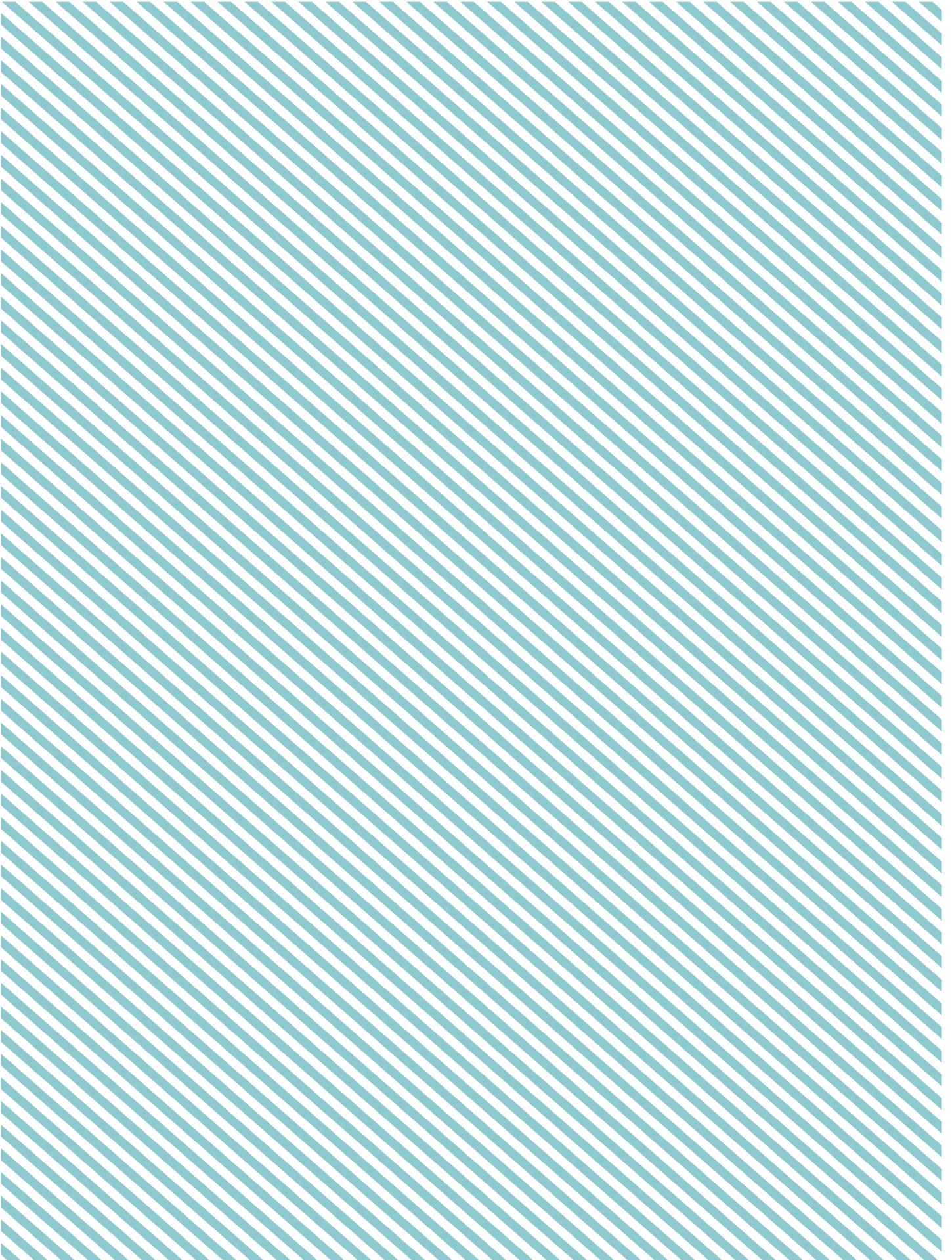


**CANADIAN FEDERATION
OF STUDENTS-ONTARIO**

**ONTARIO GRADUATE CAUCUS
2014 ANNUAL REPORT**



LETTER FROM THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dear Members,

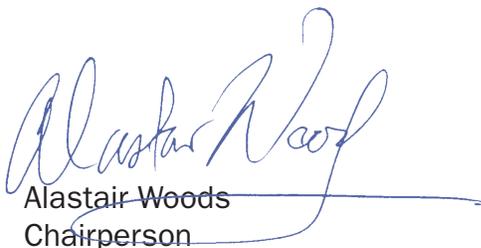
The Ontario Graduate Caucus is the voice of graduate students within the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario. The OGC represents the vast majority of graduate students in Ontario. When joined with undergraduate, college and professional students, members of the OGC are part of a united student voice that is more than 300,000 members strong.

