

FIGHTING FOR ACCESS TO EDUCATION SINCE 1981

38TH

ANNUAL NATIONAL
GENERAL MEETING

NATIONAL
EXECUTIVE
REPORT





LAND

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit. 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. Our ultimate goal is 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 REPRESENTATIVES

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 38th Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students. This fall, students across the country worked relentlessly to push our issues to the forefront of the country's political agenda. Students made headlines nationwide with unapologetic calls to bring education and climate justice for all.

We used our strength in numbers to talk to thousands of students about upholding Treaty rights that grant free education to Indigenous learners, we talked about responding to the Calls for Justice from the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2Spirit People, and introducing First Nations, Métis, and Inuit languages and teachings into post-secondary institutions. In Newfoundland and Labrador, we saw international students lining up at symbolic polling stations to voice their concerns about differential fees, healthcare, and immigration and to demand change. Students showed up in droves to participate in events that informed their vote to build a better future for everyone.

At the same time, students listed the climate crisis as one of their top priorities and showed up in the hundreds of thousands to the Global Climate Strike chanting for a full transition to a green economy. In the Maritimes, climate justice resonated on the radio, in newscasts, in political platforms, and in every corner of our campuses, all thanks to the tireless work of students who organized debates and watch parties and encouraged thousands of students to head to the polls.

We were all united in one voice for free post-secondary education that echoed so strongly that two of the four major political parties committed to funding education for all, something that is no less than a historical shift in the national conversation. We told candidates to dare to think differently, that the time had come to be bold. As a result, 111,300 students voted in advance on-campus polling stations, a program that the Federation helped Elections Canada launch in 2015.

In Manitoba, students mobilized around their provincial elections to elect candidates committed to reinstating healthcare coverage for international students, freezing tuition fees to the rate of inflation, investing in core funding to post-secondary institutions, and developing a coordinated work placement program in the province. Since the beginning of 2019, Ontario students have been under attack by their own government, but what we have seen in the past few months is unequivocal support for students' unions' right to organize and the right to deliver essential services on campus. Students are coming out stronger, bolder, and more united than ever to fight oppressive governments.

But our work does not end here. The Prairies are under regressive governments who are ready to decimate public post-secondary education and neither the federal government nor any of the provinces have concrete plans to fully subsidize education for all. It is our duty as student leaders in the country to continue to pressure governments to enact real change on our campuses, on the environment, and on Parliament Hill. It is clear that progressive change is within our grasp and students and youth are at the heart of it. This is just the beginning of building a future grounded in equity and sustainability where no one gets left behind.

