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NEWS

UVic referendum petition off to CFS national office

Oct 29, 2009 | Volume 62 Issue 12 | 66 Comments

Gemma Karstens-Smith

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A petition asking students whether or not they want a referendum to question the continued membership of the UVic Students' Society (UVSS) in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) has been sent to the CFS' national office in Ottawa.

The group of students who have been organizing the petition and gathering signatures since early September sent notarized copies of the signatures on Oct. 26. The group kept the originals "because of [the CFS'] tendency to lose stuff," said Jose Barrios, one of the petition's organizers.

The 108-page petition had 1,972 signatures, 1,892 of which were deemed valid as students attending UVic during the 2009-2010 winter session by UVic's Acting Registrar Lauren Charlton.

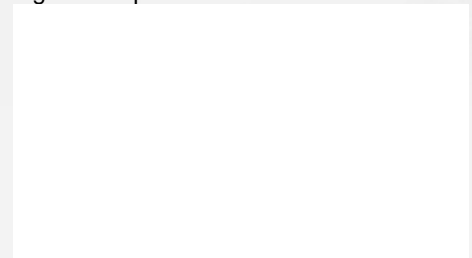
The 1,892 signatures represent 11.4 per cent of UVic's undergraduate population. In order to request a referendum to deferederate, a petition needs to have the support of

✖ Students involved with the referendum petition celebrate the fact that after nearly two months of collecting signatures, the petition is off to CFS.

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John Thompson

Fight the Pipe

**Feb. 27, 2012, 11:12 p.m.**

Local filmmaker @djaxx releases trailer for upcoming #scifi film – a huge project for #indie #filmmaking in #yyj <http://t.co/MhWToL2g>

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Let's make a bet Oct. 29, 2009, 3:01 a.m.

The CFS will refuse to acknowledge the existence of the petitions for AT LEAST another two weeks.

No, I didn't say confirm their validity, I said acknowledge that the petitions even exist and were delivered to your office.

Sadly this time, your dirty tricks won't work. We, and every student union trying to leave, will simply process serve you another package if you continue with these childish games of claiming to not receive these petitions.

Only this time, the process server will be delivering you a court date and notice of a criminal investigation into your open corruption. The petitions will be the least of your worries at that point.

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Simon Nelson Oct. 29, 2009, 3:04 a.m.

Why would the CFS lawyer tell the CFS-Q that they are not longer part of the CFS? That seems a bit of an over reaction. It's one thing if you, for some reason, don't agree with the reforms or change in general, but to exclude and not welcome the entire province of Quebec... that is hardly democratic !

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Congrats Victoria!

And for shits and/or giggles...

Why it Might be a Good Idea to Send Things to the CFS by Process Server :

<http://cusatruth.com/post/222201693/why-it-might-be-a-good-idea-to-send-things-to-the-cfs>

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Christine Oct. 29, 2009, 6:15 p.m.

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Guest Oct. 29, 2009, 7 p.m.

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Theo Huxtable Oct. 29, 2009, 8:27 p.m.

Christine-

So, by your logic, because some students aren't aware of the CFS, they should not have a referendum on it- something that would raise awareness of both the pros and cons of the CFS- and instead continue to pay money to an organization they don't know about?

Yeah. That makes tons of sense.

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Matt O Oct. 29, 2009, 8:30 p.m.

Christine, what do you mean we *won't* have a referendum? The required # of signatures have been verified and will be received by the CFS soon. The CFS will soon be legally obliged to conduct a referendum.

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Amelie Oct. 29, 2009, 9:09 p.m.

ok, so now it seems like a referendum may be happening soon.

petitioners, why do you want to sever UVic students from the other 500,000 student members of the CFS? considering close to half of government funding from universities comes from the federal government, who will represent U Vic students in Ottawa? Who will be at the table when questions come up in Parliament about federal student loans, grants, and research funding? Who will speak for us if they choose cut funding for aboriginal students, or remove the rights of international students to work off campus?

I'm wondering what your backup plan is?

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Emma Oct. 29, 2009, 9:42 p.m.

Amelie, I dont know why you wouldn't consider that perhaps there are other PSE lobby groups in Ottawa that are actually effective. CASA regularly meets with MPs, Senators, and Party leaders. Last march, they actually sat down with the PM....CFS can't say that they have done this because, frankly, the government does not like working with them, as they only care about making a spectacle, not what is actually good for the student movement. CASA has traction with the government, and in the past, has been successful with most of their lobby/advocacy priorities. If the UVic students actually want to be represented federally, they should join an organization that works

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Geoff S Oct. 29, 2009, 10:54 p.m.

So Amelie what your saying is that you would ignore the corruption, lack of transparency, and their blatant disregard for student union independence because they represent UVic in Ottawa?

