

Opening Plenary Agenda

Annual General Meeting · Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario
Thursday, August 13 to Sunday, August 16, 2009 - Markham, Ontario

1. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

The Federation's Bylaws require that no less than one-half of the 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 membership will be taken to determine attendance and to confirm that quorum is present.

2. WELCOMING REMARKS, INTRODUCTIONS AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Chairperson, Shelley Melanson, will call the general meeting to order and welcome all delegates, executive members, staff, and guests to the meeting.

3. RATIFICATION OF PLENARY SPEAKER

The Executive Committee is recommending that Elizabeth Carlyle be ratified as Plenary Speaker.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROXIES

The Federation's Bylaws enable a voting member that is unable to attend all or portions of a general meeting to appoint another member to act as its proxy for some or all the meeting. The Plenary Speaker will announce all proxies.

5. ADOPTION OF PLENARY AGENDA

The plenary will consider the plenary agenda prepared by the Executive Committee. Changes or additions to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

6. ADOPTION OF GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

The plenary will consider the general meeting agenda. Changes or additions to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

7. ADOPTION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

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

8. PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee will present a report detailing the work of the Federation undertaken since the previous general meeting.

Following the presentation, delegates will have the opportunity to ask the Executive questions on the contents of the report and other activities undertaken since the previous general meeting.

9. PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS

a. Introduction of Electoral Officer

The Executive Committee is recommending that National Treasurer, Dave Molenhuis be ratified as the Electoral Officer.

b. Overview of Election Schedule and Procedures

The Electoral Officer will provide an overview of the election schedule and procedures.

10. STRIKING OF PLENARY SUB-COMMITTEES

a. Striking of Plenary Sub-Committees

Plenary will strike the following plenary sub-committees:

- Budget Committee;
- Campaigns and Government Relations Committee;
- Organisational and Services Development Committee; and
- Policy Review and Development Committee.

b. Adoption of Committee Agendas

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

11. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS SERVED WITH DUE NOTICE

Federation Bylaws require that all non-procedural motions be submitted to the Executive Committee no less than six weeks prior to the general meeting at which they are to be considered. The plenary will review motions served with due notice. Each motion includes the Executive Committee's recommendation for action. Most will require seconders in the opening plenary.

a. Motions Served by the Executive Committee

2009/08:N01 MOTION

Whereas approximately 1.3 million people in Ontario are currently living in poverty; and

Whereas approximately 234,000 Ontarians have lost their jobs since October 2008; and

Whereas access to basic social rights and services like healthcare, housing, education, childcare, and a living wage are compromised in times of economic recession; and

Whereas the current economic recession has served to reveal the systematic degradation and dismantling of Ontario's social infrastructure that has taken place over the last thirty years and which has contributed to a high rate of poverty; and

Whereas poverty disproportionately effects people based on sex, gender, sexual identity, race, ability, citizenship status and age; and

Whereas in the absence of meaningful investment in social programmes to mitigate financial hardship and stimulate the economy, the recession will continue to increase social and economic inequity in its multiple forms; and

Whereas access to healthcare, housing, education, food security, childcare and a living wage are rights in a fair and equitable society; and

Whereas investing in affordable, quality post-secondary education and skills retraining is a vital way to ensure access to, and development of, the "knowledge-based economy" and to improve Ontario's economic future; and

Whereas in the mid-1990's students, labour and social justice organisations united to defend public services by coordinating collective days of action to oppose the government's regressive social policy; therefore

Be it resolved that the Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario adopt the campaign for a Poverty-Free Ontario that will include but not be limited to the following campaign demands:

- A living wage for all Ontarians;
- Increased funding for and access to high quality, affordable housing;
- Increased funding for and access to high quality, public childcare;
- Increased funding for and support for a high quality, public healthcare system;
- Protection for the rights of undocumented, non-status and status workers;
- Reduce tuition fees and ancillary fees for all students;
- The conversion of a portion of every student loan into a grant;
- Increased per-student funding for post-secondary education above the national average; and
- Multi-year funding for new poverty reduction measures.

Be it further resolved that the Federation hold a province-wide Day of Action for a Poverty-Free Ontario on November 5, 2009; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to form regional coalitions and organise lead-up events to the Day of Action; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged contact labour, community and social justice groups to form regional organising coalitions to mobilise for the campaign and for the Day of Action; and

Be it further resolved that coalition partners be invited to integrate their own social justice demands and events into the campaign for a Poverty-Free Ontario.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

b. Motions Submitted by Member Locals

2009/08:N02 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 41/

Whereas Ontario is unique among the provinces outside of Québec in the number of colleges and universities offering French-language instruction; and

Whereas at least six member local associations represent students studying at francophone or bilingual post-secondary institutions in Ontario; and

Whereas Ontario government policy and funding for French-language instruction are developed in consultation with unique stakeholders and community organisations, independently of general educational policy and, therefore, require a distinct political strategy; and

Whereas francophone and bilingual issues are more properly represented as common interests or concerns of member local associations, rather than individual delegates attending Federation meetings, making them best represented through a caucus structure; therefore

Be it resolved that the Francophone and Bilingual Caucus of the Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario be created; and

Be it further resolved that the following Constitution of the Francophone and Bilingual Caucus be adopted and appended to the Bylaws of the Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario:

APPENDIX – CONSTITUTION OF THE FRANCOPHONE AND BILINGUAL CAUCUS

1. Title

The caucus shall be known as the Francophone and Bilingual Caucus (FBC), or the Caucus des syndicats étudiants francophones et bilingues (CSÉFB), hereinafter called the Caucus.

2. Aims

The aims and purposes of the Caucus shall be to:

- a. support the statement of purpose of the Federation;
- b. promote the interests of francophone and bilingual member students' unions to the provincial government and all other external authorities whose jurisdiction affects francophone and bilingual post-secondary education; and
- c. act as a forum for the exchange of information and ideas between Ontario francophone and bilingual member students' unions and associations.

3. Membership

a. Member Unions and Associations

Membership shall be available to francophone and bilingual students' unions and associations of universities and colleges within the province of Ontario. Each member union or association can have no more than one vote at Caucus meetings. Where more than one organisation on any campus desires to be a member of the Caucus, the bylaws of the Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario shall be followed.

i. Full Members

All francophone and bilingual students' unions and associations who pay full annual fees, as determined by the Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario, are subsequently full members of the Caucus.

ii. Associate Members

All francophone and bilingual students' unions or associations who are prospective members of the Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario.

b. Student Members

Any person who is a fee-paying student of a Caucus member union or association shall be deemed a student member of the Caucus.

4. Rights and Privileges

Member unions and associations shall be entitled to attend any meetings of the Caucus and move, second and vote on any motions (through selected representatives).

5. General Meetings

a. Annual General Meetings (AGM)

The AGM shall:

- i. Be held in conjunction with the Federation's Ontario Annual General Meeting and may begin prior to the opening plenary to allow for additional meeting time.
- ii. Have as quorum at least fifty-one per cent (51%) of the full members of the Caucus.
- iii. Have the authority to amend the Articles of the Constitution and By-laws.
- iv. Be the meeting whereby the Chief Returning Officer and Caucus Executive are elected.

b. Semi-Annual General Meetings (SAGM)

The SAGM shall:

- i. be held in conjunction with the Federation's Ontario Semi-Annual General Meeting.
- ii. have as quorum at least fifty-one per cent (51%) of the full members of the Caucus.
- iii. have the authority to amend the Articles of the Constitution and By-laws.

c. Notice

The Executive shall provide two (2) weeks notice of the AGM and SAGM. The AGM and SAGM agenda shall include written Executive reports. Each member union or association shall be entitled to one vote at the AGM and SAGM. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall cast the deciding vote. The Executive will otherwise not have a vote.

6. Executive

The Executive of the Caucus shall be comprised of the following:

- a. Chairperson
- b. Deputy-Chairperson

The honoraria allocated to these positions shall be determined as part of budgetary discussions and motions at the AGM or SAGM and may vary at the discretion of the membership. The members of the Executive shall be deemed not to represent any member association.

7. Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive

a. Chairperson

The duties of the Chairperson shall include :

- i. Coordinating and chairing Caucus meetings
- ii. Liaising with relevant persons within the Federation such as the Executive Committee of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario and Federation staff
- iii. Lobbying and public relations on behalf of the Caucus
- iv. Facilitating Caucus campaigns
- v. Maintaining good communications with members of the caucus
- v. Other duties shall be requested from time to time by the Caucus

b. Deputy-Chairperson

The duties of the Deputy-Chairperson shall include:

- i. Coordinating and chairing Caucus meetings
- ii. Assisting the Chairperson as needed with campaigns and communication

- iii. Replacing the Chairperson in the event of resignation or impeachment
- iv. Being responsible for the minutes of all Caucus meetings
- v. Liaising with staff in order to provide Caucus budget updates at least twice annually

8. Elections

- a. The Executive shall be elected at the AGM and shall take office at the close of the AGM.
- b. Each member union or association is entitled to one vote.
- c. The Chief Returning Officer shall be elected prior to the Executive elections at the AGM.
- d. In the event that the Chairperson resigns his/her duties, the Deputy-Chairperson shall temporarily assume the Chairperson position. At the meeting following the Chairperson's resignation, the Caucus shall elect a new Chairperson. There shall be two (2) weeks' written notice of a vacancy in the Chairperson's position, and of intention to elect a new Chairperson.
- e. In the event that the Deputy-Chairperson resigns during his/her term, the Caucus shall elect a new Deputy-Chairperson. Two (2) weeks' written notice shall be given of a vacancy in the position and of intention to elect a new executive member.

9. Removal from Office

Any member of the Executive may be subject to impeachment proceedings only on receipt of a petition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the full members of the Caucus. An impeachment hearing shall be held at the first meeting of the Caucus following receipt of the petition. Any member of the Executive shall be impeached by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of all voting members of the Caucus following the impeachment hearing.

10. By-Laws

The Caucus may enact By-laws to expand on, but not to contradict, the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

- a. Bylaws (and subsequent bylaw amendments) must be served with seven (7) days' notice and approved by simple majority vote of Caucus members present.
- b. Such bylaws enacted by the Caucus must be ratified at the next AGM or SAGM by a simple majority vote of the members present to remain in force.

11. Constitutional Amendments

- a. Only the AGM and SAGM shall have the authority to amend the Articles of the Constitution. Such amendments require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those of the members present.
- b. Amendments shall be presented in writing by the mover to the Deputy-Chairperson two (2) weeks prior to the AGM or SAGM for inclusion in the agenda to be distributed to the membership.

Be it further resolved that the Francophone Students Constituency Group be removed from Bylaw VII, Section 3; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw VII, Section 8(c) be repealed; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw VIII be amended to include a new Article as follows:

Notice

At least two (2) weeks notice of general meetings of a Federation caucus shall be given to each member local association belonging to the caucus; and

Be it further resolved that Article 4 of Bylaw VIII be amended to include:

Funding

A caucus shall have the right to automatically receive a minimum level of funding established by Operating Resolution; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw VIII, Article 5 – “Voting in Caucus Meetings” be repealed and replaced by the following:

Voting in Caucus Meetings

a. Voting

Each member local association belonging to a caucus shall be allowed one (1) vote at a meeting of the caucus.

b. Proxy Voting

Voting members may issue a proxy vote to be cast on their behalf at a meeting of the caucus, subject to the following restrictions:

- i. For a proxy vote to be recognised, one of the following conditions must be met:
 - In the case of a member local association belonging to a caucus but not attending a meeting of a caucus, the member must pass a duly recorded motion in its board, council, executive or equivalent representative body, stating that the association gives its proxy to another, specifically named, voting association for the duration of the caucus meeting; or
 - In the case of a voting delegate attending a caucus meeting being unable to remain until the end of the meeting, the delegate will issue a letter of proxy, the letter having been signed by the delegate; or
 - For all meetings of the caucus that are held concurrent with or during General Meetings of the Federation, proxies issued for the General Meeting will be applied to meetings of the Caucus.
- ii. The total number of votes exercised by one (1) member local association belonging to the caucus may, under no circumstances, exceed the number of five (5).
- iii. Proxies must be received by the caucus Chairperson or Commissioner before the commencement of the caucus meeting.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

2009/08:N03 MOTION TO AMEND OPERATIONAL POLICY

Local 41/

Be it resolved that the following clause found in the “Finances” Operating Policy, “A minimum of \$10,000.00 per year will be guaranteed to the Ontario Graduate Caucus,” be amended to replace the words “the Ontario Graduate Caucus” with “all caucuses of the Federation.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Organisational and Services Committee.

2009/08:N04 MOTION TO AMEND OPERATIONAL POLICY

Local 41/

Be it resolved that the following clause found in the “General Meetings” Operating Policy, “The Northern Region Caucus and the Ontario Graduate Caucus shall receive a minimum of three (3) hours of meeting time in the agenda at all General Meetings,” be amended to replace the words “The Northern Region Caucus and the Ontario Graduate Caucus” with “All caucuses of the Federation.”

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

2009/08:N05 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 94/

Whereas the Ontario Graduate Caucus allows graduate students across the province to effectively lobby and campaign around graduate-specific post-secondary education issues; and

Whereas the Ontario Graduate Caucus membership has significantly grown over the past four years; and

Whereas the Annual and Semi-Annual General Meetings of the Canadian Federation of Students provide a space for the Caucus to conduct its business; and

Whereas additional meeting time is required for the Caucus to be able to address the challenges graduate students face across the various campuses in the province; therefore

Be it resolved that section 5.b.i of the Constitution of the Ontario Graduate Caucus regarding the Semi-Annual General Meetings of the Caucus be amended to read:

be held in conjunction with the Federation’s Ontario Semi-Annual General Meeting and may begin prior to the opening plenary to allow for additional meeting time.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

2009/08:N06 MOTION

Local 94/

Be it resolved that the 2010 Semi-Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Graduate Caucus be scheduled to begin half a day before the opening plenary of the 2010 Semi-Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

2009/08:N07 MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES POLICY

Local 94/Local 41

Be it resolved that the policy on “Bilingualism” be repealed and replaced by the following:

Bilingualism

Preamble

Linguistic duality is a fundamental component of the Canadian and Ontarian culture; its promotion and reinforcement must necessarily include quality education accessible to all in both official languages.

Yet, the provincial funding model is based entirely on registration increase. Since the potential number of English-speaking students is considerably higher than that of French-speaking students, this funding mode is hardly compatible with the promotion of bilingualism and a substantial offer of services in French.

Public funding granted by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to bilingual universities in Ontario was reduced from 36 million dollars in 1995-96 to slightly more than 28 million in 1997-98. This amount has not changed since, although it was proven to be clearly insufficient.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- the principle that Ontario is an officially bilingual province and all steps taken to reinforce the bilingual character of Ontario;
- the establishment or return of bilingual diplomas recognising students who have completed their studies in both French and English;
- the establishment or return of bilingualism as an admission or graduation requirement for bilingual postsecondary education institutions in the province;
- the policies that allow students to take their exams and write their essays in their preferred official language;
- the establishment of services and courses offered in French or with a view to promoting and reinforcing bilingualism in universities where English is the teaching language;
- substantial increases in the provincial funding dedicated to bilingualism in bilingual universities; and
- sufficient, stable and recurrent provincial funding for the translation and adaptation of teaching material.

The Federation opposes:

- allegedly bilingual programs that are used to hide shortages in French course offerings;
- marketing strategies and admission offers that totally or partially hide the bilingual character of a program or institution, or that make deceitful, inaccurate or ambiguous usage of its bilingual character; and
- the use of provincial funds dedicated to bilingualism for other means than the reinforcement of the bilingual character of the postsecondary institutions receiving the funds.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Policy Review and Development Committee.

2009/08:N08 MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES POLICY

Local 94/Local 41

Be it resolved that the policy on “Francophone Issues” be repealed and replaced with the following:

Francophone Issues

Preamble

Access to quality education in French is a right. In the spirit of social justice, the linguistic rights of Francophones and all persons wishing to study in French in a post-secondary institution in Ontario must be recognised and respected.

Francophones in Ontario, irrespective of their place of origin, should be able to exercise their right to high quality post-secondary education. This should guarantee access to an education in French for all programmes. Despite the creation of distance-education colleges and programmes, it is still not possible to study in French in some professional programmes such as dentistry and architecture.

The Federation calls on the government to acknowledge and address the barriers to French post-secondary education in a province where the majority is English-speaking, as it does for elementary and secondary education.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- the right of francophone students to complete their studies entirely in French in a post-secondary institution in Ontario;
- an increase in the number of French programmes and courses taught in French in all post-secondary institutions;
- the creation of inter-university partnerships that would increase access to French programmes and courses;
- French courses and services in all Ontario universities;
 - the creation of a provincial credit transfer programme that will increase mobility for Franco-Ontarian students across the province and give them access to more programmes;
- the creation of programmes and/or the improvement of existing programmes so that a student's entire educational path could be completed in French in bilingual universities;
- the creation of accelerated training programs for francophone professionals trained in other countries that would allow them rapid access to the job market;
- the targeted recruitment of francophone international students; and
- the creation of programmes that do not currently exist in French in Ontario, such as dentistry.

The Federation opposes:

- all institutional policies in bilingual institutions that assume that only francophones are bilingual, or that expect them to be so; and
- all institutional policies in bilingual institutions that deliberately offer courses and services of lesser quality or variety to francophones.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Policy Review and Development Committee.