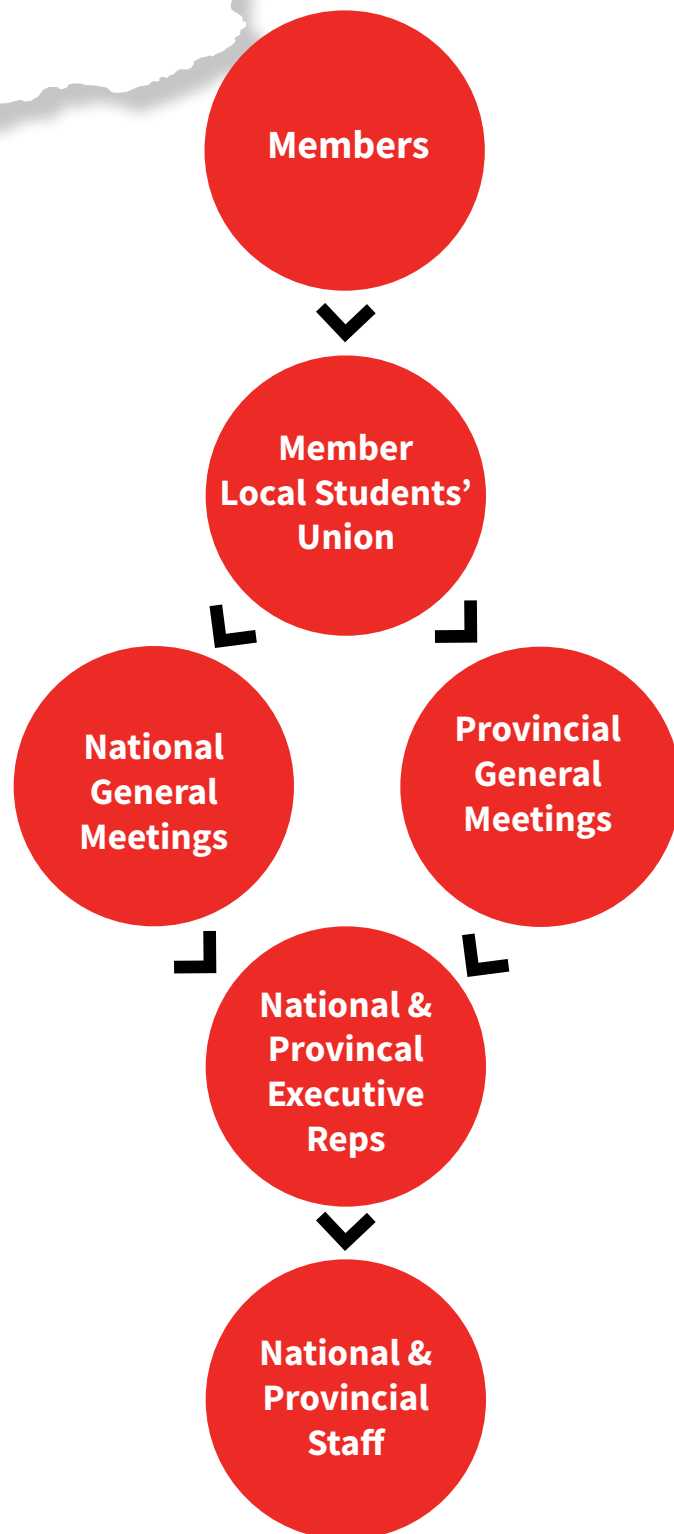


STRUCTURE

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

The Federation holds an annual national general meeting where delegates vote on motions brought forward by member local students' unions and determine campaign priorities for the following year. 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, an organizational principle since our founding.

The National Executive Committee is comprised of representatives elected by member local students' unions. This body implements decisions in between meetings with the support of Federation staff.





CAMPAIGNS





WE THE STUDENTS / STUDENT CHOICE INITIATIVE

LEGAL CHALLENGE

The We The Students campaign was created by CFS-Ontario earlier this year in response to unprecedented attacks on post-secondary education by the Ontario provincial government. The campaign was created to raise awareness about cuts and changes to post-secondary education and to mobilize students, faculty, workers, and community members in the fight to protect democratic student organizations and publicly-funded, high-quality, accessible, and affordable education.

The Student Choice Initiative (SCI) poses a great threat to the strength of the student movement as the mandatory fees that support our work have been deemed “non-essential”. Some of these fees include students’ union membership dues, service centre fees like women centres, food centres, pride centres, and other student-led organizations such as independent campus media and the Federation.

The Federation has collected over 20,000 petition 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.

On October 11, Federation representatives attended the court hearing on the legal challenge against the government of Ontario’s Student Choice Initiative. The Federation initiated the legal challenge alongside 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. Verdict is still pending.

To date, Unifor, the Ontario Public Sector Service Union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Public Service Alliance of Canada, the Ontario Nurses’ Association, the Canadian Association of University Teachers, and the Canadian Federation of Nurses’ Unions have contributed to this case’s legal fund.



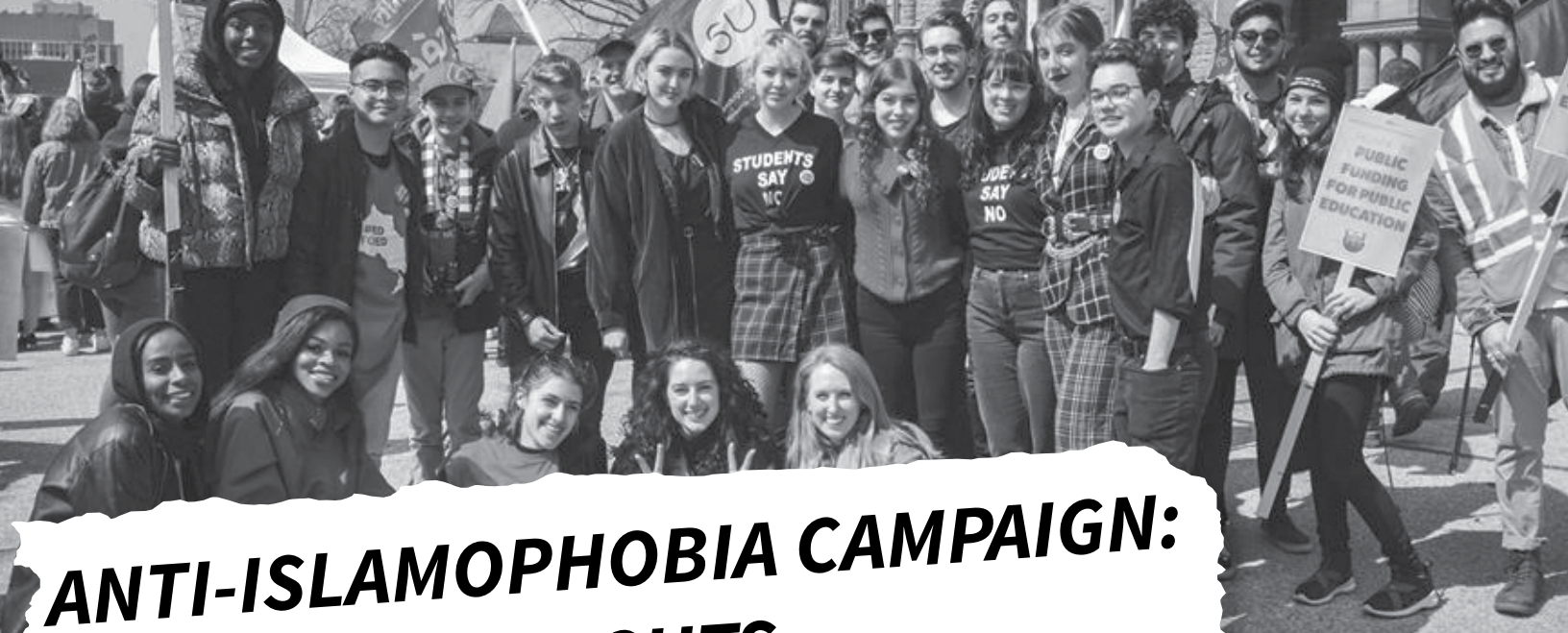
Time to Be Bold is the Federation's 2019 federal election campaign. This year, students demanded bold action from candidates and elected officials to ensure publically-funded, high-quality, accessible education for all. Our four major demands were:

