# **AGENDA**

# **Opening Plenary**

November 2013 National General Meeting

# 1. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

The Federation's Bylaws require that no less than one-half of the voting members of the Federation having voting rights be present in-person or by-proxy at the general meeting for business to be conducted. A roll call of the voting members will be taken to determine attendance and to confirm that a quorum of voting members is present.

# 2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROXIES

A voting member that is unable to attend some or all of the general meeting may appoint another voting member to act as its proxy at the meeting in accordance with Bylaw III. Any appointments will be announced at this time.

# 3. RATIFICATION OF PLENARY SPEAKER

The plenary is the formal decision-making assembly at the general meeting. The Plenary Speaker chairs general meeting plenary sessions.

# 4. WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

# 5. ADOPTION OF THE PLENARY AGENDA

The plenary will consider the plenary agenda prepared by the National Executive. Any changes or additions to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

# 6. ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

The plenary will consider the proposed schedule for the four days of the general meeting. Any changes or additions to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

# 7. ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The plenary will consider the minutes of the previous national general meeting.

# 8. OVERVIEW OF PROCEDURES

- a. Rules of Order and Plenary Procedures
- b. Anti-Harassment Procedures for the General Meeting
- c. Presentation by the Federation's Staff Relations Officer

### 9. PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS

The Nominating Committee will provide an overview of the election schedule and procedures at this time.

# 10. ADOPTION OF STANDING PLENARY SUB-COMMITTEE AGENDAS

As per Standing Resolution 1, Section 1, the following plenary sub-committees and forum are automatically struck:

- Budget Committee;
- Campaigns and Government Relations Forum;
- Organisational and Services Development Committee; and

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- Policy Review and Development Committee.

The plenary will consider the plenary sub-committee and forum agendas prepared by the National Executive. Any changes or additions to the agendas may be proposed at this time.

# 11. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS SERVED WITH DUE NOTICE

The Federation Bylaws require that all motions that seek to amend the Federation's Bylaws, Policy Manual, and Standing Resolutions or undertake campaigns be submitted no fewer than six weeks prior to the general meeting at which they are to be considered.

# a. Motions Served with Notice by the Previous General Meeting

The following motion was referred to the National Executive by the May 2012 national general meeting:

# 2012/11:122 MOTION

Local 19/Local 109

Whereas graduate students in several European countries are now considered employees; and

Whereas Eurodoc has taken the strong position that doctoral candidates should be viewed as employees; and

Whereas doctoral candidates in the Netherlands have tried to fight off efforts to convert doctoral candidates from employees to students; and

Whereas many doctoral candidates in Canada are already treated as employees in everything except pay and right; therefore

Be it resolved that a commission to investigate the employment model for Canadian doctoral candidates be created from within member locals in the National Graduate Caucus;

Be it further resolved that each graduate local nominate one doctoral candidate for the commission by the start of 2013;

Be it further resolved that the commission report its recommendation to all members local by the end of August 2013; and

Be it further resolved that sufficient resources to fully research the topic including personal, travel and communication resources necessary for commission members to be fully informed on the topic be provided.

The National Executive recommends the defeat of Motion 2012/11:122.

# b. Motions Served with Notice for Consideration

The following motions were served with notice and shall be considered at the meeting:

# 2013/11:N01 MOTION

Local 35/Local XX

Whereas many students do not get paid for the work they do during work terms; and

Whereas students in these unpaid work terms are not protected by workers' compensation legislation or other forms of protective policies; and

Whereas students are expected to pay exorbitant fees to participate in required work terms, including the cost of variable tuition fees and materials between programs; and

Whereas there are currently between 100,000 and 300,000 students participating in unpaid work terms and internships in Canada; and

Whereas students at Local 35 have developed a campaign called Work is Work to address the need for work term equity; and

Whereas the Work is Work campaign aims to eliminate the upfront barriers created by participation fees and ensure fair pay for the work being done; therefore

Be it resolved that the aims of the Work is Work campaign be endorsed; and

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Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write letters to provincial and federal governments calling for legislation protecting the rights of students participating in work terms and internships.