2009/08:N09 MOTION

Local 24/

Whereas the current economic crisis has resulted in a youth unemployment rate of over 18 percent and fewer job opportunities for young workers and those with little or no experience in the labour market; and

Whereas apprenticeships, job training and internship positions provide opportunities for young workers and those who are newly entering the labour market to find full-time employment; and

Whereas investments in the maintenance and expansion of public services can help lead to economic recovery; therefore

Be it resolved that the Government of Ontario be lobbied to provide enhanced funding for apprenticeship programmes, job training and internship opportunities in areas of meaningful employment for young workers and those who are just entering the labour force; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to work with their members, local labour unions and other stakeholders to lobby their local MPP and the provincial government for enhanced funding for apprenticeships.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N10 MOTION

Local 24/

Whereas the Group of Eight world leaders (G8) – an informal group representing Canada, France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, Germany, Japan, and Italy – is organising to meet in June 2010 to develop plans to open up international markets, privatise public services, and include public resources and services like water, education and health in international free trade agreements; and

Whereas the G8 has a record of introducing and implementing international policies that coordinate attacks on workers, poor people, racialised people and the environment; and

Whereas the G8 has called for the deregulation of financial markets to allow private corporations to profit off of the current global financial crisis; and

Whereas the G8 leaders aim to deepen international reliance on global food trading systems that have driven the poorest people of the world off their land and undermined the ability of developing countries to produce sustainable domestic food supplies; and

Whereas during an economic downturn, there is often a greater exploitation of under-developed countries and cutbacks to aid that can weaken international struggles to defend public services, human rights, and the equitable distribution of wealth; and

Whereas students have an interest in helping to build grassroots and democratic opposition to the agenda of international trade liberalisation and exploitation that is advanced by the G8; therefore

Be it resolved that the G8 Summit in Huntsville, Ontario taking place on June 25-27, 2010 be opposed; and

Be it further resolved that a campaign directed at educating students and community members about the threat posed by the G8 to accessible post-secondary education, social services, and natural resources be launched; and

Be it further resolved that grassroots and community organisations mobilising against the G8 Summit be supported; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to educate their membership and campus communities on the dangers of G8 policies and their impact on public services, like education; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to work with and support grassroots and community organisations that are mobilising in opposition to regressive G8 policies.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N11 MOTION

Local 24/

Whereas campus, community, and locally-based media can be important mechanisms for reaching a broad audience and promoting student initiatives; and

Whereas the campaign for a Poverty-Free Ontario is ambitious and will require member locals and coalition partners to use a broad and diverse range of media resources to promote the campaign and generate awareness about the issues; therefore

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to solicit donated media space and/or purchase advertising space in local, community and campus newspapers and radio stations for the purpose of promoting and generating awareness of the campaign for a Poverty-Free Ontario; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to solicit donated media space and/or purchase advertising and banner space through Facebook, MySpace and other popular online social networking sites in order to promote campus events, lead-up actions, the November 5 Day of Action, and the campaign for a Poverty-Free Ontario; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to solicit from their members letters to the editors of local media outlets in order to highlight the goals and importance of the campaign for a Poverty-Free Ontario.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N12 MOTION

Local 24/

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario is embarking upon a campaign for a Poverty-Free Ontario that seeks to unite students, labour, community organisations and all Ontarians in demanding the creation and implementation of concrete poverty reduction strategies in Ontario to meet the needs of the growing and indebted poor; and

Whereas social assistance rates in Ontario are still over 40 percent lower than before the Mike Harris government made dramatic cuts that caused severe hardship for many Ontarians; and

Whereas there are hundreds of thousands of Ontario residents currently waiting on public housing lists, and recent statistics indicate that more than 70,000 people in the Toronto area alone are on public housing waiting lists; therefore

Be it resolved that education materials explaining the impact of the economic crisis and damaging effects of social cutbacks on workers and people living in poverty, with explicit recognition of the differential impact on those communities already marginalised by systemic racism, sexism, xenophobia, ableism, homophobia and transphobia, be developed in collaboration with labour, community and anti-poverty organisations; and

Be it further resolved that all appropriate levels of government be lobbied to immediately raise the minimum wage, social assistance rates and employment insurance to levels that provide a dignified living wage for all; implement stimulation spending on public transit and other public service infrastructure projects; and

Be it further resolved that a public statement be issued calling upon municipalities across Ontario to declare an immediate moratorium on evictions and sales of public housing units, and to replace all shelter beds lost due to closures over the past two years; and

Be it further resolved that member local associations be encouraged to issue similar statements and to work within campus and community coalitions to lobby all appropriate levels of government to take concrete steps towards the elimination of poverty.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N13 MOTION

Local 24/

Whereas many Canadians have lost their jobs and need to access Employment Insurance (EI) as a result of the recession; and

Whereas the replacement income provided through EI ranks among the lowest of the OECD countries; and

Whereas current EI recipients will run out of benefits before February 2010, when estimates forecast that Canada's unemployment rate will have risen to 10.5 percent; and

Whereas the current EI system is outdated and overly restrictive and excludes many people, including many who are low-income; and

Whereas 70 percent of unemployed young workers aged 20 to 24 do not receive EI benefits and the current youth unemployment rate has risen above 18 percent; and

Whereas a review of the EI system is scheduled for summer 2009; therefore

Be it resolved that the campaign of the Ontario Federation of Labour, to support a new Employment Insurance (EI) system in Canada which would make it easier for more jobless/unemployed workers to qualify for benefits and collect "second tier" benefits for a longer duration, be supported; and

Be it further resolved that the government of Canada be called upon to make the following changes to the EI system:

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- remove any asset or needs test requirement;
- change regulations to ensure that benefits are not clawed back;
- apply the system equally to all workers;
- lower the number of qualifying hours to 360 per year and increase maximum weekly benefits to cover the gap in earnings;
- increase the number of weeks of benefits coverage up to a minimum of two years;
- increase the percentage of wage replacement from 55 percent to no less than 75 percent (as was the case until the 1970s);
- change the current liquid asset limitation rules to exempt registered savings instruments like the Tax Free Savings Account (TFSA) and Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) while providing higher overall limits; and
- implement a new housing benefit.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N14 MOTION

Local 24/

Whereas the Federation has policy on the right of students to organise through students' unions that are autonomous from college and university administrations; and

Whereas the ability of students' unions to educate, involve and represent their membership is contingent upon their ability to access their membership list without hindrance or interference on the part of their respective college or university administration; and

Whereas campus students' unions are incorporated organisations and have a right and obligation to communicate directly with their members about the benefits of membership; and

Whereas dues paying members of campus students' unions have the right to be contacted by their union in order to learn of the benefits of their membership; and

Whereas college and university administrations have sometimes justified the withholding of membership lists on the grounds that the transfer of such lists constitutes a violation of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA); and

Whereas students' unions are legally required to have internal processes to protect member information under the Corporations Act and the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA); therefore

Be it resolved that legal research be conducted on the right of students' unions to have access to the membership list and contact information compiled by their respective college or university; and

Be it further resolved that a legal brief and fact sheet on students' unions' legal rights to membership lists and contact information be produced and distributed to member local associations; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be supported and assisted in their efforts to obtain membership lists and contact information from their respective college or university administrations.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N15 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAW VIII

Local 24/

Whereas it is important to maintain communication between the Ontario Executive Committee and the Federation's caucuses; and

Whereas the work of each caucus would benefit from better coordination with the Ontario Executive Committee; and

Whereas constituency group representatives maintain communication with the Ontario Executive Committee through the Constituency Commissioner, which is a voting member of the Committee; and

Whereas the caucuses do not require voting rights at Executive Committee Meetings because they are comprised of member local associations, each of which has a voting representative on the Ontario Executive Committee; and

Whereas caucuses would nonetheless benefit from inclusion on the Executive Committee, albeit in a non-voting capacity; and

Whereas granting each caucus a non-voting seat rather than a voting seat on the Ontario Executive Committee would prevent double representation of member locals who also belong to caucuses and allow local representatives to run for caucus positions without contradicting the bylaws that preclude any member of the Executive Committee from casting two votes; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw VIII, Article 4 – "Caucus Rights" be amended to include:

Executive Committee Representation

A caucus shall be allowed one (1) non-voting seat on the Ontario Executive Committee, through its respective Chairperson or Commissioner.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

2009/08:N16 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAW IX

Local 24/

Be it resolved that Bylaw IX, Article 2 – "Composition" be amended to replace the phrase "The Executive Committee shall be comprised of:" with "The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the following voting members:"; and

Be further resolved that Bylaw IX, Article 2 – "Composition" be amended to include:

The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the following non-voting members:

- a. The Chairperson or Commissioner of each caucus

and

Be further resolved that Bylaw IX, Article 3 – "Term of Office of the Executive Committee" be amended to include:

