

Opening Plenary Minutes

Semi-Annual General Meeting · Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario
Thursday, January 14 to Sunday, January 17, 2016 - Toronto, Ontario

CALL TO ORDER – Thursday, January 14, 2016

8:30 pm - Chairperson Rajean Holett called the 2016 Semi-Annual General Meeting to order.

1. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Local 1	Carleton University Students' Association	Absent
Local 19	University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union	Present
Local 20	Nipissing University Student Union	Present
Local 24	Ryerson Students' Union	Absent
Local 25	Ontario College of Art and Design Student Union	Present
Local 27	Queen's University Society of Graduate and Professional Students	Present
Local 30	Laurentian University Students' General Association	Absent
Local 32	Lakehead University Student Union	Present
Local 39	McMaster University Graduate Students' Association	Absent
Local 41	Student Federation of the University of Ottawa	Present
Local 47	University of Western Ontario Society of Graduate Students	Present
Local 48	University of Windsor Graduate Students' Society	Present
Local 49	University of Windsor Students' Alliance	Present
Local 54	University of Guelph Central Student Association	Present
Local 56	Wilfrid Laurier University Graduate Students' Association	Absent
Local 62	University of Guelph Graduate Students' Association	Absent
Local 68	York Federation of Students	Present
Local 71	Trent Central Student Association	Present
Local 78	Carleton University Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 82	Algoma University Students' Union	Present
Local 84	York University Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 85	Saint Paul University Students' Association	Present
Local 88	Association des étudiantes et étudiants francophones de l'Université Laurentienne	Present
Local 92	Student Association of George Brown College	Present
Local 93	Glendon College Student Union	Absent
Local 94	University of Ottawa Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 97	Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students of the University of Toronto	Present
Local 98	University of Toronto Students' Union	Present
Local 99	Scarborough Campus Students' Union, University of Toronto	Present
Local 102	Brock University Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 104	Laurentian Association of Mature and Part-Time Students	Absent
Local 105	Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson	Present
Local 106	Organization of Part-Time University Students, University of Windsor	Present
Local 107	Association étudiante de La Cité collégiale	Present
Local 109	University of Toronto at Mississauga Students' Union	Present
Local 110	Laurentian University Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 111	Laurentian Students' Union – Barrie	Present
Local 112	Association générale des étudiantes et étudiants du Collège Boréal	Absent

Holett said that quorum had been reached.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROXIES

Hoilett said that no proxies have been received for this meeting.

3. RATIFICATION OF PLENARY SPEAKER

2016/01:001 MOTION

Local 94/Local 85

Be it resolved that Sylvia Sioufi be ratified as the Speaker for the Opening Plenary of the 2016 Semi-Annual General Meeting; and

Be it further resolved that Sylvia Sioufi be ratified as the Speaker for the Closing Plenary of the 2016 Semi-Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

4. WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Hoilett provided some welcoming remarks.

5. RATIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Sioufi stated there are no new members to ratify.

6. ADOPTION OF PLENARY AGENDA

2016/01:002 MOTION

Local 41/Local 105

Be it resolved that the 2016 Semi-Annual General Meeting plenary agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

7. ADOPTION OF GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

2016/01:003 MOTION

Local 109/Local 92

Be it resolved that the 2016 Semi-Annual General Meeting agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

8. ADOPTION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

2016/01:004 MOTION

Local 107/Local 99

Be it resolved that the 2015 Annual General Meeting minutes be adopted.

CARRIED

9. OVERVIEW OF PROCEDURES

a. Rules of Order and Plenary Procedures

Sylvia Sioufi reviewed plenary procedures and her role as Speaker. She said that the meeting would follow Robert's Rules of Order.

b. Anti-Harassment Procedures for the General Meeting

Anti-Harassment Advisor Quinn Blue made a presentation on the Federation's harassment policy.

c. Presentation by the Federation's Staff Relations Officer

Hoilett introduced the staff of the Federation and made a presentation on the collective agreement between the Federation and its employees, members of CUPE 1281.

10. PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS

a. Ratification of Electoral Officer

2016/01:005 MOTION

Local 41/Local 106

Be it resolved that National Deputy Chairperson Anne-Marie Roy be appointed as Electoral Officer for the 2016 Semi-Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

b. Overview of Election Schedule and Procedures

Electoral Officer Anne-Marie Roy outlined the positions for election and the election procedures for the meeting.

