150,000 discounts worldwide. The card allows members to save on everyday purchases, travel, events, and attractions. The card is free as a benefit of membership for all members of the Canadian Federation of Students, a \$20 value to members.

The Federation and ISIC global have committed to a more environmentally friendly issuing process, promoting the virtual ISIC over physical cards. The virtual card allows members to have access to their ISIC at any time by using the mobile app available on all smartphones or computers. This ensures members always have access to their cards and the ability to obtain discounts. Member locals and Federation representatives have now primarily switched to issuing virtual. A variety of popular discounts continuously are being added to the ISIC discount portfolio, including brands such as Apple, Samsung, popular attractions, and more.

New for 2021 is the ability for the Federation to create customized ordering portals for each member local. Member locals can direct their members to this customized portal to order an ISIC. Member locals will continue to be able to issue the card from the dedicated issuing portal directly to members addition to the customized portal. Any member local interested in having a customized order portal for ISIC can communicate with the National Office for support.

Additionally, members locals may request a custom co-branded ISIC, which can feature their students' union logo or design, and include additional information, such as student number, health and dental plan ID number, transit pass integration, and more. Member locals who would like to learn more information about this customized ISIC can inquire to the National office for information.

# Services

## Ethical Purchasing Network

Since 2006, the Federation has coordinated the purchase of ethically produced and sustainably sourced materials for campuses across Canada. Products available through the Ethical Purchasing Network are union-made, from recycled materials, and are environmentally conscious. By ordering through the Ethical Purchasing Network, member locals' orders are combined, creating large bulk orders of ethically produced products. This drives down the per item cost and allows more members to participate, even acquiring a larger quantity of products.

The Federation has changed the general structure of the Ethical Purchasing Network since the Single Mother's Cooperative in El Salvador closed its doors and with some of the tariffs charged at the United States border in 2018. The Federation is a registered promotional products distributor, meaning it can directly partner with Canadian suppliers that produce and manufacture textiles and other products. The pricing for these products is direct from the supplier, which eliminates the entire manufacturer suggested retail price (MSRP). This ultimately saves participating member locals up to 40% off ethically produced products.

## UFile

The Federation continues its partnership with UFile to bring free tax filing to members across the country. Students continue to take advantage of using the free, intuitive software that features a step-by-step process to input tax information to calculate the most favourable tax return. UFile is currently preparing materials that will be distributed by the Federation in early 2022.

New this year to the UFile program was refreshed promotional materials, digital creative for social media, and friends and family coupons.

Member locals that are interested in hosting tax clinics on campus should reach out to their Federation provincial office or the National Office for more information. Planning to host tax clinics should start in November 2021 so that volunteers can be properly trained and certified to assist members with tax filing. Member locals interested in hosting a tax clinic can reach the National Office for support.

# Services

## Digital Services

Established by a resolution at the May 2004 National General Meeting, the Federation's Digital Services was launched in 2005 in order to provide website, email, and mailing list services to member locals. As with all of the Federation's co-operative services, the goal of Digital Services is to provide high quality, student-focused services as cost-effectively as possible.

The Federation offers dedicated Canadian-based cloud hosting to member locals and components. This provides reliable and efficient hosting solutions to any web applications, including WordPress. The Federation offers support to member locals to host and maintain WordPress content management systems.

The Federation continues to provide domain name registration and management services, such as annual renewals and DNS configurations, as part of its Digital Services. Domain name registration and management requires purchasing domain names from companies that are designated registrars. The Federation coordinates with robust, efficient, and full-featured domain registrar for the large number of domain names that the Federation registers, manages, and renews every year. Additionally, the Federation leverages Canadian-based cloud DNS, which maximizes website traffic via the Azure network. All of this is protected through a complete infrastructure firewall and monitoring platform, ensuring network protection, backup, and continuous uptime.

For email service, the Federation is able to support member locals' transition and migration to solutions such as Google Workspace and Microsoft 365. Most member locals will be able to adopt these services at no cost, as a benefit of being a not-for-profit organization. Not only do these platforms provide powerful email service, but also groups, mailing lists, file storage, and productivity software like Microsoft Word and Google Docs. Interested member locals may contact the National Office to inquire about this completely managed, no-cost solution.