* What about their litigation against members that try and leave - <http://www.macleans.ca/education/universities/article>.
* or shutting down CFS-Quebec because they tried to make the organization more accountable - <http://www.martlet.ca/article>
* or how about why they made a \$500,000 loan to one of their friends? - http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xnbzw_cfs-corruption

I hate to burst your happy little bubble but tuition fees are at the purview of the provincial government; never has there been a time when the federal government has mattered so little in post-secondary education. As Emma pointed out we aren't a united student movement. UBC and SFU are not part of the CFS and I doubt SFU would ever consider working with us after the way the CFS has treated them. The CFS led student movement is broken in BC - it's time to bring in a real student movement!

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TDawg Oct. 30, 2009, 3:23 p.m.

SFU, UBC and UVic lobbying together would be more effective than anything the CFS is doing. After all, YES, funding may come down from the federal government BUT education is a provincial responsibility.

Christine, if the CFS is so great, why aren't YOU out there educating people on the benefits of it? You'd at least be doing service to the pro side, since the anti-CFS side is already out there justifying why we should leave.

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Someone who isn't a moron Oct. 31, 2009, 1:21 a.m.

So Christine Comrie, why do you think it won't happen? Are you an idiot? All the required steps have been done and the CFS is now bound by its own laws to conduct a referendum. Or are they so corrupt that they won't give us one anyways? And if you know about this that would mean you're implicit in this. So motion to impeach Christine Comrie anyone?

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Sara Nov. 3, 2009, 12:41 p.m.

I hope there will not be a referendum. It's valid if students have concern with the CFS and want to see changes, but those changes are better dealt with from within the organization. The campaigns on both sides of the issue would be very time consuming and a waste of a lot of resources.

A more worthwhile campaign than to keep in or out of the CFS would be to force the real opposition - a government that continues to cut post-secondary funding and raise tuition fees - to change. The real student movement would take on those kind of issues, rather than start a fight among students.

To this self-identified student movement: what will you do when this campaign is over? What are

the other issues that you're working on? A student movement has got to be building something, not only trying to destroy something.

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Julian Nov. 3, 2009, 12:53 p.m.

bob: What has the CFS done that is criminal? That is quite the accusation. Have people stolen money?

Malcolm L: How do you know the CFS staff people have cushy jobs? What do you know about it? What research have you done into the working conditions at the CFS?

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Juliani Nov. 3, 2009, 5:18 p.m.

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CFS hacks, with a east coast IP address !

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bob Nov. 3, 2009, 6:56 p.m.

Yeah, there are lots of cases of CFS staff stealing money. Look it up. You will be surprised.

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John Nov. 3, 2009, 6:59 p.m.

As for fixing the CFS, unfortunately, thats impossible. The CFS kicked out their entire Quebec branch for trying to suggest reforms. Besides, you aren't fighting students when you fight the CFS, you are fighting people who are in their 30's or 40's. The CFS is just a giant political lobbying group for the CFS, filled with people who hope to one day be elected with the NDP, or at least working in a well paid job in government.

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Malcolm L Nov. 4, 2009, 5:40 p.m.

@ Juliani -> are you a UVic student?

You can look up the CFS salaries here: <http://www.sfu.ca/%7Egregory/cfs/bc/sr13.html>

CFS won't release more recent salaries, as these are almost 15 years old. But I'd bet anything that they've gone way up.

Shamus Reid's salary goes up each year based on the Vancouver Consumer Price Index. I really don't have the time nor desire to figure out how much his salary has gone up - but what I do know is that he makes a damn good amount of money for someone with a undergraduate degree.

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Salary information is in the budget. You can get a copy from Rajpreet Sall. I'm fairly certain it had the chair salary as its own category.

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Student Movement Nov. 6, 2009, 6:02 a.m.

To this self-identified student movement: what will you do when this campaign is over? What are the other issues that you're working on? A student movement has got to be building something, not only trying to destroy something.

If the movement to defederate from the CFS is successful, we would then like to see the commencement of a UVic centered campaign approach. Perhaps a coordinated effort with UBC and SFU should be considered. We do not need the CFS to be able to create and coordinate campaigns.

Based on inflation since 1992, it's a pretty safe bet that Shamus Reid is making about \$50 000/yr.

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George Pringle Nov. 15, 2009, 2:09 p.m.

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The UVSS bylaws have precedence over the CFS bylaws and if takes the UVic admin to make the referedum happen, then that has to happen.

If the FAST/CFS denies the referendum then this should be the only issue of the election and they and their successors should be tossed.

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Packer Nov. 16, 2009, 11:53 a.m.

George, you should know as well as anyone that the UVSS doesn't actually work like that. The Fasties could deny the election, walk around taking a dump on each individual student, and still get elected in the spring, because they control the election procedures, and they control the ballots.

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