1. Investment in free post-secondary education & debt alleviation
2. Honoring Indigenous learners' right to education
3. Fairness for international students
4. Climate justice and a livable planet

The Federation launched the Time To Be Bold campaign on August 28, both on social media and on the Federation's website. This included a pledge to vote, information on how to vote, information on the issues of Indigenous learners' access to education, free education, fairness for international students, and climate justice, as well as a breakdown of the parties' platforms. Materials were sent out to provincial components and member locals. These included: an organizing guide, stickers, placards, t-shirts, rave cards, and posters. The Federation has also helped member locals with the development of customizable materials and released a debates' organizing guide.

On Wednesday, September 18, Federation representatives facilitated a webinar on this campaign on how to implement it on campus. At-large representatives traveled to Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador to provide further assistance in the implementation of the campaign. This has consisted in educational awareness of the campaign's issues through tabling, distribution of campaign materials to members, workshops, candidates' debates and leadership debates' watch parties, among others.

A total of 118 on-campus advance polling stations were open Oct. 5 to 9, during which Federation representatives urged students to vote. Representatives liaised with Elections Canada officials to help voters find the documents needed to cast their vote, information on their home riding, and the names of their candidates. Information on how and where to vote was distributed mainly through tabling and class talks. Thanks to the collective effort of student activists, 111,300 students voted during on-campus advance polls - a 60% increase from 2015. With a new minority government, we will bring the fight for free education, Indigenous learners' right to education, fairness for international students, and climate justice even further.



ANTI-ISLAMOPHOBIA CAMPAIGN: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

The Federation's anti-Islamophobia campaign was created to acknowledge students' experiences of Islamophobia, to help them identify Islamophobia, and to empower them to seek all options available to them in instances where they are faced with Islamophobia.

The revamped campaign, which was created following consultations with representatives of different Muslim Student Associations, also demands that post-secondary institutions and students' unions take greater steps to combat institutionalized Islamophobia on their campuses through measures such as providing prayer spaces and campus Imams for Muslim students.

As part of the campaign, the Know Your Rights Guide was also created in collaboration with the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM). The guide addresses issues like Islamophobia online and in the classroom and racial profiling on campus. It also gives students an understanding on how to define Islamophobia, laws and campus policies regarding Islamophobia, and information on what students can do when faced with Islamophobia. During the fall and winter semesters, NCCM will be working with the Federation and various Muslim Student Associations on campuses across the country to host local launches of the guide and inform Muslim students of their rights.

ANTI-RACISM TOOLKIT

With the rise of alt-right and white supremacist groups on campus, as well as the rising cost of tuition fees, there are significant barriers that disproportionately impact racialized and Indigenous students due to the marginalization of these communities.

To help student leaders with equity work and anti-racism organizing on campus, the Federation launched the Anti-Racism Toolkit at the June general meeting. This toolkit is an online resource that provides users with the tools they need to strengthen anti-racism organizing on campuses across the country. The toolkit, which is freely available to the public on the Federation website, contains resources for organizing, creating racialized student spaces on campus, an anti-oppression glossary, and identification of the need for race-based data and research. It has also expanded the previous anti-racism campaign by providing equity-based hiring practices to institutions and guidelines for students' unions to use when interacting with anti-racism organizing groups.