# 2013/11:N02

#### **MOTION**

Local 20/Local XX

Whereas federal services in northern, rural and remote areas have been significantly cut; and

Whereas these services include transportation, veterans affairs, other regional service offices, and education disciplines; and

Whereas these cuts have a detrimental impact on the lives of those who live in these communities; and

Whereas these communities are already disproportionately disenfranchised from federal and provincial services compared to urban communities; therefore

Be it resolved that a letter be written to Prime Minister Stephen Harper that calls for the immediate reinstatement of the funding for northern, rural and remote area federal services:

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write letters to Prime Minister Stephen Harper that call for the immediate reinstatement of the funding for northern, rural and remote area federal services; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to lobby their members of Parliament to have funding for northern, rural and remote area federal services reinstated.

#### 2013/11:N03

# **MOTION**

Local 24/Local XX

Whereas cost-saving services are important to our members; and

Whereas many students' union provide discounts on sports and entertainment tickets as a service to students; and

Whereas cost-saving services are often times a first point of contact for students accessing their students' union; and

Whereas bulk purchasing programs continue to be important aspects for providing costsaving services to students; therefore

Be it resolved that the bulk purchasing of sports and entertainment tickets be investigated.

# 2013/11:N04

# **MOTION**

Local 7/Local XX

Whereas a video emerged during the 2013 Saint Mary's University orientation week showing Saint Mary's University Students Association orientation leaders leading a chant encouraging rape; and

Whereas chants like these promote violence against women and create a campus culture that excludes and marginalizes women students; and

Whereas rape culture is defined as behaviors and attitudes that normalize, trivialize, excuse, tolerate or condone rape; and

Whereas university and college students' unions should be educating students about consent, supporting women's centres and community organisations that oppose violence against women, and fighting rape culture; and

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students has worked for over two decades to challenge rape culture on campus and promote consent through the No Means No campaign; therefore

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to re-affirm their commitment to the No Means No campaign and continue fighting rape culture across our campuses;

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to continue to integrate the No Means No Campaign into orientation activities and students' union events throughout the year; and

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Be it further resolved that a letter condemning the sexist chants promoted by the Saint Mary's University Student Association and encouraging SMUSA to participate in the No Means No campaign be written.

# 2013/11:N05

#### **MOTION**

Local 110/Local XX

Be it resolved that the Canadian government's policy-decisions to cut research funding, restrict access to government scientists, and close important research programs and facilities such as the Experimental Lakes Area be condemned;

Be it further resolved that any detrimental changes to environmental legislation, such as those previously passed in C38, including but not limited to; the Fisheries Act, Species at Risk Act, Environmental Assessment Act, Canadian Environmental Protection Act and Navigable Waters Act be condemned; and

Be it further resolved that campaigns that seek to expose and eliminate the current government's "war on science", such as 'Get Science Right' and 'Stand Up for Science' be supported.

#### 2013/11:N06

# MOTION

Local 99/Local XX

Whereas multiple Senators have been investigated for inappropriately claiming housing expenses: and

Whereas the Senate costs Canadian taxpayers over 92.5 million dollars per year; and

Whereas numerous rumoured scandals have come out of the Senate, including Pamela Wallin improperly claiming over \$120,00 in expenses and Mike Duffy having to repay \$90,000; and

Whereas the average Senator worked only 71 days last year; and

Whereas Prime Minister Stephen Harper has appointed 57 senators after promising not to do so, including his chief fundraiser, former campaign strategists, and failed Conservative Party candidates; and

Whereas post-secondary education in Canada is severely underfunded and the misused Senate funds could be spent on supporting post-secondary education; therefore

Be it resolved that the misuse of public funds by Senators be condemned; and

Be it further resolved that reform of the Senate, and the reallocation of those federal resources to other priorities like post-secondary education be supported.

### 2013/11:N07

### MOTION TO AMEND POLICY

Local 78/Local XX

Whereas both undergraduate and graduate students can be a teaching assistant (TA) or a research assistant (RA); and

Whereas TAs and RAs are in a unique employment scenario whereby the University is their employer and they must use their paycheck to pay their tuition fees to the university (ie: the employer), thereby forcing TAs and RAs into a unique power dynamic with the University; and

Whereas TAs and RAs are faced with a unique situation in which the professors that they work for (as with many other jobs) are in a more powerful position; and

Whereas TAs and RAs are in a situation where they could be sexually harassed by the professor they work for, by a student that they teach, or by a student that they work with; and