An additional service the Federation maintains is a powerful letter writing tool. Member locals can collaborate with the Federation to offer this tool, which allows students to take action and send a pre-written letter to the board of governors, municipal council, provincial representatives, and even members of parliament.

# Services

## Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP)

SWAP Working Holidays was Canada's largest international work exchange and travel program for students and youth. The program has been a Federation service for over 30 years.

Unfortunately, the impacts of COVID-19 and the global pandemic has had a devastating impact on SWAP, the contracted administrator of the program - Merit Travel, and all of the partners that SWAP collaborated with around the globe. Beginning in March 2020, the Federation has worked diligently with the Merit Travel to amicably minimize losses of the program and positioned the program for closure. As of early 2021, the program was wind down and is no longer a service of the Federation.



**INTERNAL**



# Internal

## Student Choice Initiative

In January 2019, the Ontario Government announced detrimental changes to postsecondary education. Instead of improving the quality of education for students, the government launched a direct attack on students' unions and the Federation. The impact of these changes range from increased student debt, more loans, less grants and a massive reduction on student-focused advocacy and services on campus. The Federation collected a petition with 20,000 signatures, facilitated dozens of volunteer trainings and town halls, started campus coalitions, led rallies and occupations, held a week of action, organized a province - wide walkout, and more.

The Federation initiated a legal challenge alongside member local 68, the York Federation of Students, on the basis that the government lacked the authority to implement such a policy and acted with an improper purpose. The hearing lasted six hours, during which the Canadian Federation of Students, the York Federation of Students, and the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union (as intervenors) presented their case to repeal this policy. On November 21, 2019, the Divisional Court released their unanimous decision deeming the Student Choice Initiative unlawful.

The Government of Ontario filed an appeal to the decision of the Ontario Divisional Court on December 6, 2019, to overturn the Student Choice Initiative ruling. The appeal has been reviewed and the court has decided to proceed with the appeal hearing. On July 2, 2020, the Federation was pleased to hear that the University of Toronto, Queen's University, University of Ottawa, University of Waterloo and the University of Western joined the Student Choice Initiative challenge as intervenors, in support of the Federation and YFS' case that this policy has no place affecting the autonomy of students' unions and the institutions to which they interact.

On August 21, Goldblatt proposed to the Ontario government to withdraw the case which if agreed to, would allow student unions to continue regular operations. On September 15, 2020, the government responded and noted they would like to proceed with the appeal, despite the pandemic's devastating effects on students and member locals.

In March of 2021, the Federation and YFS fought against this divisive policy at the Court of Appeal for Ontario, represented by the progressive Goldblatt Partners firm. Later in August of 2021, the court released the decision the Government of Ontario's SCl framework conflicts with the legislation governing Ontario's colleges and Universities and cannot be imposed upon them by the exercise of authority. The decision of the divisional court remains that SCl is unlawful.

# Internal

This fight by the Federation and YFS to ensure that progressive student issues remain at the forefront of government and public awareness is upheld has resulted in an enormous win for all member locals, students' unions and their members across the province of Ontario.

## Student Choice Initiative

In April 2020, the Federation sold its heritage building National Office located in Centre Town, Ottawa. As a depreciating property, expanding nearly 9,000 square feet, the property required upkeep and adherence to City of Ottawa heritage property standards. This sale allowed the Federation to acquire a smaller, commercial condominium office, situated directly on the main transit way in the City with immediate access to Ottawa's main highways. The new National Office features plenty of space that allows your at-large representatives and national staffing team to operate at a substantially reduced cost while the property appreciates in value with the expansion of Ottawa's light rail transit (LRT) system being constructed a short 200 metres down the street.

In February 2020, the Federation was granted a \$100,000 contribution by Employment and Social Development (ESDC) Canada for the purposes of creating a more accessible workplace. The office will undergo renovations using the grant money to improve the accessibility of washrooms and access to the space.