The term of office of the caucus Chairperson or Commissioner shall commence at the close of the Annual General Meeting at which they are elected and shall expire at the close of the subsequent Annual General Meeting.

and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw IX, Article 4 (b) – “Quorum” be repealed and replaced with the following:

At least fifty-one percent (51%), but never less than five (5), of the voting positions on the Executive Committee that are currently filled shall constitute quorum for the transaction of business. Non-voting positions on the Executive Committee shall not count towards quorum.

and

Be it further resolved that section (iii) of Bylaw IX, Article 4 (d) – “Calling a Meeting” be repealed and replaced with the following:

The Ontario Chairperson, at the direction in writing of three (3) voting members of the Executive Committee.

and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw IX, Article 4 (g) – “Number of Votes” be repealed and replaced with the following:

Each voting member of the Executive Committee shall have only one (1) vote on any resolution.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

2009/08:N17 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAW VII

Local 24/

Whereas sexuality and gender are experienced in diverse ways and expressed in multiple forms; and

Whereas students should have the right to self-definition regarding their sexual and gender identity and that identification should be in a manner in which they feel free to express it; and

Whereas identifications of sexuality and gender diversity often include, but are not limited to: lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, transsexual, two-spirited and those who are questioning their sexuality and gender-identity; and

Whereas the constituency title “TBLG” does not fully capture the diversity of sexuality and gender identity; and

Whereas constituency groups exist to provide a safe space and forum for those who are marginalised within society and, as such, should be inclusive of the diverse membership within the constituency involving sexual orientation; and

Whereas the term “queer” has come to encompass a broad range of possible gender and sexual expressions and identifications; and

Whereas “queer” was a historically derogatory term that has been reclaimed by activists and community members as a rejection of homophobic language and attitudes; and

Whereas the Federation’s equivalent national constituency has been renamed the “Queer Constituency;” and

Whereas issues affecting transgender, two-spirited and transsexual people are often distinct from those experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and questioning people; and

Whereas transgender, and transsexual people may not identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning or two-spirited; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw VII, Article 8 (b) be changed to read “Queer and Trans Constituency;” and

Be it further resolved that, throughout the Bylaws, where “TBLG” is referred to as the name of the Constituency Group that it be replaced with “Queer and Trans;” and

Be it further resolved that this change be reflected in all applicable Federation materials, documents, and at Federation events and meetings.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

2009/08:N18 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAW VII

Local 24/

Whereas the way that societies understand and interpret race relates directly to economic and social power relations and reinforces differences between people in a way that perpetuates oppression and marginalisation; and

Whereas racialisation refers to the process by which societies construct races as different and unequal in ways that matter to economic, political and social life; and

Whereas all people have a skin colour pigment but not all people experience racialisation; and

Whereas the current constituency group name, “Students of Colour,” suggests that differences between races are naturally occurring rather than a reflection of social judgements and that there exists a norm against which racialised communities can be compared; and

Whereas identifying students who are not “white” or who are of non-European ancestry as “students of colour” reinforces the notion that they are “different” and that students who are considered “white” or who are of European ancestry are “normal;” therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw VII, Article 8 (g) be changed to read “Racialised Students Constituency Group;” and

Be it further resolved that, throughout the Bylaws, the term “Students of Colour” be replaced with “Racialised Students;” and

Be it further resolved that this change be reflected in all applicable Federation materials, documents, and at Federation events and meetings.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

2009/08:N19 MOTION TO ADOPT ISSUES POLICY

Local 24/

Be it resolved the following Issues Policy on “Credit Transfer” be adopted:

Credit Transfer

Preamble

For a variety of reasons, many students who start a post-secondary diploma or degree at one institution may choose to finish it at another institution. Changing market demands and new programmes offered by colleges and universities have also lead to an increase in the number of students who chose to supplement a diploma or degree with a second designation. At the same time, there has been a marked increase in the level of inter-institutional cooperation, with little provincial regulation to ensure that programmes remain congruent. In the absence of a province-wide initiative to facilitate the articulation, transfer and admissions arrangements among degree and diploma granting institutions, more than 300 agreements had emerged between colleges and universities to dual-institutional opportunities. While this rapid emergence of inter-institutional cooperation has improved educational opportunities, it has also lead to increased confusion, inconsistency and duplication.

As a result, students are often left to try and navigate a system where programmes may be offered at separate institutions, guided by separate policies or, when transferring from one institution to another, forced to negotiate on their own which credits will be recognised. Due to the ad hoc nature of these agreements, many students find themselves paying for and earning the same credits more than once, adding to additional costs for the student and the government.

To help ensure that students are able to move as easily as possible from institution to institution, a mandatory province-wide system of credit transfer needs to be created.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- Maintaining clear, transparent and predictable pathways to learning;
- Enhancing student mobility through the creation of a province-wide, mandatory, credit transfer system;
- A provincial framework for credit transfer that can be altered to fit into a broader pan-Canadian system, in the long-term;
- The promotion of accurate and fair prior-learning assessment that also recognises institutional autonomy;
- Eliminating unnecessary duplication of learning and related inefficiencies in public spending;
- The generation of standardised assessments of credits, diplomas and degrees;
- The creation of a system that prioritises block transfers over credit-to-credit transfer;
- The creation of a body to oversee and review the progress of a credit transfer system; and
- Adequate funding to ensure the maintenance and success of a province-wide credit transfer system.

The Federation opposes:

- Agreements that undermine a students' ability to transfer between institutions of her or his choice;
- The creation of a credit transfer system without the adequate funding needed for operational success; and

- A credit transfer system that is optional for universities and colleges to participate in.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Policy Review and Development Committee.

2009/08:N20 MOTION TO ADOPT ISSUES POLICY

Local 24/

Be it resolved that the following Issues Policy on “Gendered Workplace Violence” be adopted:

Gendered Workplace Violence

Preamble

Women can often face multiple forms of workplace violence, with little or no recourse or remedy, that is both the product of, and serves to reproduce, their systemic economic oppression. These relations reinforce labour market marginalisation, exploitation, casualisation of work, and other dynamics that disproportionately affect women.

Women make up over half of Ontario’s workforce, and are significantly overrepresented in precarious employment, including part-time, contract work and non-unionised positions. Recent census data also demonstrates that gender discrimination further accentuates the marginalisation and oppression experienced through other forms of discrimination. As a result, the employment and wages of women are frequently insecure, unstable and inequitable especially for racialised women, immigrant women, Aboriginal women. 2008 research shows that immigrant women only earn 58 cents for every dollar earned by a Canadian born man and 38 per cent of Aboriginal women live in low income situations.

These conditions perpetuate gendered economic marginalisation and make women more likely to face physical, verbal, sexual and emotional violence in the workplace. For those that experience such violence, their precarious employment status can make them more vulnerable and diminish their ability to defend themselves against such abuses.

In addition to the broader social and economic change required to eliminate gender-based discrimination, all other forms of oppression and the resulting labour market marginalisation, the vulnerable position in which women find themselves in the workplace, exposes the need for resources, legislation and protection to address gendered violence against women in the workplace.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- A definition of gendered workplace violence in government regulations and otherwise that addresses the labour market marginalisation of women and includes, but is not limited to: physical, verbal and emotional abuse;
- The reinstatement of the federal pay equity programme that addresses and seeks to mitigate the oppressive effects of labour market marginalisation faced by women workers based on their gender;
- Immediate actions to end gendered workplace violence and ensure that Ontario workplaces have strong violence prevention plans and that working women have workplace protections and legislative rights;
- Provincial legislative reforms which are strong and enforced in a timely manner to protect workers from gendered workplace violence and oppression;

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- An extension to the existing legislation to enable workers' compensation to cover compensation for chronic stress due to harassment, verbal and emotional abuse in the workplace;
- An interpretation of the Occupation Health & Safety Act, that defines workplace violence as a hazard that results in injuries to workers and that permits workers to exercise their right to refuse work in potentially violent workplace situations;
- The introduction of Health & Safety regulations that define violence and oppression in all its forms and from all sources as a workplace hazard; and
- The inclusion of job protection in the Employment Standards Act for abused women who need time to find housing, deal with custody, divorce or other legal issues and time to heal.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Policy Review and Development Committee.