All students in Ontario face enormous barriers, financial and otherwise, to post-secondary education. Graduate students are no exception. With unique challenges like preexisting debt from previous degrees, no access to post-residency fees and limited funding options, graduate students need to work together to make pursuing a masters or PhD easier for all students in Ontario.

Some of the issues that graduate students face are also not unique. Graduate students, like all other students in Ontario pay the highest tuition fees in the country. They, like other students, face rising tuition fees and record high debt loads. Like all other students, graduate students still face many forms of discrimination on their campuses.

For these reasons, it is now more important than ever for all students to work together to make our campuses safer, more accessible and more inclusive spaces. By uniting all of our voices together through the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario we will be able to work towards achieving all of these goals.

We look forward to the continued work by the Ontario Graduate Caucus that will ultimately strengthen the fight for accessible education, not only for graduate students, but for all students in Ontario.



Alastair Woods
Chairperson



Anna Goldfinch
National Executive Representative

LETTER FROM THE ONTARIO GRADUATE CAUCUS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dear Members,

The Ontario Graduate Caucus is the voice of graduate students in Ontario, representing 9 out of every 10 graduate students in the province. Twice per year, the Ontario Graduate Caucus meets to discuss issues unique to the graduate student experience and to guide our work and campaigns. These discussions are crucial to ensuring that the voice of graduate students throughout the province is unified and strong.

Our campaign against Access Copyright renewals at University of Western Ontario and the University of Toronto resulted in both universities rejecting agreement renewals this year. Additionally, the caucus launched the *Not in the Syllabus* campaign, the first campaign of its kind. *Not in the Syllabus* tackles the issue of bullying and harassment in graduate studies, with the first phase focusing on much needed information gathering and resource development, to combat this difficult and sensitive issue. To top it all off, the caucus hosted its first Ontario Graduate Student Symposium, welcoming over 100 participants from across the province. With workshops about graduate student organizing and the impacts of corporatization on campuses, graduate students in Ontario are more ready than ever to fight for accessible graduate education in this province.

At this meeting, we will have the opportunity to reflect on our victories in the past year, learn about current issues in graduate studies and plan for another year. We will discuss the direction of our existing campaigns, and share the work we have been doing on our own campuses with other graduate student representatives from across Ontario.

In this package you will find information about guests who will be presenting and a detailed report of the work the caucus has engaged in over the past year. Please read through it and feel free to ask us questions throughout the meeting.

We hope that you find this meeting engaging and productive, and look forward to working with you all over the coming days.



Kevin Godbout
Chairperson



Justine Dejeagher
Vice Chairperson

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Ontario Graduate Caucus Executive

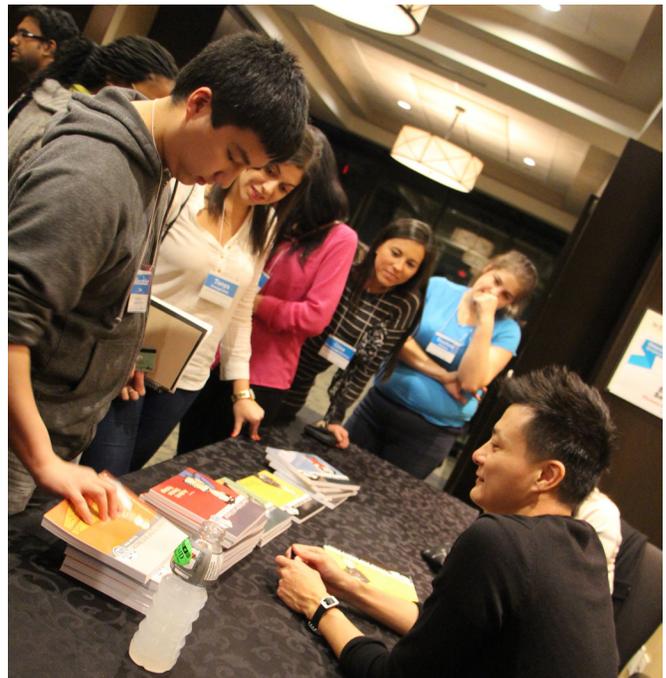
Chairperson Kevin Godbout
Vice Chairperson Justine De Jaegher

Kevin Godbout and Justine De Jaegher were elected as Ontario Graduate Caucus Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson respectively at the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario Annual General Meeting in August 2013. Throughout the fall semester, the Ontario Graduate Caucus Executive met by teleconference to discuss the ongoing work of the caucus.

