

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Capilano students prohibited from publishing mainstream media sources on Dump The CFS website**

**NORTH VANCOUVER – March 19, 2014** – In September 2013, over 20% (over 1,700) of Capilano University students signed a petition to initiate a referendum on continued membership in the Canadian Federation of Students and Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia. Voting for the referendum is set to take place from March 24 – 28, and is overseen by a CFS/CFS-BC appointed chief returning officer (CRO).

On the official website of the 'no' campaign ([www.dumpthecfs.com](http://www.dumpthecfs.com)), run by Capilano students, a page titled "media" is dedicated to displaying mainstream media articles focusing on the CFS and CFS-BC. On March 17, multiple complaints were made to the CRO claiming that certain articles posted contained defamatory, potentially libelous, or factually incorrect remarks. The CRO ordered their removal and only two articles now remain on the site.

The removed articles were published in the *National Post*, *Montreal Gazette*, and *Higher Education Strategy Associates* and contained quotes from student leaders across Canada about their experience with the CFS and the CFS-BC. While the articles all remain accessible on the Internet, the 'no' campaign has been forbidden from displaying links to the articles on [dumpthecfs.com](http://dumpthecfs.com).

'No' campaign spokesperson Teresa Grant says: **"The 'no' campaign feels like it is fighting a referendum with one arm tied behind its back. We are disappointed that we have been prohibited from sharing mainstream media articles with Capilano students."**

The articles at issue contain statements by student leaders relating to their previous experience with CFS, including lawsuits that the CFS has been involved in with its own members. The involvement of the CFS in litigation with its own members, as well as views of other student leaders, are important factors for Capilano students to consider when deciding whether to leave the CFS and CFS-BC.

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*The Capilano Students' Union advocates for the interests and needs of its members by lobbying Capilano University and all levels of government. The CSU delivers student services, provides resources to clubs and organizations on campus, and hosts a variety of events each year to promote the social, political, recreational, and academic welfare of its membership.*