2009/08:N21 MOTION

Local 98/

Whereas, over the past years, some students' unions have adopted online voting practices for their elections and referenda and there is pressure from institutional administrations on a number of other campuses to follow suit; and

Whereas, while there exists anecdotal evidence of the advantages and disadvantages of online voting systems, there has not been a comprehensive study of such systems; therefore

Be it resolved that research be undertaken to investigate the strengths and weaknesses of online voting for students' unions' elections and referenda.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N22 MOTION

Local 98/

Whereas "flat programme fees" are a standard fee charged for enrolment in a minimum number of courses, a particular programme or faculty, regardless of the actual number of courses taken; and

Whereas many students do not maintain a full course load for a variety of reasons, including having a disability, being parents or caretakers, or needing to work throughout school to meet the cost of living; and

Whereas tuition fees charged on a per course basis allow for greater flexibility for such students, and therefore increase the accessibility of education for all students including those who are marginalised; and

Whereas many students do not take a full course load in order to engage in, and contribute to, their campus community, activities that would be likely curtailed by a financial incentive to take a full course load; and

Whereas many students do not take a full course load in order to more deeply engage in course work and maintain a higher academic average; and

Whereas the introduction of flat programme fees can represent substantial tuition fee increases for students who do not take a full course load, effectively side-stepping provincial limitations on annual tuition fee increases; and

Whereas flat programme fees compound financial inequities already experienced by students who are marginalised and incurring significant debt; and

Whereas, despite widespread opposition by students and the general public, the University of Toronto recently introduced a flat programme fee for full-time undergraduate students in the Faculty of Arts and Science, citing significant endowment losses as a result of the recession as a motivating factor; and

Whereas the adoption of flat programme fees in other post-secondary institutions has not resulted in the mitigation of financial crisis and programme and quality cuts; therefore,

Be it resolved that the implementation of flat programme fees at post-secondary institutions be opposed; and

Be it further resolved that research be conducted and a fact sheet be created regarding the effects of flat fees on students and the impact of such fees on the accessibility and quality of education; and

Be it further resolved that the loophole within the current “Reaching Higher” tuition fee framework that has been exploited to allow for the implementation of flat programme fees that result in fee increases that greatly exceed provincial regulations be highlighted and opposed; and

Be it further resolved that the opposition to flat programme fees be incorporated into the Drop Fees for a Poverty-Free Ontario campaign.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N23 MOTION TO ADOPT ISSUES POLICY

Local 98/

Be it resolved that the following Issues Policy on “Flat Fees” be adopted:

Flat Fees

Preamble

Flat fees are standard tuition fees charged to students for enrolment in a minimum number of courses or in particular programme or faculty, regardless of the actual number of courses taken. This means that students who take less than the institutionally-defined maximum course load are still charged for it. For students who do not or cannot take a full course load, the implementation of flat fees can represent enormous tuition fee increases, effectively side-stepping provincial tuition fee regulation. For students who already face multiple barriers to accessing post-secondary education, such as students with a disability, students who are parents or caregivers and students who are economically disadvantaged and have to work throughout school, flat fees represent a further financial barrier. Flat fees also create a financial disincentive for active engagement in campus community, as well as penalising students who may wish to take less courses in order maintain a higher academic average.

Post-secondary education institutions have used this tuition fee model as a way to download their debt, incurred due to bad investment policies, to students.

Policy

Where tuition fees do exist, the Federation supports:

- Greater flexibility in course selection and increased accessibility of post-secondary education through the assessment of tuition fees strictly on a per course basis; and
- Students' right to determine the rate at which they complete post-secondary programmes without being financially penalised for taking less than an institutionally-determined full-time course load.

Where tuition fees do exist, the Federation opposes:

- Flat tuition fee structures that charge a standard fee for enrollment in a minimum number of courses, or a particular programme or faculty, regardless of the actual number of courses taken;
- The downloading of institutional debt or financial mismanagement on to students in the form of fee structures that charge for courses students may not take;
- Fee structures that side-step provincial tuition fee regulation by exploiting loop holes such as a lack of prohibition against implementing flat tuition fees;
- The application of tuition fee structures that create an economic disincentive for students to be actively involved in their campus community; and
- The financial penalisation and further marginalisation of students who have disabilities, who are parents or caregivers, who need to work throughout post-secondary education or who for other reasons do not pursue a full course load.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Policy Review and Development Committee.

2009/08:N24 MOTION TO ADOPT ISSUES POLICY

Local 98/

Be it resolved that the following Issues Policy on "Undocumented Workers" be adopted:

Undocumented Workers

Preamble

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Every individual is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Every individual has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. Every individual, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work. Every individual who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

Canadian immigration laws and policies around programs, such as the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, are being used to serve the needs of employers at the expense of workers. Employers are using these programs to create a class of "disposable workers" who are denied access to basic services such as health, education and social services. Further, these workers are denied basic protections under provincial and federal laws.

Migrant workers, who are often racialised and come from the Global South, regularly experience racism and exploitation at work and run the risk of deportation if they challenge the abuses they suffer.

In April and May 2009, a series of immigration raids occurred across South-western Ontario arresting hundreds of temporary foreign workers and undocumented workers.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- An end to all deportations and detentions of temporary workers;
- Access to social services including post secondary education for people living without full immigration status; and
- The full and inclusive regularisation of undocumented and temporary foreign workers.

The Federation opposes:

- The criminalisation of and discrimination of undocumented workers and temporary foreign workers; and
- The creation of a class of workers that are not protected by Canadian employment standards and other human rights laws.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Policy Review and Development Committee.

2009/08:N25 MOTION

Local 68/

Whereas students' unions' ability to provide representation and high-quality services for their members depends, in large part, on their ability to receive membership fees and to conduct their work autonomously; and

Whereas students' unions who advocate on behalf of their members must be able to be critical of the campus administration without fear of reprisals in the form of the withholding of funds or the eviction from space; and

Whereas the incorporated by-laws of students' unions declare that only the members of the students' union are able to participate in the activities of the autonomous students' unions, including challenging the electoral processes and outcomes; and

Whereas at least since 2002, the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party has administered the Millennium Leadership Fund which claims to fund Conservative candidates in students' union elections; and

Whereas in February 2009 at a workshop in Waterloo held by the Ontario Progressive Conservative Campus Association (OPCCA) and hosted by MP Peter Braid, Conservative political staff addressed campus Conservatives on how to set up front groups, misappropriate student money, take over students' unions and oppose the Canadian Federation of Students; and

Whereas during the 2009-2010 York Federation of Students (YFS) general elections, Robert Tiffin, York University's Vice-President Students, contacted the students' union and warned against disqualifying any candidates who violated the elections rules because the administration and members of Parliament "were watching the election closely;" and

Whereas documents secured through a recent Freedom of Information (FOI) request reveal that Progressive Conservative MPP Peter Shurman asked the

York administration if the results of the YFS elections would be accepted by the University and when the administration would overthrow the results; and

Whereas the FOI request also exposed Conservative MP Peter Kent for actively interfering in the YFS electoral process by sending his Special Assistant, David Belous, to act as a scrutineer for one electoral team of candidates and thereby assist them in challenging the validity or invalidity of each ballot; and

Whereas the FOI request also uncovered that the York administration is attempting to interfere in the democratic process of students by imposing an administration-directed third-party audit of the students' unions elections processes; therefore

Be it resolved that legal research be conducted on the rights of autonomous students' unions in Ontario, including the ability to receive and set funding without hindrance and political interference; and

Be it further resolved that the government be lobbied to pass legislation protecting the right of students to organise through autonomous students' unions; and

Be it further resolved that educational materials be developed to raise awareness and support for students' union autonomy; and

Be it further resolved that letters condemning efforts to undermine autonomous student representation and democratic processes of students' unions be sent to the federal and provincial Conservative parties, as well as the York administration; and

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

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N26 MOTION

Local 68/

Whereas Canadian immigration laws allow the Temporary Foreign Worker Program to create a class of "disposable workers" who come to Canada for full-time work, but are denied access to basic services such as health, education and other social services as well as basic protections under provincial and federal laws; and

Whereas migrant workers, who are often people from racialised communities, experience racism and exploitation at work and run the risk of deportation if they challenge the abuses they suffer; and

Whereas in April and May 2009, a series of immigration raids occurred across South-western Ontario arresting hundreds of temporary foreign workers and undocumented workers; therefore

Be it resolved that full and inclusive regulation of undocumented and temporary foreign workers be supported, and

Be it further resolved that a letter be written to the Governments of Canada and Ontario to call for an end to the criminalisation of undocumented workers and temporary foreign workers and to condemn recent immigration raids, and

Be it further resolved that the Government of Ontario be lobbied to expand all social services, including access to post-secondary education, to people living without status; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write similar letters in support of the rights of undocumented people; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to contact local clubs or chapters of No One Is Illegal to discuss ways to support local organising.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N27 MOTION

Local 68/

Whereas universities have been subject to Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) since 2005 and colleges have been covered by such legislation since it was first adopted in the early 1990s; and

Whereas this legislation enables members of the general public to access almost all documents and records generated by institutional and government workers; and

Whereas in the past year, senior administrators at a number of post-secondary institutions have interfered with or attempted to undermine the autonomy and internal structures of campus students' unions; and