Ontario Graduate Student Symposium

From November 1-3, the Ontario Graduate Caucus hosted the first Ontario Graduate Student Symposium in Hamilton, Ontario. The Symposium brought together over one hundred graduate students from across the province to discuss issues and learn some best practices for addressing graduate student concerns locally. The Symposium offered workshops on the topics of child care, three minute thesis presentations, open access, academic worker rights, the privatization of campuses, mental health and graduate student organizing.

The Symposium offered a unique experience for engaged graduate students across the province to meet and share their campus experiences with respect to their research, activism and campus involvement. It featured keynotes from Dr. Jorge Cham, creator of PhD Comics and Dr. Katie Gibbs, Executive Director of Evidence for Democracy. Workshop presenters also included Andrea Calver from the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, James Clark from the Canadian Peace Alliance, James Compton from the Canadian Association of University Teachers and Kamilla Pietrzyk, a finalist in the 2013 Three Minute Thesis provincial competition. Individual members from every member local association that is part of the caucus attended the symposium.



many years, colleges and universities have purchased licenses from Access Copyright. Unfortunately, Access Copyright has consistently lobbied for copyright legislation that would be harmful to the post-secondary education sector in order to protect its commercial interests and business model. When the last license agreement expired in 2010, Access Copyright proposed dramatic changes that would place a larger financial burden on colleges and universities and on privacy and academic freedom, along with burdensome reporting requirements.

Graduate students have been at the forefront of the fight against institutions signing new licensing agreements with Access Copyright since the expiration of the previous license agreements. In September 2013, because of student pressure, the University of Toronto and the University of Western Ontario both rejected a renewal of their agreements with Access Copyright.

Not in the Syllabus – Graduate Student Mental Health

Graduate students have unique needs across institutions that relate to the multiple roles they take on in the institution including student, teacher and researcher. Graduate students interact regularly with faculty, administrative and technical staff, undergraduate students and other graduate students. Since graduate students play various roles within the university setting, they often have complicated relationships with any of these campus stakeholders. With additional pressures like high expectations and stress levels, and constant competition with peers for resources like funding, the graduate studies environment can lead to issues of bullying and harassment.

Bullying and harassment are serious behaviours that can have negative impacts on graduate students' scholastic environment. Graduate students may also experience barriers to accessing services because of stigma and fear of personal reprisal in their employment and academic position.



**Is your
laboratory
the new
home of
playground
bullies?**

Graduate students regularly experience incidences of harassment, intimidation and bullying on university campuses across the province. Take part in a new province-wide graduate student survey on bullying and harassment.

Add your voice:

www.NotintheSyllabus.ca

cfs fcée Canadian Federation
of Students-Ontario

CUPE * **Ouwcc**
Ontario University Workers Coordinating Committee

PSAC
Ontario

ONTARIO GRADUATE CAUCUS



**Is your
classroom
the new
home of
playground
bullies?**

Not in the Syllabus
**Graduate Student Survey
on Bullying & Harassment**

www.cfsontario.ca/NotintheSyllabus

In November, the Federation launched Phase One of “Not in the Syllabus,” a graduate student mental health campaign. Phase One is a province-wide survey on bullying and harassment on university campuses. The online survey asks graduate students to identify and describe incidents related to bullying, harassment and mental health issues that they have either personally experienced or witnessed. The survey is the first of its kind in Ontario and will inform the development of campus resources designed to identify and confront bullying, harassment and mental health issues for graduate students.

The campaign includes a two-year project addressing bullying and harassment as experienced by graduate students in Ontario post-secondary institutions. Both the Public Service Alliance of Canada and the Ontario University Workers Coordinating Committee of the Canadian Union of Public Employees are collaborating on this project.