In the new year, the Federation will be working with the various provincial components and member locals to launch the toolkit locally.

NO ANTI-SEMITISM

Following the unanimously adopted resolution at the June general meeting, the Federation has begun consultations to update and expand its No Anti-Semitism campaign (now distinct from the former combined No Racism, No Islamophobia, No Anti-Semitism campaign). During the summer and fall semester, the Federation has been working with Independent Jewish Voices to connect with campus groups from across the country to assist in the development of this campaign. The revitalized campaign will include new materials and tools for students' unions and campus activists to advocate on issues such as Jewish holiday academic accommodations, addressing anti-semitic hate speech and graffiti on campus, introducing more prayer space, and opposing anti-religious freedom laws like Quebec's Bill 21.

GOVERNMENT

RELATIONS





LOBBY WEEK

The Federation believes that lobbying and government relations can be an effective tool in the fight for free and high-quality education and should be used as a tactic among many others. With the Student Choice Initiative making membership fees optional in Ontario, the Federation finances are now chronically uncertain. As a result, next year's Federal lobby week will endeavor to schedule more meetings between member local delegates and elected representatives in their constituency offices across the country, rather than coordinating mass travel to Ottawa. While many meetings will still take place on Parliament Hill and some travel will be necessary, the National Executive is hopeful that by including a greater proportion of constituency office meetings, delegates can gain important lobbying experience, and decision-makers can hear our message, but in a more cost-effective manner.

Asks featured in the Federation's 2020 lobby document will be informed by decisions made at this general meeting, however it is likely that it will include recommendations on the following:

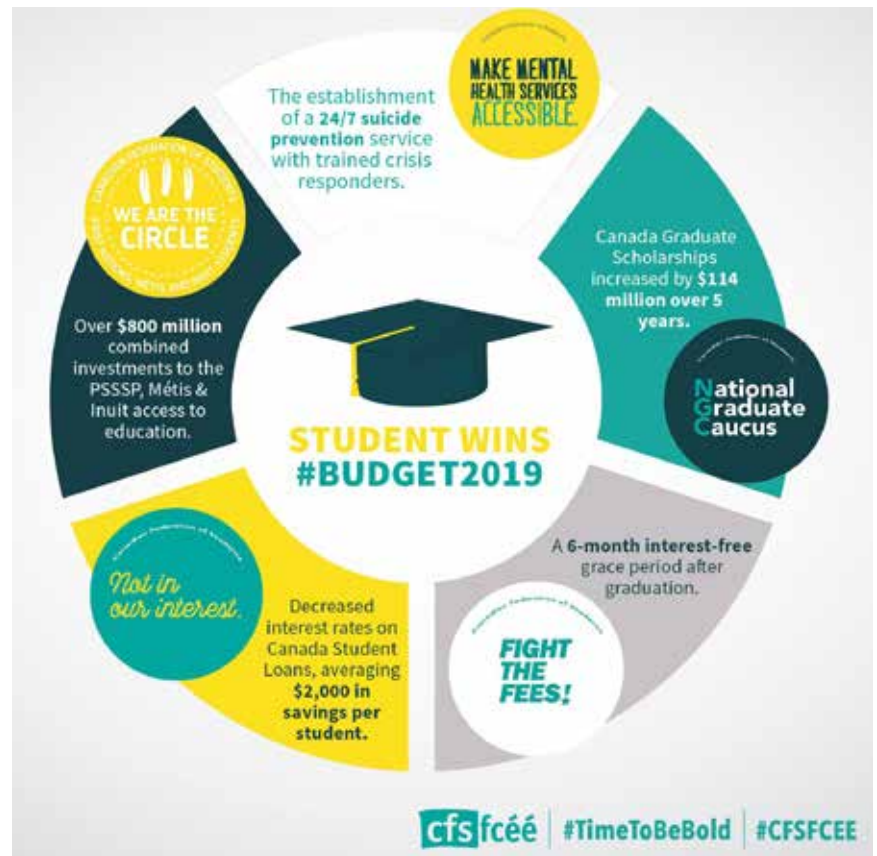
- Federal post-secondary funding, the elimination of tuition fees, and debt alleviation
- Funding for First Nations, Métis and Inuit student access to education
- Funding for Indigenous language courses and degree options, as directed by local Indigenous communities and with consultation from groups like the Assembly of First Nations and others
- Implementation of Calls for Justice from the final report from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2Spirit People
- Funding for affordable housing for students
- Fair Dealing protections in the Copyright Act
- Greater funding for graduate students
- Fairer regulations for international student work permits and protection of international students' right to public health care in the Canada Health Act
- Action on climate change with post-secondary institutions and graduate student researchers as key players in a just transition to a green economy