Whereas all administrative emails, personal notes, dossiers and other written communication that pertains to campus students' unions, elected representatives, and other matters can be obtained by filing a Freedom Of Information (FOI) request, at an initial cost of \$5; and

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario has drafted a guide on how to file FOI requests that includes contact information for the FOI office at every public post-secondary institution in Ontario; and

Whereas filing such a request at York University this year uncovered very pernicious correspondence about campus students' union affairs between university administrators, with members of the federal and provincial Conservative parties, and in coordination with Ryerson University; and

Whereas obtaining these documents through filing an FOI request may allow for a greater understanding of the nature, intent, extent and breadth of administrative interference; therefore

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to submit Freedom Of Information (FOI) requests to investigate the nature, intent, extent and breadth of interest taken by senior institutional administrators in the internal processes, bylaws, policies, elections and other relevant procedures and structures of campus, provincial and national students' unions; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to submit similar requests using the names of local student representatives; and

Be it further resolved that similar requests be made to investigate the involvement of external political parties; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be assisted in the submission and appeal of such FOI requests.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N28 MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES POLICY

Local 68/

Be it resolved that the current issues policy on “Employment” be replaced with the following policy under the title “Student Employment”:

Student Employment

Preamble

As tuition fees have been allowed to increase, access to post-secondary education has become more and more limited. In contrast to the past, students are no longer able to pay for their education by working full-time at minimum wage over the summer. Currently, many students across Ontario are required to work several part-time jobs throughout the academic term in order to pay for their education. Those students who are fortunate enough to find employment, are rarely able to do so in a field that is related to their studies and many are faced with low wages and poor working environments that offer few benefits and sometimes unsafe conditions.

Where limited government funding does exist to promote student employment, such programmes are restricted to domestic students and exclude international and non-status students. Furthermore, many students who are working in unpaid work placements or internships are not eligible for worker’s compensation or Employment Insurance. In Ontario, the Pay Equity Act that is supposed to ensure equal pay for work of equal value, is not always enforced.

These issues leave many students economically disadvantaged, unable to afford their studies and vulnerable to exploitation in the labour force.

Policy

The Federation Supports:

- the right of all people, including students, to meaningful employment and equal pay for equal work;
- the creation of meaningful employment opportunities for students that complement their field of study;
- the right of international students to work off campus;
- government funded student employment programmes, including summer employment programmes, that are accessible to full and part-time students, regardless of their citizenship status or immigration status;
- the Government of Ontario paying Worker’s Compensation Board premiums for students on unpaid work placements or internships;
- the eligibility of students who have completed an unpaid work placement or internship for Employment Insurance;
- the coverage of all student employment under the standards set out in the Employment Standard Act;
- a provincial minimum wage that provides a living wage and ensures that no working person is living below the poverty line;
- student employment programmes that pay wages above the provincial minimum wage; and
- freedom from discrimination in employment as set out by the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

The Federation Opposes:

- labour without financial compensation, as part of the post-secondary education curriculum;

- discrimination in employment against students on the basis of type of study;
- discrimination in employment against any people, including students, on the basis of citizenship or immigration status;
- the exclusion of students from eligibility for government funded employment programmes based on their type of study, citizenship, or immigration status; and
- any other forms of discrimination in employment.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Policy Review and Development Committee.

2009/08:N29 MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES POLICY

Local 68/

Be it resolved that the current issues policy on “Funding” replaced with the following policy, under the title “Funding for Post-Secondary Education”:

Funding for Post-Secondary Education

Preamble

Deep cuts to college and university operational during the 1990s led to a dramatic shift in how public post-secondary education is funded in Ontario. For example, in the early 1990s, students contributed roughly 21 percent of university operating budgets through tuition fees but, by the end of the decade, the student contribution had risen to an average of 47 percent. At some institutions it had reached 50 percent. During this time period, Ontario’s professor-student ratio had risen significantly, making it the worst in the country and significantly worse than the American average.

Increases in tuition and ancillary fees, therefore, have not elevated the quality of post-secondary education because both affordability and quality are directly linked to adequate public funding.

Adequate, stable and predictable long-term public funding allows post-secondary education institutions to realise their academic mission without pitting access against quality. Furthermore, it allows institutions to develop long-range plans and hire full-time, permanent faculty.

As a result of flawed government funding formulas, deep funding disparities have developed between public post-secondary education institutions that entrench inequities into the system. These disparity in funding between the number of students enrolled and the per-student funding received by the institution continues to grow. It has resulted in the emergence of a cohort of students in Ontario’s post-secondary education system, concentrated in a select number of newer and rural institutions, who are unfunded by the provincial government.

More and more frequently, Federal government funding for provinces social programs such as post-secondary education come in the form of one-time funding that is unpredictable and does not allow for investment in multi-year expenditures, like faculty recruitment and retention. On occasion, such funding displaces provincial funding that is not reinvested in the system in order to elevate overall funding for post-secondary education.

Policy

The Federation Supports:

- full public funding of post-secondary education;
- strong, stable and predictable multi-year funding;

- funding that enshrines and respects the academic autonomy of public post-secondary education institutions;
- funding that ensures that the maintenance and improvement in education quality is not pitted against accessibility;
- a funding formula that is sensitive to population increases;
- a funding formula for post-secondary institutions that accounts for the province's transitional student population;
- public funding that is free from market-oriented strings, conditions or requirements;
- the equitable distribution of basic operating funding for the Ontario post-secondary education system;
- a government funding formula for operating grants that leaves no students unfunded;
- the equalisation of Basic Income Unit ratings between programs and the equitable distribution of government funded external grants across disciplines;
- dedicated funding for northern, rural and remote campuses to address the unique challenges of attracting students and the additional costs of programme delivery in such locations;
- adequate funding that reflects the unique and important role of Ontario's community college system;
- equal funding for Aboriginal institutions;
- formal inclusion of accountable, transparent, and democratic student representation in provincial funding formula review processes; and
- the Ontario government publicly rejecting any federal policy implementing cutbacks in fiscal transfer payments.

The Federation Opposes:

- public funding that is contingent upon political influence over course curricula, programme design or other aspects of the academic mission of the institution;
- public funding that is contingent upon private sponsorship, donations, or commercial objectives;
- funding frameworks that discriminates between institutions and imposes competition between public institutions;
- post-secondary education funding based on any assessment of the qualitative statistics of individual post-secondary institutions, including key performance indicators; and
- any displacement of federal transfer payments meant for education through programs by the Ontario Government.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Policy Review and Development Committee.

2009/08:N30 MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES POLICY

Local 68/

Whereas in recent years there have been a number of instances of interference and attempted interference in the affairs of students' unions by politically motivated college and university administrators; and

Whereas political parties have also been exposed while attempting to interfere in the democratic processes of students' unions; and

Whereas in the absence of Right to Organise legislation, students' unions still require protection from interference; and

Whereas all these factors relate directly to the autonomy of students' unions; therefore

Be it resolved that the Issues Policy on "Right to Organise" be renamed "Students' Union Autonomy" and be amended to read as follows:

Students' Union Autonomy

Preamble

Students' unions' ability to provide representation and high-quality services for their members depends, in large part, on their ability to receive membership fees and to conduct their work autonomously.

In Ontario, legislation that recognises students' unions' rights is very limited. For students' unions at colleges, the only reference made is in the Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Act, 2002, which guarantees only an elected "student governing body" the right to conduct "normal activities." For students' unions at universities, there exists no reference in law that recognises their existence. In both cases, legal rights to fee collection exist only in common law. In the absence of such legal rights, students' unions in Ontario secure rights and powers from their administration by entering into individual contracts or agreements. In contrast, students' unions in British Columbia and Québec have strong legislation that not only recognises their existence, but guarantees their rights to organise and ensures their financial and democratic autonomy.

In order to represent the views and defend the interests of their members, students' unions must, from time-to-time, take positions that are critical of the decisions or actions of campus administrations, governments, external political parties, or other relevant organisations and bodies, without fear of reprisals in the form of the withholding of funds or the eviction from space. In the absence of legislation protecting the students' union autonomy and right to organise, students' unions are vulnerable to interference from campus administration, governments and external political parties, and are in constant threat of having their funds withheld by politically motivated college and university administrations.

Policy

The Federation supports the introduction of legislation that:

- defines students' unions as autonomous entities subject only to the laws that govern not-for-profit corporations;
- mandates the collection and remission of membership fees to students' unions by university and college governing bodies and guarantees this right of remission without interference from institutional administrative bodies;
- enshrines students' unions' full financial and operational autonomy, including the ability to hire and manage staff, set fees, prepare financial statements, arrange for audits, and enter into arrangements with external service providers;
- enshrines students' unions' full democratic autonomy, such as the ability to set and administer referendum and election rules, define membership, and maintain policies and bylaws;
- recognises only member-driven students' unions as the official student voice on campus, in Ontario and in Canada and prohibits any post-secondary education institution administration, provincial or federal

government, governmental or quasi-governmental agency, external political party, or any agent or representative thereof, from selecting, appointing, overseeing or administering the election of student representatives to institutional and governmental bodies of any kind, including commissions, consultations, or any other advisory or decision-making body; and

- guarantees access to relevant, accurate membership lists and associated contact information for all campus, provincial or national students' unions.