All member locals are requested to action ensuring that the Federation's National Office address has been updated in their records. The new address of the Federation's National Office is:

Canadian Federation of Students  
200-2725 Queensview Drive  
Ottawa, ON, K2B 0A1

# Internal

## Membership Fees

When the Federation was founded in 1981, the national membership fee was set at \$2.00 per student per semester. In 1992, member locals voted to increase the fee from \$2.00 to \$3.00. At the same time, a Bylaw was adopted stipulating that starting in 1996, the fee would be adjusted each academic year by the rate of change in the Canadian Consumer Price Index (CPI) during the previous calendar year. The Federation's national membership fee for the current academic year is \$4.79 per student per semester 2.

## Staffing Updates

As the Federation adjusts to the Student Choice Initiative (SCI) case and appeal being ruled unlawful, the focus has been building capacity to better serve all member locals and members. To do this, a focus has been placed on building and recruiting a talented staff team that focuses on delivering the mandate of the Federation.

Since November 2020, the National Office has been fortunate to gain Candice Pinto, as the Communications and Public Relations Officer, Patricia Navidad, as the Marketing and Services Officer, James Casey, as the Research and Policy Analyst, and Erin Callary, as the Public Affairs Officer. The Executive Director role has been split to bring a refined focus to membership strategy and engagement, welcoming Taylan McRae-Yu as the Director of Strategy and Raven Davidson, former Membership and Services Coordinator, and Director of Stakeholder Relations. This team joins the existing talented group of staff, including Alex Wicks, Newfoundland and Labrador Organizer, Laura Cutmore, Maritimes Organizer, Liz Shearer, Manitoba Organizer, Diana Idibe, Campaigns Coordinator, Lesley Griffiths, Director of Finance, and Corey Grist, Director of Operations and Services.

The National Office is proud to support and work daily with all of the professional staff, whom are unionized with CUPE 1281.

# Internal

## National Executive Team

Between national general meetings, the National Executive, along with the staff of the organization, manage the Federation's projects and implement the vision outlined by members.