FEDERAL BUDGET

The 2019 federal budget was released on March 19. The Federation had representatives in the economic and stakeholders lockups for pre-release analysis. A full advisory on the budget was also released to members detailing student wins, which included:

- Reduced interest rates on federal student loans (from prime +2.5% to prime)
- Funding over five years for the Post-Secondary Student Support Program as well as funding over ten years for Métis and Inuit post-secondary access
- A five-year investment for the Canada Graduate Scholarships
- Expanded parental leave for granting council-funded students



CICAN IMPACT STUDENT AND ALUMNI ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ISAAC)

Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan) and its member institutions are committed to creating Better Futures for Peoples and Communities, following the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This committee aims to provide strategic input and guidance from a student and youth perspective towards accelerating the plans of post-secondary institutions in regards to SDGs. ISAAC has contacted the Federation to have a seat in the committee. Since the Colleges and Institutes Students' Representative position is currently vacant, Deputy Chairperson Mary Asekome will be representing the Federation on this committee. Their first meeting happened in Ottawa on November 14-15 and was attended by our National Deputy Chairperson and representatives of other student groups across the country.

CANADA STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM (CSLP)

On August 15, Treasurer Trina James and Executive Director Justine De Jaegher attended a meeting with representatives from the Canada Student Loans Program to discuss program changes following the 2019 Federal Budget. De Jaegher subsequently attended the meeting of the National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance to further discuss these changes, with a particular focus on part-time students, with other sector stakeholders.

Key changes to the program include:

- Lowering the interest rates charged on federal loans from prime plus 2.5% to the prime interest rate (this is a floating rate presently at 3.95%) - effective November, 2019
- Introducing a 6-month interest free period after a borrower leaves school (whether for graduation or another reason) - effective November, 2019
- Allowing interest capitalization for loan rehabilitation to expand access to Repayment Assistance Program (RAP)
- Interest- and payment-free periods (18 months) for those on parental and medical leave - proposed for August 2020 implementation
- Increased cap on the Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Students With Permanent Disabilities (from \$8,000 to \$20,000)
- Expanded eligibility for loan forgiveness under the "severe permanent disability benefit"



SOLIDARITY

UNIFOR

On August 18-20, Federation representatives attended the 3rd Unifor Constitutional Convention, during which they met with Unifor executives to thank them for Unifor's financial contribution to the Federation's legal fund. Ontario Regional Director Naureen Rizvi mentioned the importance of student-worker solidarity and the work the Federation is doing to protect students' right to organize during her regional report.



CAPITAL PRIDE

On August 24-25, Federation representatives had a booth during the Capital Pride's Street Fair where they talked about the Federation's campaigns and collected petition signatures for the We The Students campaign urging the Ontario government to provide grants rather than loans, reduce and eliminate tuition fees for all, and respect students' right to organize. Federation representatives also participated in the Dyke March.



DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY APOLOGIZES FOR HISTORICAL TIES TO RACISM, SLAVERY

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY APOLOGIZES FOR HISTORICAL TIES TO RACISM, SLAVERY

On September 5, Federation representatives attended the release of the report led by Dr. Afua Cooper showing Dalhousie University's involvement in the slave trade. Terri Balser, Dalhousie's interim president, offered an apology and announced a scholarship for a student of African descent to be offered next fall.



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

CLIMATE STRIKE

The last week of September, Federation representatives worked with Climate Action-Carleton to encourage students to attend the climate strike. The Federation provided megaphones for the strike and helped with class talks, poster making, and general outreach. On September 27, Federation representatives joined the climate strike at Parliament Hill that gathered thousands of people demanding a transition to a green economy.

G L O B A L
**CLIMATE
STRIKE**

GREEN ECONOMY NETWORK

The Federation has been taking steps to re-engage in the environmental-labour-civil society coalition group the Green Economy Network, which has the aim of building “a new social movement of labour unions, environmental groups, and social justice organizations for the building of an authentic green economy in this country”. On November 5, Executive Director De Jaegher met with GEN’s new Executive Director to discuss their organizational renewal plans and the Federation’s involvement in climate and green economy advocacy and mobilization.



ACTION AGAINST CARDING AT UOTTAWA

On June 2019, a black student at the University of Ottawa was carded and handcuffed by Campus Enforcement Patrol. On October 8, the University of Ottawa Students’ Union (UOSU) and the Black Student Leaders Association (BSLA) organized a press conference to denounce institutional racism on campus. Federation representatives attended the event in support of eliminating carding practices on campus.