Whereas TAs and Contract Instructors (CIs) are provided rights within the union structure, RAs are inconsistently provided rights with a union only under certain circumstances, thereby potentially leaving them without a mechanism to report or to act upon a grievance; and

Whereas a TA who reports that one of their students harassed them may be shamed or scorned by the professor teaching the class, and thereby not report the harassment; and

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Whereas TAs and RAs who have been harassed are often encouraged not to report the harassment by university administration for fear of tarnishing the university's reputation; and

Whereas a TA or an RA may be fearful of reporting sexual harassment for fear of losing their job or their funding, which could lead to the possibility of losing their research and not completing their degree; and

Whereas the policy of "Harassment Prevention and Grievance Policies" have not been amended since 1998; therefore

Be it resolved that the first paragraph of Post-Secondary Issues Policy on Harassment Prevention and Grievance Policies be amended to include:

the recognition of power imbalance that occur due to race, gender, age, ability, sexual orientation, language, socio-economic class, position of influence, employment such as a training assistant or research assistant position, and therefore a need for an advocacy procedure for the complainant.

Be it resolved that the Post-Secondary Issues Policy on Harassment Prevention and Grievance Policies be amended to include:

The Federation encourages Post-Secondary institutions to acknowledge in their Harassment Complaint Procedures that TAs and RAs are in a unique employment situation where they may face sexual and verbal harassment from both supervisors and students and can experience repercussions on the basis of their employment and/or academic status.

### 2013/11:N08

# **MOTION**

Local 78/Local XX

Whereas the Canada Social Transfer (CST) is a system of transfer payments from the federal government to the provinces to pay for things like social assistance and post-secondary education; and

Whereas Canadian Universities are chronically underfunded and are increasingly relying on tuition fees to finance post-secondary institutions; and

Whereas the current austerity agenda forwarded by the Conservative government under Stephen Harper threatens the CST and funding for post-secondary education; and

Whereas the Canada Health Transfer is governed by the Canada Health Act, but no similar Act governs the CST; and

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students is committed to an accessible, high quality, nationally planned system of post-secondary education; and

Whereas the CST, along with the Canada Health Transfer, will be reviewed in 2014; therefore

Be it resolved that the federal government be lobbied to increase Canada Social Transfer payments to address the underfunding of post-secondary education and social assistance programs;

Be it further resolved that a Post-Secondary Education Act governing transfer payments for post-secondary education be supported;

Be it further resolved that changes to the Canada Social Transfer be further researched and included in future lobby documents;

Be it further resolved that member locals and members be encouraged to solicit support for increased Canada Social Transfer payments and the establishment of a federal Post-Secondary Education Act to govern transfer payments for post-secondary education; and

Be it further resolved that groups such as the Canadian Association of Social Workers, the Childcare Resource and Research Unit and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, among others, be worked with to advocate for federal leadership on the Canada Social Transfer, taking into account principles of equity, anti-poverty and accessibility.

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#### 2013/11:N09

#### **MOTION**

Local 84/Local XX

Whereas the proposed Model License that educational institutions are being asked to sign contains highly questionable clauses that are both regressive and overreaching, significantly undermining the state of knowledge sharing within academia; and

Whereas the agreements being proposed by Access Copyright are an unreasonable copyright scheme that would result in substantial fees being downloaded onto students; and

Whereas York University has decided to not enter into an Access Copyright license agreement that was negotiated by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) citing the former's commitment to access to copyrighted materials for study and research with appropriate payment to authors and publishers; and

Whereas Access Copyright has sued York University for supposed copyright infringement; and

Whereas the University of Toronto and University of Western Ontario have indicated that they would not renew their current license agreements with Access Copyright, but would like to negotiate new agreements with Access Copyright that would be less costly; therefore

Be it resolved that a letter of support be written to York University and the member locals of the University in their fight against Access Copyright and continued commitment to fair dealing and student access to educational material;

Be it further resolved that the University of Toronto and University of Western Ontario's decision to not renew their current license agreement with Access Copyright be supported;

Be it further resolved that the University of Toronto and University of Western Ontario be urged to cease their relationships with Access Copyright altogether;

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to send letters of support to the York University Graduate Students' Association, the York Federation of Students and York University; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to send letters to University of Toronto and University of Western Ontario discouraging them from furthering negotiations with Access Copyright.