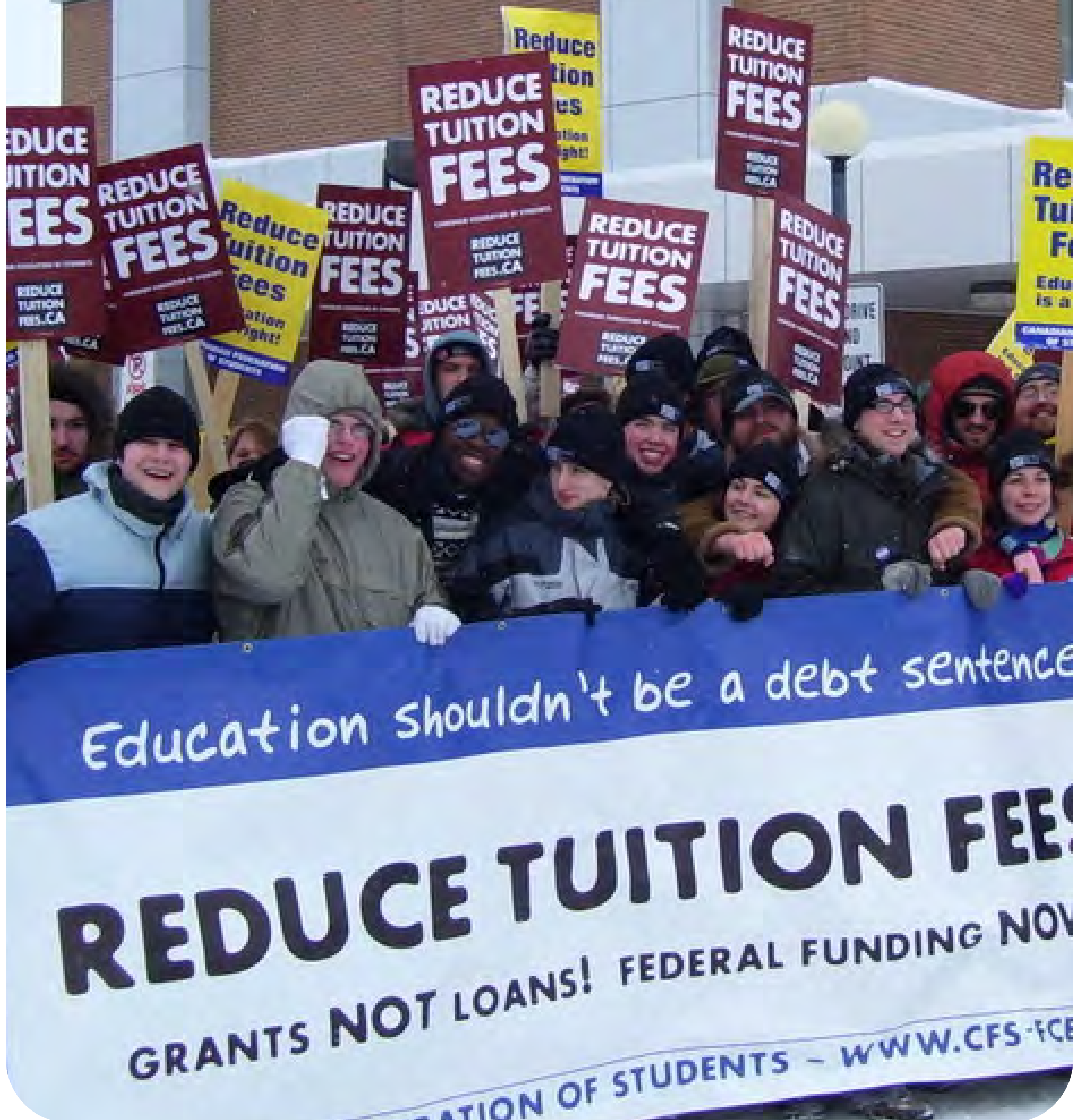
CHAIRPERSON	ALANNAH MCKAY	BLACK STUDENTS' CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE	BO MOBOLUWAJIDIDE JOSEPH
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON	WESAM ABDELHAMID MOHAMED	CIRCLE REPRESENTATIVE	JENA ASHLEY
TREASURER	MARIE DOLCETTI-KOROS	FRANCOPHONE STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE	PAPE ABDOULAYE XAVIER DIAGNE
MB REPRESENTATIVE	ALEXANDRA KOSLOCK	GRADUATE STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE	JESSICA KEARNEY
NFLD REPRESENTATIVE	KATHERINE MCLAUGHLIN	INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE	BIPIN KUMAR
NS REPRESENTATIVE	KRIS REPPAS	RACIALISED STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE	RIAZ NANDAN
ON REPRESENTATIVE	KAYLA WELLER	WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE	JOANNA CLARK
		2SPIRIT & TRANS REPRESENTATIVE	JESSIE WHYTE

## National Staff Team

CAMPAIGNS COORDINATOR	DIANE IDIBE	PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER	ERIN CALLARY
COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER	CANDICE PINTO	RESEARCH AND POLICY ANALYST	JAMES CASEY
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND SERVICES	COREY GRIST	SERVICES AND MARKETING OFFICER	PATRICIA NAVIDAD
DIRECTOR OF STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS	RAVEN DAVIDSON	EVENTS & OUTREACH INTERN	EMILY SCOTT
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY	TAYLAN MCRAE-YU	COMMUNICATIONS INTERN	SARA CAMUS
FINANCE COORDINATOR	LESLEY GRIFFITHS	WEB MARKETING MANAGER INTERN	ANDREEA MIHAI
FINANCE COORDINATOR	LESLEY GRIFFITHS	WEB MARKETING MANAGER INTERN	ANDREEA MIHAI
MARITIMES ORGANIZER	LAURA CUTMORE	MANITOBA ORGANIZER	ELIZABETH SHEARER
NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR ORGANIZER	ALEX WICKS		



# COMMUNICATIONS



# Communications

This year, the Federation has been featured in countless articles, radio broadcasts, and television shows. We continue to be considered the most reliable voice of the student movement and are consistently called on to share our opinions and provide advice. This has allowed us to push student issues to the forefront of the media and the public's attention, particularly during a challenging and unprecedented year for students everywhere.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have experienced a significant increase in media features to share our insight on the student experience. With the announcement of the federal election, many members of the National Executive were called on to speak about the suspension of Elections Canada's Vote on Campus program, highlighting the fact that the loss of on-campus polls means voting won't be accessible for all students across the country. Other interviews have called for our student representatives to speak on safety concerns about the return to campus, increasing tuition fees, a decimated job market, and the overall current state of post-secondary education.