STUDENTS FIGHT BACK: A PROTEST AGAINST CUTS TO EDUCATION



On September 10, Federation representatives attended and spoke at a rally organized by UOttawa students which began in Tabaret Lawn and ended on Parliament Hill. The purpose of the rally was to oppose the Ontario government's austerity measures to cut OSAP and implement the so-called Student Choice Initiative, which infringes on students' right to organize and is projected to have long-term devastating effects on student organizations.



RALLY FOR #ONPSE



On October 25, students and labour unions in Ottawa gathered at the University of Ottawa to send a strong and clear message opposing the Doug Ford government and its harmful policies as they resumed their parliamentary sessions at Queen's Park. Federation representatives were in attendance.



THE POWER OF MANY



The Federation is part of a coalition group called Power of the Many that works as a united front against Ontario's Conservative government austerity measures on education. On September 12 and September 27, Federation representatives attended meetings to discuss and coordinate actions in Ottawa such as the Climate Strike and the upcoming UOttawa Day of Action for better working conditions and more affordable post-secondary education.



ANSUT CONFERENCE

On September 20-21, the Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers (ANSUT) hosted One World, an International Student conference around creating a positive university experience for international students, faculty and administration. The two-day conference featured presentations from Federation representatives, including National Deputy Chairperson, Mary Asekome, Nova Scotia Chairperson Lianne Xiao, Local 95 Cape Breton University Students' Union and the Dalhousie International Students' Association.



ST. THOMAS STUDENT ACTIVIST TRAINING

On October 4, Federation representatives appeared on a panel about free education. Other panelists included STUdents for free tuition organizers, Naomi Gullison and Ariel Ottens Hannah, Vice-President of the Faculty Association for the University of St. Thomas Gül Çaliskan, and John Hutton. Federation representatives also gave a presentation on the Federation.



GLOBAL STUDENT COOPERATION

The group has started looking into funding to consolidate a global infrastructure to facilitate contact and develop solidarity between students in different regions of the world; provide a means for students to discuss and exchange ideas, strategies and practices; and support the development of unions where they do not exist or where they are weak. From October 14-20, representatives of the Confederation of Chilean Students, All Africa Students Union, Head of Western Cape, Equal Education, Student Voice, and Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions traveled to Washington, Baltimore, and New York City to meet with Open Society Foundations, Wellspring Advisors, Sunrise Movement, United We Dream, March for Our Lives, Blue Future, International Youth Foundation, and Baltimore Algebra Project to discuss partnerships.

The background is a vibrant red color. On the left side, there are several vertical black lines of varying thicknesses. A large, semi-transparent white shape, resembling a torn piece of paper, is positioned horizontally across the middle of the image. The word "SERVICES" is written in a bold, black, italicized sans-serif font on this white shape.

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. The Federation is committed to making changes to services in response to the needs and direction of its members. With a reduced operating budget, the Federation continues to streamline services to ensure that the goals are met and are sustainable for the organization.

NATIONAL STUDENT HEALTH NETWORK

The National Student Health Network 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 nonprofit 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 Network also emphasizes annual rather than predatory multi-year contracts, and more inclusive and holistic coverage options.

The Federation assists any member local with reviewing their plan renewal each year. The goal of this collaboration is to ensure that member locals receive the best possible services and rates for their members in a profit-driven industry.

Primary services of the Network include preparing promotional plan materials for each participating member local, processing opt-out requests, and negotiating for the best possible rates. In the past two years, the Network has saved participating students over \$1 million dollars in premiums through this negotiation process. The Network 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, the Network has been able to add the BEACON program to the Network. BEACON is a CBT (cognitive behavior therapy) program that is delivered digitally to students. Students are able to access BEACON through their GSC Coverage where they can connect with a mental health professional and begin

the CBT based program. The Network and GSC have delivered promotional materials to all member locals on the Network, and continue to bring new and exciting materials from BEACON.

New this year is the introduction of interac e-transfer opt outs. Participating member locals may choose to have their opt-out refunds delivered to approved members by interac e-transfer. This solution can replace standard printed cheques if a member local prefers.

The Network is refining the Recent Graduates care plan to bring refined materials for member locals. Recent Graduate 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.

The Federation is diligently working on new additions to the Network that will be introduced in the 2020-2021 plan year. An International Student Health Care plan is being created that will allow international students to access primary care coverage. This service would allow 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 Network'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 Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) coverage provided on each plan is being upgraded to include coverage for death by suicide. Most AD&D policies across Canada exclude coverage for death by suicide. A telephone legal consultation service is being developed, along with a preferred pharmacy provider that will allow members to access discounted costs of prescription medications and dispensing fees.