# 2013/11:N10

# **MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS**

Local 33/Local XX

Whereas bylaw amendments can often take an exceptionally long time to go through linefor-line to find each addition or omittance to the wording; and

Whereas not all member locals have equal access to legal expertise to fully comprehend the significance of the proposed changes; and

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students supports equal access to information; and

Whereas delegates from smaller member locals are often part-time representatives and face different challenges than delegates from larger member locals who are full-time representatives such as: enrolment in full-time classes, part-time jobs on top of responsibilities at their local, and other time pressures; therefore

Be it resolved that Article 2 of Bylaw 12 be amended to include:

When proposing bylaw amendments the original wording of the bylaw shall be provided in full with any new material introduced presented in italics.

Proposals to omit wording from bylaws shall include the proposed information to be omitted in parentheses. Proposed omissions should remain in the original location of the bylaw.

If new wording is proposed to replace standing wording, then the proposed changes shall be introduced in italics in front of the wording to be omitted in parentheses.

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# 2013/11:N11 MOTION

Local 24/Local XX

Whereas Enbridge has proposed to use their Line 9 pipeline to run unrefined crude oil and tar sands between Hamilton and Montreal, in order to ship Tar Sands internationally; and

Whereas the pipeline cuts across Haudenosaunee territory, several major university campus and major cities whom have not been consulted with regards to the Enbridge proposal; and

Whereas the Enbridge Line 9 reversal application and review process has already violated the Nanfan treaty, the Two-Row Wampum, Friendship Wampum belt, the Great Peace of Montreal treaty, the Haldimand Proclamation, section 35 of the Constitution act and the UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous people; and

Whereas The pipeline passes through three (3) major rivers leading to Lake Ontario- the source of our drinking water; and

Whereas Enbridge's own data shows that between 1999 and 2010, the company has had 804 spills, releasing 6.8 million gallons of hydrocarbons; and

Whereas community organizations across Ontario have organized against the Enbridge proposal, and have called for a full, independent environmental assessment; therefore

Be it resolved that a letter be written condemning Enbridge for their ineffective clean up methods for on numerous oil spills;

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to share campaign materials they have developed addressing the issue of Line; and

Be it further resolved that Indigenous, Aboriginal, and other communities be worked with in opposing Line 9.

# 2013/11:N12

# **MOTION**

Local 24/Local XX

Whereas the Parti Quebecois government recently proposed the "charter of Quebec values" that would restrict public-sector employees from wearing religious symbols such as, hijabs, niqabs, kippas, turbans, large Christian Crosses and other items; and

Whereas this includes persons in power to impose sanctions, such as judges, prosecutors, police officers, and correctional agents; and

Whereas these are fields where racialised and immigrant communities are often underrepresented; and

Whereas this proposal disproportionately affects racialised and immigrant communities that are more likely to be accessing public services or targeted by persons in power; and

Whereas the Charter of Quebec Values also makes it mandatory to have one's face uncovered while providing or receiving a state service; and

Whereas the charter would restrict people's freedom of expression and religion in public places;

Whereas the students' union is committed to combating oppression including Islamaphobia, and anti-Semitism; therefore

Be it resolved that the Charter of Quebec Values be condemned; and

Be it further resolved that any legislation that would restrict or prohibit people's freedom of expression and religion in public places be condemned; and

Be it further resolved that a letter be written Premier Pauline Marois condemning the proposed Charter of Quebec Values.

### 2013/11:N13

# MOTION

Local 75/Local XX

Whereas the Elsipogtog First Nation have set up non-violent anti-fracking blockades near Rexton, New Brunswick, throughout the past six months in efforts to defend their traditional lands and waters from being explored for natural gas by Texas-based corporation, Southwestern Energy (SWN); and

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Whereas the Elsipogtog people have announced the reclamation of all unoccupied reserve lands from the federal and provincial government, and have issued an eviction notice to SWN; and

Whereas on September 30, the Elsipogtog First Nation blocked off highway Route 134 in Rexton, New Brunswick from SWN and on October 16, RCMP officers moved to enforce an injunction against this blockade in an unprovoked, military-style attack, exposing peaceful protestors of elders, women and children, to snipers, tear gas and attack dogs; and

Whereas this is an attack on Indigenous sovereignty, Indigenous nationhood and the self-determination of the Elsipogtog people; therefore