Several materials have been created to support campaign promotion. A business card sized flyer containing a short description of the survey and directing people to the web address was produced to ensure graduate students could learn about the survey in a more discreet way. For outreach done in the weeks leading up to the winter break, a quarter page flyer was designed to wish graduate students well on their end of term marking, papers and exams which also included survey information. To continue the outreach work of the caucus in 2014, a one page office calendar was designed containing information about many Federation campaigns and highlighting Not in the Syllabus. Posters have also been designed making comparisons between academia and schoolyard bullying to draw attention and spark recognition for graduate students who have witnessed bullying and harassing behaviours at their universities.

As of January, over 400 graduate students have completed the online survey in both English and French with most schools being represented. Many graduate students have also given their contact information and identified that they want to be more involved with the campaign.



STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS

Ontario Council of Graduate Studies

The Ontario Council of Graduate Studies (OCGS) is a body that is part of the Council of Ontario Universities, comprised of all graduate deans in the province. The council produces research and lobbies government officials about issues in graduate studies.

OGCS Presentation on the Ontario Graduate Caucus

On September 13, Caucus representatives presented to the OCGS on current issues facing graduate students. Caucus representatives outlined concerns that graduate studies are becoming increasingly inaccessible with tuition fee increases and the elimination of post-residency fees. Additionally, Caucus representatives encouraged graduate deans to work along students to demand more funding from the provincial and federal governments for graduate studies departments and students.

Student Meeting

On October 11, students from across the province were invited to speak to the OCGS about graduate student issues. In the morning, students were provided with space to discuss their priorities together, and in the afternoon, they joined graduate deans to discuss their concerns.

Federation representatives were present in the morning, to give updates from the previous presentation and discussion with OCGS and to discuss the priorities of members. Students agreed that post-residency fees, mental-health resources for graduate students and international student tuition fees were priority issues for all graduate students in Ontario.

Canadian Association of Graduate Studies

The Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) is a non-profit organization mandated to promote graduate studies in Canada and whose membership consists primarily of deans of graduate studies. Membership in the

CAGS is open to all institutions with graduate programs as well as organisations with related interests, including research librarians and graduate students. The National Graduate Caucus had been a member of the CAGS since membership was extended to stakeholder groups beyond graduate schools, but withdrew membership when the only graduate student voting position was lost in 2010. Graduate student organizations may speak at plenary and workshop sessions, but no longer hold voting memberships in the organization.

CAGS held their annual conference and general meeting in Montreal, Quebec from November 3 to 6. Representatives from locals 19, 27, 39, 47, 56, 62, 94 and 102 were sent by their universities to participate.

Only one official meeting time was arranged for graduate student attendees from across the country to discuss issues of concern. Unfortunately this meeting took place on the afternoon of November 3 and many graduate student attendees had not yet arrived. Priority was given to four major topics: student-supervisor relationships, mental health, professional development and funding.

Graduate students, including representatives of the Federation, presented their issues to the graduate studies deans and administrators on November 4. The graduate studies deans and administrators discussed the need for information about graduate students throughout the conference, but dismissed the idea of restoring a graduate student vote to the organization.

General topics of discussion included updates on Tri-Council Funding Agencies' harmonization, internationalization of campuses, and preparing graduate students to enter the workforce instead of academia.

ONTARIO GRADUATE CAUCUS

SOLIDARITY & COALITION WORK

Labour

The Ontario Graduate Caucus and the Federation continue to work closely with labour partners through the Ontario University and College Coalition (OUCC) and individually on a variety of issues. Many OGC members work as teaching assistants, research assistants or contract instructors, and are also members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) or the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC).

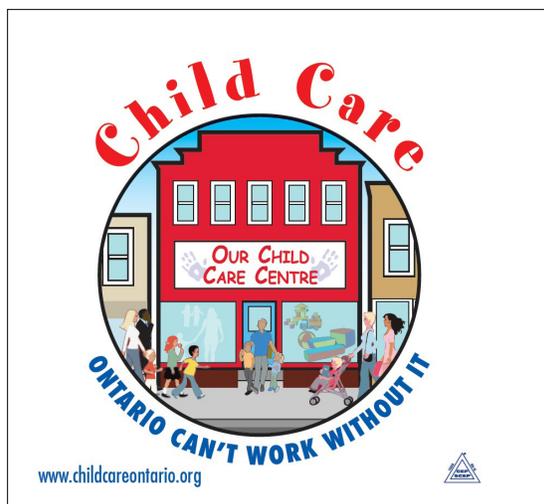
Working conditions are learning conditions. Students and workers on campus share common issues that impact the accessibility and quality of post-secondary education. This year is a bargaining year for many of the locals that we have overlapping membership with.

