



GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION  
University of Toronto

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RE: Appointment of Katherine Giroux-Bougard as Chief Returning Officer

28 November 2013

Dear Members of the National Executive Committee,

The University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union would respectfully request that you reconsider the appointment of Katherine Giroux-Bougard as the Chief Returning Officer of the Federation for the potentially upcoming CFS disaffiliation referenda, including that one to be held at our local.

It is our understanding that Giroux-Bougard has served as the National Chairperson of the Federation from May 2009 – May 2010. During this time, Giroux-Bougard engaged in campaigns against disaffiliation for other locals, as is notably part of the public record. As Giroux-Bougard has served in this capacity, we believe there is an inevitable conflict in terms of her perception of these issues leading to bias.

Moreover, Giroux-Bougard has a particularly strong point of view regarding issues of disaffiliation and reform of the Federation. In a strongly-worded letter sent to member locals on 15 October 2009, Giroux-Bougard stated that a series of proposed reforms were "a thinly veiled attempt, by a member, to undermine the progressive work that the Federation undertakes, through a campaign aimed at discrediting the elected national leadership, humiliating the unionized staff, and undermining the organisation and its work".

During her time in office as Chairperson, Giroux-Bougard was at the front-line of conflicts with the Kwatlen Student Association, the McGill Post-Graduate Student Society, the Concordia Students' Union, and the University of Victoria Student Society. Clearly, in our view, someone with this great of a personal investment in the Federation's status quo cannot be trusted to conduct such referendum impartially.

We would therefore request, as our members have instructed us at our Annual General Meeting on 25 November 2013, that the National Executive of the Federation reconsider the appointment of Katherine Giroux-Bougard as the Chief Returning Officer of the Federation and appoint a third-party Chief Returning Officer at a Special General Meeting in the month of January, to ensure timely processes continue.

If the National Executive does not respond and comply with our respectful request by **11:59 PM on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 2013**, we will be forced to seek other avenues to reconcile these matters promptly and properly.

In Solidarity,

Brad Evoy – External Commissioner of the Union,  
on behalf of the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union Executive Committee.