



Canadian Federation of Students Secret War Plans Revealed

Surrey, BC — The Kwantlen Student Association (KSA) has obtained a copy of a secret document detailing the plans of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) to wage a massive campaign in the upcoming referenda of the KSA, the Simon Fraser Student Society, and the University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society to leave the national organisation.

The 'war plans' reveal the CFS intends to fly Federation-loyal students' union executives and staff from over 30 students' unions across Canada to campaign on behalf of the CFS. It is not clear that the students at these schools approve of their student fees being used to fund a campaign to shore up CFS support at other post-secondary institutions. "In my three years on the CFS-BC Executive Committee, I never saw a campaign strategy document this methodical," said Laura Anderson, KSA Chairperson and Director of External Affairs.

The plans also include details about hiring a number of CFS-loyal individuals to various staff positions within the national and provincial offices of the Federation — and also to four local students' unions: the Douglas Students' Union, the Students' Unions of Vancouver Community College, the University of Manitoba Students' Union, and the Brandon University Students' Union, which raises suspicions that this could take place without following proper procedures.

Critics of the CFS, like the KSA, have claimed that the Federation seeks to place CFS supporters in key staff positions in all of its member students' unions, in order to ensure their continued loyalty. "This document is our 'smoking gun' on the lengths the CFS will go to just to maintain membership," Anderson added.

For more information on the dysfunctional relationship between the CFS and its member students' unions, visit: **www.cfstruth.ca**.

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The Kwantlen University College Student Association represents over 17,000 students enrolled at the four Greater Vancouver campuses of Kwantlen University College.

A backgrounder and the CFS 'Referendum Campaign Plan' document are attached.

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Facts About the Federation's Secret "Referendum Campaign Plan"

- The KSA obtained the 'Referendum Campaign Plan' by accident. CFS-BC Organiser Summer McFadyen e-mailed the document to CFS National Director of Organising Lucy Watson, but she mistakenly sent the document to the CFS-BC Executive Committee listerv on January 29, 2008.
- The plan contains 250 names of potential campaigners on the list, most of whom are not B.C. residents. This includes CFS executives and paid staff (including executives and staff from each of the Federation's provincial components); executives and staff from over 30 member students' unions; and a number of former CFS executives. The KSA has learned that some are not aware their names are on this list.
- Only one of the potential campaigners is listed as being a student at Kwantlen University College. Sixteen are listed as being students at Simon Fraser University.
- The "Referendum Campaign Plan" indicates that the Federation will organise flights and accommodation for its campaigners it seeks to bring to British Columbia. It is unclear whether the flights and accommodations will be paid for by the Federation, by the member student unions that the campaigners come from, or out-of-pocket by the individuals themselves. It is also unclear whether the campaigners who are students' union executives and staff will continue to be paid by their students' unions when they fly to Vancouver to campaign.
- The "Referendum Campaign Plan" also contains methodical details regarding the Federation's campaign strategy and tactics.
- The "Referendum Campaign Plan" also contains (under the 'Outside ON' tab) plans to hire a number of individuals into a number of positions within the CFS National and regional offices, as well as at four local students' unions. This includes plans to hire Tiffany Kalanj (currently the Organiser of the Students' Union of Vancouver Community College [SUVCC]) as a staffer of the Douglas Students' Union. The KSA has learned that the Board of Directors of the Douglas Students' Union had no knowledge whatsoever of such plans. The KSA has also learned that Ms. Kalanj acted as a campaign manager for the pro-CFS 'Common Sense' slate of candidates in the 2005 and 2006 general elections of the Simon Fraser Student Society, even while she was an employee of SUVCC.
- Students at Kwantlen University College pay almost \$150,000 annually in dues to the Canadian Federation of Students (its national and provincial components). Simon Fraser University students pay over \$430,000 annually to the Federation.