Through the solidarity work of the Caucus with labour unions representing graduate student workers, several joint events and projects have been undertaken. The launch and continued outreach work of Not in the Syllabus is an example of one such joint collaboration.

In August, CUPE 3906, representing graduate student workers at Local 39 – McMaster Graduate Students Association invited Caucus representatives to be on campus and do joint outreach tabling with them. In September, a representative of the Caucus presented on an Anti-Bullying panel discussion at Local 102 – Brock Graduate Students' Association arranged by CUPE 4207. In December, Federation representatives started meetings with CUPE 3902 representing graduate student workers at Local 19 – University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union to discuss joint campaigns.

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care

The Ontario Graduate Caucus has identified advocacy work on child care issues as a priority. The Federation is a member of the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC) and works closely with the coalition to lobby the province and municipalities for public, affordable, accessible, high quality child care.



Not unlike post-secondary institutions, child care centres are also chronically underfunded, with parents bearing a majority of the cost. While provincial child care subsidies do exist, many students are ineligible. Student parents face a myriad of unique challenges including skyrocketing tuition fees and other financial burdens, as well as a lack of regulated child care spaces. Ontario student parents face the double burden of the highest tuition fees and the highest child care costs in the country.

The OCBCC has recently launched a major campaign for \$10/day child care across the province as well as a province-wide survey. The Federation, in partnership with the OCBCC has made the survey available on the website and can be found at, www.cfsontario.ca/childcare. The Caucus also works with the OCBCC as issues arise impacting graduate student access to childcare.

In November, OCBCC Coordinator, Andrea Calver, co-presented a workshop on child care issues with OGC Vice Chair, Justin De Jaegher.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Orientation Events

Leading up to graduate students' associations' annual fall semester orientations, the Federation reached out to caucus members, offering help with specialized graduate student campaign materials, sponsorship opportunities and on the ground support for events, including setting up International Student Identity Card issuing and campaign material tables.

During orientation events, Federation representatives and local student union executives and volunteers spoke to graduate students about post residency fees and encouraged them to sign onto the petition. Several locals participated including locals 20, 24, 25, 32, 47, 48, 78, 84, 94, 102 and 110.

In September, a one-page information sheet about the work of the Caucus was created containing information on current graduate student campaigns and services that are widely used by Caucus members. This was a collaborative endeavor with several of the CUPE locals representing graduate students

for inclusion in their orientation packages and mailouts but also became a valuable resource for Caucus members during their orientation events. Customized one-pagers were created for Locals 19, 20, 24, 25, 27, 32, 39, 47, 48, 56, 62, 78, 84, 94, 102 and 110.

Presentations

Federation representatives regularly present on graduate student issues to local executives, boards of directors or councils. These membership presentations are an important avenue for highlighting the work of the Ontario Graduate Caucus and raising awareness of current campaigns and recent victories. Federation representatives presented at locals 20, 24, 47 and 84.

Federation representatives also presented at a graduate student issues forum at Local 32 – Lakehead University Student Union and at an International Student Town Hall organized by Local 78 –Carleton Graduate Students' Association.

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

Uniting 600,000 students across Canada

The Voice of Graduate Students in Ontario and Across Canada

As a graduate student at the University of Western Ontario, you are a member of the Canadian Federation of Students and the Ontario and National Graduate Caucuses. The Federation's membership includes 70,000 graduate students, 50,000 of which study in Ontario.

CURRENT GRADUATE CAMPAIGNS



Lower Graduate Tuition Fees

Graduate students contribute substantially to the academic community, most notably through their original research contributions. Historically, graduate programs across the country have charged reduced fees for students who are in the independent research and thesis-writing stages of their degrees. These fee structures, called post-residency fees, exist across the country, but during the 1990s, universities in Ontario began eliminating post-residency fee systems.

The Ontario Graduate Caucus is calling on the government to mandate institutions to reinstate post-residency fee structures for graduate students, reduce tuition fees for all students, increase research funding and increase the number of Ontario Graduate Scholarships.

As a first step to achieving these goals, we're collecting petition signatures on all of our member campuses. Keep a look out for your opportunity to sign!