## **Universities grappling with mandatory COVID-19 vaccines issue as fall return to campus approaches**

**Most universities say they will follow local public health guidelines and are strongly encouraging staff and students to get vaccinated.**

BY ROBERT KOZAK | MAY 26 2021

Earlier this year, National Treasurer Marie Docetti-Koros interviewed with University Affairs Magazine to speak on the Federations concerns regarding returning to campus in the Fall of 2021 and mandatory vaccine policies. Emphasis was put on following public health protocols and protecting the health and safety of students, faculty, and workers on campus, as well as, ensuring students have access to high-quality education regardless of where they study.

# Communications

**Despite economic reopening, students still worry about lack of summer work**

The Canadian Press Staff  
Contact  
Published Tuesday, June 8, 2021 2:33PM EDT  
Last Updated Tuesday, June 8, 2021 5:02PM EDT



A waitress works the outdoor patio at a restaurant in Little Italy during the COVID-19 pandemic in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Nathan Denette

They are the same worries the Canadian Federation of Students has heard from others, said Bipin Kumar, the international student representative for the organization.

"At least one of the things we are hearing is whether the additional health insurance offered by private companies would cover students, in case they get sick due to travel," he said.

"A lot of the travel would happen before they come to Canada, and usually the insurance is only after they enrol from 1st of September."

In June, National Treasurer Marie Docetti-Koros interviewed with the Canadian Press regarding the high-levels of student unemployment caused by ongoing emergency public safety measures, and the additional challenges that marginalized individuals continue to face when seeking employment.

In June, International Students Representative Bipin Kumar spoke with the Canadian Press about the unique challenges facing international students during the COVID-19 pandemic. International students coming to Canada this year as COVID-19 cases rise and fall in various parts of the world face numerous barriers such as visa backlogs, lack of vaccinations, quarantine measures and fewer available flights.

In July, Manitoba Chairperson Alexandra Koslock spoke to CBC News Winnipeg after an international student at the University of Manitoba says he's facing medical bills totalling over \$123,000 after a long stay in two Winnipeg hospitals.

**"This particular situation ... [is] a result of the PC government willingly clawing back Manitoba health cards from international students simply to save a few million dollars back in 2018".**

Manitoba

**International student shocked by \$123K in medical bills after 24-day Winnipeg hospital stay**



Calvin Lugalmi says he wasn't told he needed to buy supplemental insurance for time between programs

Renée Lilley · CBC News · Posted: Jul 13, 2021 7:45 PM CT | Last Updated: July 13



Calvin Lugalmi, who plans to start classes at the University of Manitoba this fall, says he's facing bills totalling over \$123,000 after a long stay in hospital. (Patrick Foucault/Radio-Canada)

An international student at the University of Manitoba says he's facing medical bills totalling over \$123,000 after a long stay in two Winnipeg hospitals — and he hopes his story will spur changes for other people in his situation.



# Communications

National Treasurer Marie Docetti-Koros interviewed with University World News in August to speak on the beneficial impact of the recent Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) ruling which determined that college and university students across Canada will no longer have to pay royalty and other fees for the course packets that contain photocopies of copyrighted material or any other material copied for an academic purpose.

As the federal election neared, National Chairperson Alannah McKay spoke on the suspension of the Vote on Campus program. McKay called the decision to suspend the program concerning, adding that the loss of on-campus polls means voting won't be accessible for all students across the country.