Be it resolved that the Elsipogtog First Nation's continued fight to protect their Indigenous rights be supported;

Be it further resolved that the violent acts against the Elsipogtog First Nation be condemned;

Be it further resolved a letter be written to the RCMP, New Brunswick Premier David Alward, Prime Minsiter Stephen Harper, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Bernard Valcourt, and Southwestern Energy CEO Steven L. Mueller condemning the violent acts against the Elsipogtog First Nation;

Be it further resolved a letter of support for the continued fight to protect their Indigenous rights be written to the Elsipogtog First Nation Chief Arren Stock and War Chief John Levi; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to attend and/or organize solidarity marches, rallies and events in support of the Elsipogtog First Nation's continued fight to protect their Indigenous rights.

# 2013/11:N14

# MOTION

Local 82/Local XX

Whereas current Canadian Blood Services policy states that men who have sex with men are ineligible to donate blood, a policy based on stereotypes and not scientific evidence; and

Whereas the End the Blood Ban Campaign is designed to educate the general population about this issue and to call upon the Canadian Blood Services to change their policy; and

Whereas additional Canadian Blood Services policy discriminates against other groups of people, such as sex workers, from donating blood based on stereotypes and not scientific evidence; therefore

Be it resolved that the End the Blood Ban Campaign be reviewed to address the issues of other stereotypes that prevent individuals who identify or are identified a certain way be investigated; and

Be it further resolved that campaigns materials be produced in accordance to the findings of the investigation.

# 2013/11:015

# MOTION

Local 68/Local XX

Whereas public funding for post-secondary education has consistently been eroded over the last 30 years and been replaced by private sources such as tuition fees; and

Whereas provincial and federal governments have argued that this erosion is necessary and is a result of a "scarcity of resources;" and

Whereas budgets are shaped by political priorities as much as they are by the availability of resources; and

Whereas the current federal government has made a number of budgetary decisions to allocate resources to subsidies, grants, and interest-free loans for corporations that regularly post multi-billion dollar profits; and

Whereas the current federal government took a variety of measures to reduce revenue sources, such as lowering the GST and offering ineffective tax incentives to major corporations; and

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Whereas the current federal government has prioritized fossil fuel subsidies, military spending and partisan advertisements rather than addressing the crisis in student debt and record high tuition fees; therefore

Be it resolved that the Education is a Right campaign and its lobbying efforts explicitly challenge the myth of scarcity of government resources; and

Be it further resolved that associated materials, including posters, leaflets, and web content be produced.

#### 2013/11:N16

#### MOTION

Local 68/Local XX

Whereas a law unanimously passed by the Russian government in a vote of 436-0 with one exemption introduced fines for citizens and organizations who dispense information "directed at forming non-traditional sexual setups" by deeming it propaganda prevent an equitable understanding of LGBT issues; and

Whereas the Russian government's prohibition of queer and trans expression is discriminatory and incompatible with the core value of equality, which is fundamental to the law and education; and

Whereas such a law effectively violates the rights of queer Russian residents, allies, athletes and anyone who visits Russia before, during and after the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia; and

Whereas homophobic legislation making it illegal to equate gay relationships with heterosexual relationships and distribute LGBT materials has fuelled massive hate crimes, physical assaults and discrimination against the LGBT community and violates fundamental human rights; and

Whereas the distribution materials on LGBT issues through on- and off-campus bodies promote an environment of acceptance, safety and equity; therefore

Be it resolved that a letter ne written to Prime Minister Steven Harper calling on the Canadian government to boycott the 2014 Olympic Winter Games and condemn the Russian government's propaganda law on LGBT issues;

Be it further resolved that a letter be written to the International Olympic Committee urging them to rescind the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write similar letters.

# 2013/11:N17

# **MOTION**

Local 68/Local XX

Whereas ensuring constituency-based representation in the decision making processes of the National Executive is, and has always been, a priority of the Federation; and

Whereas some provincial affiliates, including the Canadian Federation of Student-Ontario, provide for representation to all constituency groups members via a constituency commissioner who liaises with each constituency group; and

Whereas there are other possible structures for providing constituency representation on the National Executive; and

Whereas at recent national general meetings, motions have been submitted to alter constituency-based representation on the National Executive; therefore

Be it resolved that a review of the composition of the National Executive be undertaken to determine alternative structures of providing representation for constituency groups; and

Be it further resolved that a report on possible alternative structures of providing representation for constituency groups on the National Executive be provided to the May 2014 national general meeting.