HANDBOOK AND DAY PLANNER SERVICE

The members' Handbook and Day Planner Service was initiated to reduce the time and cost of producing handbooks and as a means of improving the overall quality of student union-produced day planners. Each day planner includes a calendar, a local campus section, and a Federation section. Through our ability to purchase in bulk and by using economies of scale, the Federation is able to offer member locals a quality handbook for a significantly reduced price compared to market pricing.

In order to drive down cost per book for member locals this year, the Federation was able to double the estimated order quantity, have condensed content, received financial support from solidarity partners, and provided in-house layout design for locals. This work resulted in participating member locals to receive nearly a \$1 discount per book, a combined savings of over \$40,000.00.

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

Member locals can expect 2020-2021 pricing for the handbook and day planner service in early 2021.



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 for 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 card and ability to obtain discounts. Member locals and Federation representatives have now primarily switched to issuing virtual ISICs and, since January 2019, a total of 18,664 cards have been issued. New discounts from Apple, Lucky Mobile, PC Express, and Brother have been added, among others.

The Federation has received inquiries from ISIC card holders about having a travel insurance add-on option to their card. This coverage would include additional benefits such as trip cancellation, trip interruption, backpack and content protection, ATM and loss of ID protection, and more. The Federation aims to finalize a fair and affordable travel insurance add-on that would be available to cardholders. Members would be able to purchase the travel insurance and bundle it with their free ISIC, while non-members would purchase the ISIC and the add-on insurance for an additional fee. The Federation hopes to launch the travel insurance add-on by the end of 2019.

A new ISIC website will be launched that will be simpler to navigate and easier for members to order their card as a benefit of membership. The Federation will also be creating customized ordering portals for each member local. Member locals will be able to direct their members to this customized portal to order an ISIC. Member locals will continue to be able to issue the card in addition to the customized portal.

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.

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 partners with a Canadian supplier for textiles and other supplies previously offered through the network. This partnership features negotiated pricing exclusive to member locals of the Federation. The Federation will remain the point of contact for placing orders and communicating with suppliers.

STUDENT WORK ABROAD PROGRAM

SWAP Working Holidays is Canada's largest international work exchange and travel program for students and youth. The program has been a Federation service for over 30 years. In the later 2000s, the program's operation was contracted out to Merit Travel, a Canadian travel company. The current agreement between Merit Travel and the Federation sees high commissions being charged on all SWAP related sales. This has impacted the profitability of the program.

Federation staff continue to diligently work with SWAP, Merit Travel, and legal counsel to find the most amicable solution to return profitability to the program. All avenues are being explored to enhance SWAP, including program development, refining operations, amending the services agreement and commission structure, selling the program, or winding down the program completely.

The Federation has received a request from an interested company that would like to learn more about purchasing the program. BUNAC is an international travel specialty company who are experts in the working holiday visa. The organization is already a major partner of SWAP in countries such as Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. The Federation is in discussions with BUNAC about this potential acquisition and if a deal is negotiated, it will be presented to the National Executive for a decision.



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 bring the most favorable tax return. UFile is currently preparing materials that will be distributed by the Federation in early 2020.

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 2019.

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INTERNAL

IMPACT OF THE STUDENT CHOICE INITIATIVE

At the time of budget amendment drafting, the Federation had reports from twelve (12) of its thirty-five (35) member locals in the province of Ontario with respect to its dues-paying membership retention (i.e. “members in good standing”). Members in good standing ranged from 20% of total association members in one case to 100% in another. Budget amendments adopted by the National Executive reflect these fee retention figures, showing greater than previously estimated revenues for the Federation. These amendments also reflect the recall of one full-time permanent staff position in this fiscal year, and an additional two for the next fiscal year. However, revenue actuals to November 6 only have the Federation in receipt of \$139,936.81 of membership fees from Ontario member locals.

LEGAL

On October 11, 2019, the case of the The Canadian Federation of Students, et al. vs. Ontario (MTCU), et al File 279/2019 was heard by a panel of judges in the Ontario Divisional Court, Superior Court of Justice. The courtroom was standing room only with representatives from the Federation, Locals 68, 105, 24, 92, 97, 109, 99, and 25 in attendance. Counsel from Goldblatt argued the unlawfulness of the Student Choice Initiative on the grounds of improper purpose or “bad faith”, as well as a lack of ministerial authority for the action. The University of Toronto Graduate Students’ Association served as intervenor on the case on the side of the Federation and the York Federation of Students. A verdict is anticipated in four to seven weeks (between November 8 and 29).