The Federation opposes:

- the recognition of any individual student or student group that is not elected by students or appointed by an officially recognised member-driven students' unions as a student representative for the purpose of representing the needs or interests of students on any institutional and governmental body of any kind, including commissions, consultations, or any other advisory or decision-making body;
- any legislation, policy or action on the part of any post-secondary education institution administration, provincial or federal government, governmental or quasi-governmental agency, external political party, or any agent or representative thereof, that undermines students' union autonomy, right and ability to organise, or ability to work collectively in broader coalitions and with other organisations;
- interference by any post-secondary education institution administration, provincial or federal government, governmental or quasi-governmental agency, external political party, or any agent or representative thereof, in students' union financial or operational affairs or democratic processes, including meetings, elections and referenda; and
- any criteria or conditions put in place by college and university administrations as a prerequisite for setting, collecting and remitting membership fees.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Policy Review and Development Committee.

2009/08:N31 MOTION

Local 78/

Whereas international student tuition fees are currently two to three times higher than those of domestic students in Ontario and continue to rise at unprecedented rates without any regulation or limitation; and

Whereas international students continue to have limited or no access to institutional and government funding through bursaries, scholarships, and other forms of financial assistance; and

Whereas international students are required to purchase private OHIP replacement healthcare coverage through the University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP), which is an expensive but mandatory health insurance plan; and

Whereas international students help enrich Canadian campuses by contributing to a culturally and intellectually diverse learning environment; and

Whereas the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade estimated that in 2004 alone, international students across Canada contributed roughly \$4 billion to the Canadian economy; therefore

Be it resolved that the “OHIP for International Students” campaign be expanded to lobby High Commissioners and Ambassadors, where appropriate, to join the call of the Canadian Federation of Students for OHIP coverage to be extended to international students; and

Be it further resolved that Freedom of Information requests be made to each public college and university in Ontario to obtain statistics indicating the financial contributions made by international students to universities as well as the amounts paid towards the University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP); and

Be it further resolved that a factsheet based on the data collected be prepared and distributed to member local associations; and

Be it further resolved that a tool kit be created to assist member locals and their constituents in lobbying various levels of government and institutional administrators on the need to extend OHIP coverage to international students.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N32 MOTION

Local 78/

Whereas the human rights situation in the Philippines has deteriorated since the current President, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo came to power in 2001; and

Whereas there have been over 1,000 politically motivated killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests, detentions and other human rights violations in the last eight years; and

Whereas many of the political killings and disappearances have targeted students and university professors; and

Whereas the Alliance of Concerned Teachers-Philippines (ACT) continues to have members who are the victims of multiple forms of violence and harassment, including killings; and

Whereas there are ongoing campaigns to oppose government plans to privatise university campuses and other public institutions; and

Whereas the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions has urged the Philippine Government to take action to no effect; therefore

Be it resolved that the campaign of students, teachers and allies to Stop The Killings (STK) in the Philippines be supported and the Canadian Government be called upon to investigate how its relations with the Philippines is contributing to the deteriorating human rights situation and the increasing repression of workers and students; and

Be it further resolved that \$500 be donated to the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) to support its struggle to protect the rights of students and educators in the Philippines.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N33 MOTION

Local 1/

Whereas during a lock-out of support staff at Carleton University, an elected student representative on the Board of Governors who spoke out against the administration's decision to cut off bargaining talks was threatened with removal from the Board for so-called "dissent;" and

Whereas the Carleton University Board of Governors recently adopted a policy limiting the ability of student representatives to voice public opposition to decisions made by the Board of Governors; and

Whereas student representatives on institutional governing bodies are elected democratically to represent the views of students on all matters before the Board, which may include issues such as tuition fee increases and negotiations with staff; and

Whereas student representatives on university and college governing bodies have an obligation to inform their members about issues that affect their education, but could be prohibited from doing so through the imposition of "gag orders;" therefore

Be it resolved that legal research be conducted on the legitimacy of regulations that inhibit student representatives' ability to voice public opposition to the decisions made by institutional governing bodies at colleges and universities; and

Be it further resolved that legal assistance be provided to member locals that wish to challenge institutional policies that inhibit their ability to voice public opposition to the decisions or actions of their institutional governing bodies; and

Be it further resolved that a document outlining the rights and responsibilities of student representatives on institutional governing bodies be created and shared with member locals.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N34 MOTION

Local 1/

Whereas recipients of the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) do not currently have to commence payment until six months after graduation; and

Whereas interest begins accruing on student loans immediately upon completion of studies; and

Whereas in the current economic crisis, many graduates are finding it increasingly difficult to find gainful employment and have difficulty making payments on their student loans; therefore

Be it resolved that the Government of Ontario be lobbied to extend the period of non-repayment of public student loans from six months to one year after graduation; and

Be it further resolved that the Government of Ontario be lobbied to suspend the accrual of interest on public student loans for a period of one year after graduation; and

Be it further resolved that the Government of Ontario be lobbied to ensure that students who change from full-time to part-time status do not have to begin

repaying their student loans and do not accrue interest on their student loans until after they have completed their studies.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N35 MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES POLICY

Local 1/

Whereas the governing bodies at particular Ontario post-secondary education institutions have recently attempted to stifle the right of student and community representatives on such bodies from voicing opposition to decisions made by the governing body; and

Whereas Carleton University recently adopted a policy granting the Chair of the Board of Governors the power to remove any Board member, including those democratically elected by students and who have a mandate to represent the interests of their constituents, who speaks out against a decision of the Board; and

Whereas democratically elected student representatives have been threatened with removal from their position for voicing public opposition to regressive positions taken by the board with respect to labour disputes and tuition fee increases; therefore

Be it resolved that the following paragraph be added to the preamble of the Issues Policy "Democracy in Post-Secondary Education":

Increasingly, governing bodies are moving to limit student, faculty and staff representatives' ability to speak out against the decisions made by governing bodies. Institutions have implemented internal policies that enable chairs to remove democratically elected representatives from their voting seats for so called "dissent". The Federation firmly believes that all board members have the right to inform community members of all sides of discussions had by governing bodies, including opposing views to decisions made.

and

Be it further resolved that the following bullets be added to those listed under the header "The Federation Supports":

- open and democratic decision-making on all governing bodies of public post-secondary institutions; and
- governing body meetings that are open to members of the campus community.

and

Be it further resolved that the following bullets be added to those listed under the header "The Federation Opposes":

- policies that inhibit or limit the ability of student representatives on institutional governing bodies to voice public opinions about institutional decisions and otherwise inform their constituents about institutional discussions and decisions made, with the exception of those discussions and decisions that relate to matters that are legal in nature or internal employment issues; and
- policies that allow governing bodies to censure, punish or remove a student representative from their position for voicing public opinions about decisions made by the governing body.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Policy Review and Development Committee.

2009/08:N36 MOTION

Local 54/

Whereas climate change must be adequately addressed on a global scale in order to avoid the “dangerous” two degree Celsius change threshold; and

Whereas the most critical opportunity to form global commitments is the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP15) this December in Copenhagen; and

Whereas Canada has become internationally recognised as a ‘climate laggard’ and obstacle to progress, due to poor representation from our nation’s delegates; and

Whereas on October 24, 2009, thousands of Canadian residents will stand strong to renounce this reputation and show that WE are Canada, and we want to be a part of the solution; and

Whereas also on October 24, 2009, the world will stand together on International Day of Climate Action to demand that strong commitments are made at COP15; and

Whereas the centrepiece of Canada’s participation in this day of action will be on Parliament Hill, with other events taking place in solidarity across the country; and

Whereas students are the fundamental fuel behind the fire in this movement; therefore

Be it resolved that the mass mobilisation of concerned Canadian residents on Parliament Hill to demand science-based reduction targets, equitable negotiations, and a transition to a green economy be supported; and

Be it further resolved that official partner and sponsor status of this event – the largest climate change event in Canadian history – be adopted; and

Be it further resolved that a financial contribution of \$15,000 to help offset the logistical costs of this event be made; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to rally their membership for this cause, either through the students’ union or by delegation to another campus or community group; and

Be it further resolved that any member locals interested in helping to make this show of citizenship a success or in receiving further information, be encouraged to speak to or email Gracen Johnson at gracen@uoguelph.ca.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N37 MOTION

Local 105/

Whereas, students recognise and support the need for universal, affordable and publicly-funded early learning programs for all children in Ontario; and