# 2013/11:N18

# MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS AND STANDING RESOLTIONS

Local 5/Local XX

Be it resolved that Bylaw 5.1 be amended to read:

# 1. Composition

The National Executive will be comprised of:

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- Each of the persons elected by the national plenary to hold the position of director and each of the following at-large positions:
  - i. National Chairperson;
  - ii. National Deputy Chairperson; and
  - iii. National Treasurer.
- b. The following representatives nominated by their respective provincial component or caucus and elected by the national plenary as director:
  - i. Alberta Representative;
  - ii. British Columbia Representative;
  - iii. Manitoba Representative;
  - iv. New Brunswick Representative;
  - v. Newfoundland & Labrador Representative;
  - vi. Nova Scotia Representative;
  - vii. Ontario Representative;
  - viii. Prince Edward Island Representative;
  - ix. Québec Representative;
  - x. Saskatchewan Representative;
  - xi. Graduate Student Representative;
  - xii. Aboriginal Student Representative;
  - xiii. Francophone Students Representative;
  - xiv. Racialised Students Commissioner;
  - xv. Women's Representative; and
  - xvi. Queer Students Representative.

Be it further resolved that a new Bylaw 4.11 be added to read:

# 12. Duties and Powers of the Queer Students Representative

The Queer Students Representative shall perform all duties and such powers as established by Standing Resolution.

Be it further resolved that a new Bylaw 5.2.h be added to read:

h. Timing of Nominations for the Queer Students Representative

The nomination for the Queer Students Representative shall be conducted at such times as established by Standing Resolution.

Be it further resolved that Article 4 of Standing Resolution 14 be amended to read:

# 4. Rights and Privileges of Members

- a. All members of the Constituency Group are entitled to:
- b. attend any Constituency Group meeting and speak to any matter or motion which may arise;
- c. vote at any Constituency Group meeting;
- d. nominate one member to act as Queer Students Representative; and
- e. set the priority for the Queer Students Constituency Group budget.

Be it further resolved that Article 7 of Standing Resolution 14 be amended to:

# 7. Duties of the Queer Students Representative on the National Executive

The duties of the Queer Students Representative shall be:

- a. to act as the spokesperson of the Queer Students Constituency Group;
- b. to implement campaigns as determined by the Constituency Group;
- to communicate with the national office, the National Executive, provincial components, the National Graduate Caucus, the Constituency Group Commissioners, participants at national general meetings, and member local associations on national issues of the Constituency Groups;
- d. to send to queer student organisations and member associations brief semi-annual reports which could include information about campaigns, activities, and goals pertaining to the constituency and seek information which could facilitate the work of the Constituency Group within the Federation; and
- e. carry out the duties as do other National Executive members as outlined in Bylaw V in the Federation's Constitution and Bylaws.

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# 2013/11:N19 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 5/Local XX

Be it resolved that Article 2 of Bylaw 12 be amended to read:

#### 2. Notice

Notice of the substance of an amendment to this Constitution and Bylaws must be received by the National Executive at least six weeks before the general meeting at which it is to be considered. The National Executive shall mail notice of all proposed amendments to the voting members not less than four weeks before the general meeting at which they are to be considered. All said proposed amendments shall be made available simultaneously in both working languages of the Federation. All said proposed amendments shall be made available with new or inserted text underlined, and deleted or replaced text struck-through. The declaration of the National Executive that due notice has or has not been served will be held to be necessary proof of notice or of the lack thereof, unless evidence to the contrary is presented.

# 2013/11:N20 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 5/Local XX

Be it resolved that Bylaw 14 be amended to read:

# **Number and Gender of Words**

Unless the context requires otherwise, all pronouns and possessive adjectives used in these Bylaws refer to persons of any gender, and all singular or plural meanings.