## Students welcome the decision

The Canadian Federation of Students welcomed the decision. "Students are thrilled the Supreme Court has affirmed fair dealing and the right to access educational materials at a more reasonable cost," said Marie Dolcetti-Koros, national treasurer of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

"The decision balances the needs of content creators with the need to access educational materials. It allows for things like showing short videos in a classroom or the use of course packs rather than having students buy several textbooks at extraordinary costs," she said.

## NEWS CANADIAN POLITICS CA Student voters decry suspension of Vote on Campus program



by Stephen Wentzell September 2, 2021



National Chairperson Alannah McKay interviewed with University Affairs Magazine regarding the fact that students are often forgotten in federal election campaigns, even though they represent our country's future.

News

## Universities overlooked in the election campaign

**Despite the many demands of stakeholders in the academic community, postsecondary education struggles to capture candidates' attention.**

BY JEAN-FRANÇOIS VENNE | SEP 13 2021



# Communications

Following the dismissal of the Ford government's Student Choice Initiative appeal by Court of Appeals, Ontario Executive Representative Kayla Weiler was quoted saying: "Students' unions exist on campuses around the world to provide students with a united voice, advocate for change and operate essential support services. Ontario's students deserve the same and it is not the place of the Premier or Minister to interfere with long-standing democratic processes."

National Chairperson Alannah McKay spoke to iPolitics in regards to Elections Canada's decision to suspend its campus-voting program, and the possible impact of what "some students are calling voter suppression". McKay noted that "the loss of on-campus polls means voting won't be accessible for all students across the country."

HOME / NEWS / STUDENT ASSOCIATION / FORD GOVERNMENT'S STUDENT CHOICE INITIATIVE APPEAL DISMISSED BY COURT OF APPEALS



Ford government's Student Choice Initiative appeal dismissed by Court of Appeals

News Student Association Dialog Staff August 4, 2021

## The Rebel to Rabble Review: On-campus voting challenges

By iPolitics. Published on Sep 10, 2021 2:00am



**"We had a very clear stance. We want to see provincial governments suspending current plans to introduce performance-based funding and not tie the public funding to any sort of metrics."**

National Deputy Chairperson Wesam AbdElhamid Mohamed raised concerns at the Manitoba Skills panel that performance-based funding will reduce the quality of education that students receive, using the example of graduate students being pushed to graduate sooner—even if they do not feel they are ready or their work will stand up—because it would help improve the metrics for the institution.

# Communications

In October, Newfoundland and Labrador Chairperson Kat McLaughlin was quoted in CBC NFL following the students' protest at the Confederation Building in St. John.

"We're here today because the government of Newfoundland and Labrador has not prioritized the lives, the well-being or the futures of the people in this province. We're tired of our leaders having no value for the young people of this province. We're exhausted from begging and pleading with our care about our futures and to care that our home is one fire."

In November, Nova Scotia Chairperson Kris Reppas spoke to CBC Nova Scotia regarding the granting of a 18% raise to Cape Breton University's president, during the pandemic at a time when other areas of the school were being asked to cut costs and layoff notices were being handed out. "To see Cape Breton University then approve such a massive pay increase for their president at the same time is completely unacceptable".

Nova Scotia

## Faculty, student groups criticize raise for CBU president during pandemic



David Dingwall's salary jumped to \$350,000 from \$295,799



Matthew Moore · CBC News · Posted: Nov 05, 2021 6:00 AM AT | Last Updated: 7 hours ago



Cape Breton University president David Dingwall is seen in this photo. The university says Dingwall's pay increase was approved in March 2020, but formalized in October of the same year. (Matthew Moore/CBC)

Nfld. & Labrador

## Students protest at Confederation Building as House of Assembly begins fall session



Event encouraged province to 'ensure a future ... where everyone thrives'

CBC News · Posted: Oct 18, 2021 8:37 AM NT | Last Updated: October 18

9 comments



Student, labour and community groups took to the steps outside Confederation Building in St. John's on Monday afternoon. (Jeremy Eaton/CBC)

Students and community groups rallied outside the Confederation Building in St. John's on Monday afternoon, as the House of Assembly resumed for the fall session inside.