BUILDING

In light of the Student Choice Initiative, office size exceeding the needs of the organization, and ballooning maintenance costs associated with the heritage property, the Federation’s National Executive voted to begin the process of selling the building at 338 Somerset Street West. Maintenance costs have ballooned (and are expected to continue to grow) at 338 Somerset Street West owing to plumbing, foundational, and other structural issues. With respect to sale, as of October 23, nine leads had been investigated, with one formal offer of \$2,000,000 made on the property. The property was initially listed at a price of \$3,900,000 and revised to \$3,200,000 on August 13. It had been on the market for 170 days.

If the National Executive approves an eventual sale or leasing agreement, it will subsequently consider options including: continued occupancy, rental locations, or re-investment in a separate property.

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 \$4.67 per student per semester.

NATIONAL

EXECUTIVE TEAM

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

Chairperson: Sofia Descalzi
Deputy Chairperson: Mary Asekome
National Treasurer: Trina James

British Columbia Representative: Sarah Strachan
Alberta Representative: vacant
Saskatchewan Representative: Lucy Musqua
Manitoba Representative: Brenden Gali
Ontario Representative: Kayla Weiler
Quebec Representative: vacant
New Brunswick Representative: Bipin Kumar
Nova Scotia Representative: Lianne Xiao
Prince Edward Island Representative: Vacant
Newfoundland & Labrador Representative: Bailey Howard

Circle of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students' Representative: Brendan Campbell
Colleges & Institutes Representative: Vacant
National Graduate Caucus Representative: Helyeh Doutaghi
Francophone Students' Representative: Rizki Rachiq
International Students' Representative: Wesam Abdelhamid Mohamed
Racialized Students' Representative: Rawan Habib
Student Disability Justice Representative: Madeline Mitchell
Women's Representative: Isa Wright

NATIONAL

STAFF TEAM

Executive Director: Justine De Jaegher
Director of Services: Corey Grist
Communications & Translation Coordinator: Geneviève Charest
Membership & Services Coordinator: Raven Davidson
Manitoba Organizer: Elizabeth Shearer
Maritimes Organizer: Sarah Trower
Newfoundland & Labrador Organizer: vacant
Ontario Organizer: Jensen Williams
Finance Director (part-time): Lesley Griffiths

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

This year, the Federation has been featured in countless articles, radio broadcasts, and television shows. We are considered the most reliable voice of the student movement and continue to be called on to share our opinions and advice. This is advantageous because it has allowed us to push student issues to the forefront of the media and public's attention.



Will new rules around free speech on campus wind up silencing protestors?

Ontario and Alberta universities have been told to draft new free-speech policies that could sanction those who oppose them

by [Anthony A. Davis](#) Oct 30, 2019



Ontario National Executive Representative, Kayla Weiler, was interviewed by Maclean's about the mandate from Ontario Premier Doug Ford's government, that all publicly assisted universities and colleges need to develop new free speech policy.

of 0 students, profs rally against province's SCI, changes to OSAP

Ilia Argalis 2019/10/27, 9:01 pm



“The Ford government needs to reinstate grants rather than loans, and provide accessible tuition for students in Ontario instead of locking them out of their education,” Sofia Descalzi, National Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, announced at the rally.

'So much power': 18-37 year-olds make up largest voting bloc in 2019 election, group says



Alannah McKay, Treasure of the Canadian Federation of Students - Manitoba, is featured in CTV News Winnipeg article about the importance of the student voting block.

These young activists won't wait for their parents' generation to save the planet

As they balance school, a job and student debt, Canada's young climate activists are leading the fight for the future of the planet

by Stephen Leahy Sep 18, 2019



“We have to create a future where we, and generations to come, can have a life. We're not going to stop until we've made a just transition to a green economy.” - Sofia Descalzi, National Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students



York Federation of Students, President Fatima Babiker, Ontario National Executive Representative Kayla Weiler and National Chairperson, Sofia Descalzi, hold a press conference at Queen's Park to announce the filing of the legal challenge to the so-called Student Choice Initiative against the Ontario Government.

New tuition changes in Ontario spark concerns over student hunger

Critics say vulnerable students will be left without much needed services

[Alanna Rizza](#) · The Canadian Press ·

Posted: Sep 06, 2019 4:47 PM ET | Last Updated: September 6

Sofia Descalzi, National Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, said the government measure has made food bank fees non-essential and created budget uncertainty.

POLITICS

This week on 'Focus Montreal': Oct. 20, 2019

BY ALESSIA SIMONA MARATTA · GLOBAL NEWS

Posted October 20, 2019 4:10 pm

Updated October 20, 2019 4:20 pm



National Chairperson, Sofia Descalzi, sat down with Global's Tim Sargeant to discuss the youth vote.



Lianne Xiao, Chairperson of CFS-Nova Scotia, was featured on Global Halifax to talk about the issues important to students in the federal election.