# 2013/11:N21 MOTION

Local 97/Local XX

Whereas finding affordable housing close to campus is a challenge for all students; and Whereas students with disabilities often find the search for accessible, affordable housing to be a particular challenge; and

Whereas commuting to campus is often difficult for students; and

Whereas this commute is often a particular difficulty for students with disabilities; and

Whereas many post-secondary institutions restrict access to on-campus residence to full time students; and

Whereas many students with disabilities find they must study on a part-time basis because of their disability; therefore

Be it resolved that the practice of permitting students who study part-time due to a disability to live in on-campus housing be supported;

Be it further resolved that the development of accessible, affordable on-campus housing for students with disabilities be supported; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be supported when lobbying their respective institutions to provide assistance to students with disabilities to obtain accessible, affordable housing, and that where such housing is available on campus to full time students, it also be made available to students who study part time due to a disability.

### 2013/11:N22 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 30/Local XX

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) is a federation;

Whereas a federation implies that its members have certain rights and responsibilities;

Whereas the current bylaw on membership rights (Bylaw 1.3.b) for local associations is inadequate in some regards;

Be it resolved that the following be added to Bylaw 1.3.b:

viii. Each voting member of the Federation is entitled to a notice period of two weeks before any Federation staff-person appears on campus. In cases where a permanent staff person exists on campus, any additional staff-people on campus would be subject to the two-week notice period. This right can choose to be waived by the voting member if the Executive of the student association deems it necessary. In cases where a University may have a number of

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- student associations, Federation staff-people may only communicate information to the student association who explicitly invited them.
- ix. Notwithstanding Bylaw 1.3.c.vi, or any other responsibilities outlined in these bylaws, each voting member of the Federation has the explicit right to choose whether or not to communicate information or campaigns to its members, without fear of reprisal, if the information or campaign is ill-suited to the member association.
- x. Each voting member of the Federation is entitled to a meeting with Federation staff-people, before any appearance by said staff-people on campus, in order to ensure compliance with student association and University policies and procedures in any on-campus Federation activities. University officials can also be invited to such a meeting.
- xi. Each voting member of the Federation has the right to hold elections without any involvement of the Federation.
- xii. In the case that any of the rights contained in Bylaw 1.3.b.viii-xi are violated, the governing body of the voting member can choose to prohibit appearances of any Federation staff people on campus.

# 2013/11:N23

#### **MOTION**

Local 94/Local XX

Whereas the Federation supports the elimination of all financial barriers to a postsecondary education; and

Whereas there still remains many financial barriers to post-secondary education; and

Whereas the Federation supports the elimination of differential fees including, but not limited to, those applied to visa and out-of-province students; and

Whereas many provinces and institutions have exploited International students and out-of-province students through differential fees; and

Whereas the Federation supports the elimination of tuition and other incidental user fees; and

Whereas tuition fees have skyrocketed in most provinces; and

Whereas student debt in Canada has surpassed 15 billion dollars; and

Whereas the preamble to the Federation's constitution states that ultimate goal of the Federation is to achieve a system of post-secondary education which is accessible to all, which is of high quality, which is nationally planned, which recognizes the legitimacy of student representation, and validity of student rights, and whose role in society is clearly recognized and appreciated; and

Whereas over 30 countries have tuition free systems of post-secondary education; and

Whereas an excellent model of tuition free post-secondary education exists in Québec's CEGEP system; and,

Whereas the Federation should highlight the social benefits of universal access to postsecondary education; therefore

Be it resolved that a fact-sheet on the social benefits of tuition fee free post-secondary education be created; and

Be it further resolved that campaign material that champions tuition fee free postsecondary education be created.

# 2013/11:N24

# MOTION

Local 94/Local XX

Whereas the Toronto and Ottawa Supervised Consumption Assessment (TOSCA) Survey, released in 2012 by researchers from St Michael's Hospital, the University of Toronto, the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, documented an 11% rate of HIV infection, 60% rate of Hepatitis C infection, and a 20% rate of recent overdose amongst drug users in Ottawa, as well as widespread public drug use in our city; and

Whereas over 90 supervised consumption sites currently operate worldwide; and

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Whereas empirical research has consistently demonstrated that these supervised consumption sites decrease overdose death and injury; decrease risk behaviours associated with HIV and hepatitis C infection; increase access to health services for people who are most marginalized; save health care costs; decrease open drug use and publicly discarded drug use equipment; and do not increase crime; and