Whereas, the recently released Pascal Report, *Our Best Future: Early Learning in Ontario*, recommends, among other things, that:

- funding be provided for school boards to offer full-day learning for 4- and 5-year-olds starting in September 2010, and that it be available province-wide within three years; and
- parents have a choice about their child's participation, including the option of full-day or half-day attendance; and
- quality before- and after-school and summer programming be offered at the request of 15 or more families; and
- programmes be staffed by well-trained teams of teachers and early childhood educators working with an established, consistent curriculum and approach to learning; and
- the first phase of implementation include lower-income neighbourhoods as part of the government's Poverty Reduction Strategy; and
- and represents a very important move towards universal and publicly-funded early learning programs for all children in Ontario; and

Whereas, thousands of children across Ontario are still on waiting lists to get child care and the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care has stated that the Early Learning Advisors report is a moment of hope for children and families but is only one step towards a much larger goal; therefore

Be it resolved that a letter be written to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (copied to Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care) urging the implementation of the Report recommendations, including a province-wide full-day kindergarten program, and calling for more to be done to support child care centres in order to ensure that every child in Ontario who needs child care can access it; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to work with their members and other stakeholders to pressure their local MPP and the provincial government to implement the Pascal Report recommendations and increase funding for universal, accessible high quality child care.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N38 MOTION

Local 105/

Whereas on August 19, 1976, the federal government signed the United Nations' International Covenant on "Economic, Social and Cultural Rights" that included Article 13-2(c) which reads, "Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education;" and

Whereas many countries in the world, including Ireland, Brazil, Cuba and Sweden charge no tuition fees for post-secondary education and CÉGEPs in Québec are free of cost; and

Whereas successive Canadian governments have failed to honour their international commitment to eliminate tuition fees and have, instead, allowed tuition fees to increase dramatically; and

Whereas despite the belief that education is a right, many Canadians have come to accept that tuition fees are an unavoidable reality of accessing post-secondary education; and

Whereas the Federation has stood firm in its opposition to all financial barriers to fully-accessible post-secondary education and has continually lobbied for measures to reduce those barriers, with the goal of their eventual elimination; therefore

Be it resolved that research be conducted on existing models of free post-secondary education in Canada and abroad; and

Be it further resolved that a factsheet be created and distributed to member locals, prior to the November 2009 National General Meeting, on models of free post-secondary education in Canada and abroad; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to implement strategies to educate students and campus community members on the social benefits of free post-secondary education.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N39 MOTION

Local 105/

Whereas the mandate of the Ontario Ombudsman is to ensure accountability through oversight of the administration of government services, independent of bias or political influence; and

Whereas the Ombudsman investigates complaints made by Ontarians and recommends changes to government policies and practice to improve the efficiency, citizen responsiveness and cost-savings of government services; and

Whereas while Ontario colleges are subject to Ombuds investigations, universities fall outside of the scope of the Ombudsman's oversight; and

Whereas an Ombuds investigation into one Ontario public college and one Ontario private career college that was initiated by student complaints may lead to recommended improvements to college sector legislation or policy; and

Whereas in his 2008-2009 report, the Ombudsman identified that there were 49 complaints that related to the university sector that could not be reviewed because he did not have the jurisdiction; and

Whereas the Ontario Student Assistance Programme is currently under the purview of the Ombudsman; therefore

Be it resolved that the Government of Ontario be lobbied to add the university sector to the purview of the Ontario Ombudsman; and

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to write letters to local Members of

Provincial Parliament and the government, calling for universities to fall under the purview of the Ontario Ombudsman; and

Be it resolved that coalition partners within the college and university sector be called upon to write similar letters to support this campaign.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N40 MOTION

Local 19/

Whereas data collection on graduate student completion rates and post-graduation employment is critical to understanding how many Master's and Doctorate students abandon their studies, their reasons for doing so, and the impact of hiring freezes upon post-graduation employment; and

Whereas a lack of standardised and available data in this area makes it nearly impossible for this information to be gathered by researchers; and

Whereas this data would allow for research to be conducted on how many students finish their Master's or Doctoral studies and how many go on to jobs within the post-secondary sector; and

Whereas this information is particularly critical in a time where faculty hiring freezes and institutional cut backs are threatening the ability of current students and newly graduated Master's or Doctorate holders to gain permanent or tenured employment within the post-secondary education sector; therefore

Be it resolved that a polling firm be contracted to study the completion rates of post-graduate students, including how many continue to work at Canadian and Ontarian colleges and universities after graduation; and

Be it further resolved that data also be collected on the length of time it takes for recent graduates to secure full-time faculty positions, and

Be it further resolved that data also be collected on the employment type, job security, and relevance to their field of study of post-graduate master's and doctoral students, as well as whether they are working in their desired profession; and

Be it further resolved that Federation representatives seek coalition partners to help facilitate the study, including investigating the possibility of sharing the cost of the study.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2009/08:N41 MOTION TO ADOPT ISSUES POLICY

Local 19/

Be it resolved that the following Issues Policy on "Independence of Research Councils" be adopted:

Independence of Research Councils

Preamble

Independent research, free of influence from powerful interests, is critical to both scholarly inquiry and research integrity. Political or corporate interference can undermine the peer review process and threaten the principle of academic freedom—a key foundation of public post-secondary education.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) provide the majority of public funds for research in Canada. The Canada Council for the Arts provides funding to artists and arts organisations. These councils are mandated to "promote the highest standards of research excellence." Public funding for research,

scholarly, and artistic activities is integral to a strong Canadian intellectual and cultural fabric.

Increasingly, governments are placing direct and indirect pressure on granting councils to fund research and art that is politically agreeable to the government. Governments have also increasingly shifted funding support to favour industry-partnered research and research that is commercialisable over other types of research. This commercial bias can take the form of creating incentives for doing industry oriented research, making the councils justify themselves in terms of the economic growth they generate, and direct contact with granting council officials about funding decisions they have made.

Federal government policies that offer incentives to commercialise research increase the pressure to produce private, for-profit research in public post-secondary education institutions. This shift has influenced the mandates of the granting councils to increasingly support for-profit research. The commercialisation of research poses threats to the ability of researchers to participate in curiosity-driven or basic research that does not have an immediate commercial interest, but which can nonetheless make important contributions to society and the economy. A funding agenda that favours commercialisable research also poses threats to research integrity and to basic and exploratory research.

Support for research in Ontario is heavily directed to commercially-oriented research initiatives. The Ministry of Research and Innovation was established in 2005 with the primary purpose of commercialising research. This Ministry took control of four programmes previously overseen by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT): The Ontario Research Commercialization Program; the Ontario Research Fund; the Regional Innovation Network Program, and the Ontario Centres of Excellence. The Ministry does not support any programmes that fund non-commercial research.

In addition, although the majority of students and faculty study and teach in the social sciences and humanities, funding to SSHRC is significantly lower than the funding provided to the other two granting councils. This suggests a funding bias that disadvantages the social sciences and humanities.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- independence of the research granting councils from political and government influence;
- a peer-reviewed, accountable and transparent system for allocating grants;
- public funding for research supported by the granting councils;
- adequate and sustained public funding for artists supported by the Canada Council for the Arts;
- equitable distribution of granting council funds among disciplines and institutions;
- adequate allocation of granting council funds for basic research;
- granting council research funding provided to support public, as opposed to private, interests;
- granting councils that uphold the highest standard of research by explicitly supporting the role of whistleblowers through the enactment of whistleblower protection policies; and

- the creation of a research council in Ontario that does not solely fund commercialisable research.

The Federation opposes:

- political and government influence over research;
- threats to the peer-reviewed, accountable and transparent system for allocating grants;
- reductions in public funding for research supported by the granting councils;
- inadequate and unpredictable public funding for artists supported by the Canada Council for the Arts;
- inequitable distribution of granting council funds among disciplines and institutions;
- inadequate allocation of granting council funds for basic research;
- granting council research funding provided to support private, rather than public interests; and
- a lack of granting council support for whistleblowers through the enactment of whistleblower protection policies.

The Ontario Executive Committee recommends that this motion be considered by the Policy Review and Development Committee.

12. INTRODUCTION OF ANTI-HARASSMENT ADVISOR

The Federation strives to create an environment at its general meetings that is free from harassment. At each general meeting the Federation employs an anti-harassment advisor who is available on a 24-hour basis to assist delegates.

At this time, the anti-harassment advisor will provide a brief orientation to the Federation's harassment policy.

13. PRESENTATION FROM STAFF RELATIONS OFFICER

Chairperson Shelley Melanson, who serves as the Federation's Staff Relations Officer, will make a brief presentation on the collective agreement between the Federation and its employees as it pertains to the rights and responsibilities of the employees at provincial general meetings.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

15. RECESS