Whereas Vancouver's Insite, the only legal supervised injection site in North America, has been subject to rigourous, independent third party research and evaluation, which has been published in a host of reputable, peer-reviewed medical journals, and has clearly demonstrated the positive impacts of Insite in important outcome areas, including overdoses, health, appropriate use of health and social services, and costs associated with injection drug use; and

Whereas on September 30, 2011, the Supreme Court of Canada ordered the federal government to allow Insite to continue to operate by granting an exemption from applicable drug laws, ruling that to close Insite would be a violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and stating that "Insite saves lives. Its benefits have been proven. There has been no discernible negative impact on the public safety and health objectives of Canada during its eight years of operation"; and

Whereas Bill C-65, the "Respect for Communities Act", introduced by the federal government in June 2013, establishes significant new obstacles and burdens for applicants in Canadian cities who attempt to establish supervised consumption sites, including the onerous requirement that applicants of supervised consumption sites provide documented evidence of support from the community, provincial and municipal government, and local law enforcement officials; and

Whereas Canadian healthcare professionals, including the Canadian Medical Association, have publically acknowledged the merits of supervised consumption sites and have spoken out against Bill C-65: and

Whereas equitable access to universal healthcare is a fundamental Canadian value enshrined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

Whereas community partners are working on an application for an exemption from applicable drug laws to facilitate the opening of a supervised consumption site in Ottawa;

Be it resolved that Bill C-65 be condemned:

Be it further resolved that a letter be written to Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health, condemning Bill C-65 and in support of a supervised consumption site in Ottawa:

Be it further resolved that a letter be written to Jim Watson, Mayor of the City of Ottawa, supporting a supervised consumption site in Ottawa; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write letters to Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health, and their Members of Parliament expressing concerns about Bill C-65.

# 2013/11:N25

# **MOTION**

Local 94/Local XX

Whereas the Federation opposes "the prioritisation of commercially-driven or profitoriented research over non-commercial research, basic or applied"; and

Whereas the Federation opposes "interference by corporate research sponsors in public research"; and

Whereas a growing trend towards the commercialisation of research has been noticed on campuses throughout Canada; and

Whereas the Federation sometimes uses short videos to explain student issues; and

Whereas the commercialisation of research and how it is transforming Canada's educational landscape is a large and complex issue; and

Whereas a longer video format may benefit explaining the issues surrounding the commercialisation of research; therefore

Be it resolved that up to \$20,000 be allocated towards the creation of a twenty-to-thirty minute documentary on the commercialisation of research in Canada's post-secondary institutions;

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Be it further resolved that the documentary on the commercialisation of research in Canada's post-secondary institutions be prepared by the 34th Annual General Meeting; and

Be it further resolved that a documentary on the commercialisation of research in Canada's post-secondary institutions be submitted to appropriate festivals in the 2014 & 2015 film festival circuits.

# 2013/11:N26

#### MOTION

Local 94/Local XX

Whereas the right to breastfeed anytime, anywhere is a fundamental right for mothers and children; and

Whereas social stigma, cultural and personal realities, institutional practices, and the threat of harassment make breastfeeding in public unrealistic for many; and

Whereas student parents—especially women—face huge barriers to completing postsecondary education, including lack of affordable child care and skyrocketing tuition fees, and need to be able to come to campus with their children; and,

Whereas if facilities to express milk or breastfeed are not available, being away from baby for a few hours or a full day can compromise milk production and thus breastfeeding success; therefore

Be it resolved that the creation of campus breastfeeding rooms be supported; and

Be it further resolved that materials—such as a fact sheet and a customisable petition—be created to support the work of locals who are working toward the creation of campus breastfeeding rooms.

# 2013/11:N27

### MOTION

Local 109/Local XX

Whereas student space is vital to the student experience and the provision of student services; and

Whereas not every students' union manages the student space where they provide services to their members and administer campaigns; and

Whereas it is important for students' union to control their space, to limit the administration's undermining of their efforts to organise on behalf of their members; therefore

Be it resolved that the student space taskforce provide member locals with the information necessary to move towards an independently managed student space.

Be it further resolved that student unions be encouraged to be involved in the space planning process at their institutions to promote student spaces for clubs, academic societies and other student unions to organise.

# 12. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

As per Bylaw V, Section 2-f., the National Executive will present a report to the plenary detailing the work of the Federation undertaken since the previous national general meeting.

# 13. OTHER BUSINESS

# 14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

# 15. RECESS