11. STRIKING OF PLENARY SUB-COMMITTEES

a. Striking of Plenary Sub-Committees

2016/01:006 MOTION

Local 54/Local 107

Be it resolved that the following sub-committees be struck:

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

CARRIED

b. Adoption of Committee Agendas

2016/01:007 MOTION

Local 32/Local 110

Be it resolved that the agendas for the plenary sub-committees be adopted.

CARRIED

12. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS SERVED WITH DUE NOTICE

a. Motions Submitted by Member Locals

2016/01:008 MOTION

Local 92/49

Whereas the Federal Liberal government promised in its platform to make it easier for international students and other temporary residents to become Canadian citizens by restoring the residency time credit; and

Whereas International Students contribute billions of dollars every year to the Canadian economy and also contribute towards the economic growth by studying and working; and

Whereas 90% of international students tend to stay permanently in Canada after their studies; and

Whereas the previous government in January 2015 changed immigration policies and rules and made a new system called Express Entry System, which not only restricts the international students to apply and receive permanent residency; and

Whereas each day that passes by, more international students are negatively impacted by this existing changes in the immigration policy; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation write letters to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship and the Prime Minister condemning the sweeping changes to immigration policies that places undue hardship on international students seeking residency; and

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

Be it further resolved the Federation request a meeting the Prime Minister and the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and citizenship to advocate for changes; and

Be it further resolved that, the Federation's National Executive Representative present this to the national executive and include the following items in lobbying initiatives to:

- New/Separate category should be created for international students, which ensures easy, quick and better access to pathways for permanent residency and citizenship
- International Students should be exempted from NOC category system; and

Be it further resolved that a committee of the Ontario Executive be formed to help facilitate the above mentioned meetings, letter writing and advocacy; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation partner with any other like-minded organization for an action to call on change.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2016/01:009 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:008 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:008 REFERRED

2016/01:010 MOTION

Local 92/94

Whereas the Federation adopted a motion at the August 2015 General Meeting supporting the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC); and

Whereas sections 10.ii and 10.iii of the TRC Calls to Action reads as: "We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles: ii.

Improving education attainment levels and success rates. iii. Developing culturally appropriate curricula.”; and

Whereas the use of sacred medicines are an important part of daily survival and success for Indigenous students, including at school; and

Whereas only a handful of universities and colleges have policies around the right to use sacred medicines on campus; and

Whereas some of these policies were created and implemented without any consultation with Indigenous students and are in fact quite harmful; and

Whereas many other schools do not even have policies to begin with; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation research the state of Right to Use Sacred Medicine policies across Ontario, including but not limited to, research on which schools currently do not have policies, what existing policies look like, and the history of how existing policies were created and implemented; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation develop a toolkit for member locals to create/improve policies on the use of sacred medicines on their campuses; and

Be it further resolved that this research and the creation of the toolkit be done in collaboration with the Ontario Aboriginal Constituency Group.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2016/01:011 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:010 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:010 REFERRED

2016/01:012 MOTION

Local 32/94

Whereas movements in other jurisdictions have won \$15 minimum wages, paid sick days, fairer scheduling and measures to improve work, while also fighting to join unions; and

Whereas students in the United States have raised the demand for \$15 and decent work alongside demands for tuition-free education and cancellation of student debt; and

Whereas the Ontario government is currently reviewing employment & labour laws; and

Whereas too many students are currently engaged in precarious, low wage employment; therefore

Be it resolved that all member locals be encouraged build, mobilize and support the Fight for \$15 and Fairness campaign including, but not limited to, the following demands:

- a legislated, indexed minimum wage of at least \$15/hour;
- equal pay for workers regardless of their status as students;
- fair scheduling and adequate hours;
- paid sick days;

Page 6 – Opening Plenary Minutes

Semi-Annual General Meeting · Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario
Thursday, January 14 to Sunday, January 17, 2016 - Toronto, Ontario

- proper enforcement of the laws;
 - measures to make it easier for workers to join – and keep – their unions;
 - recognizing mid-term and final examinations as a category under ‘personal leaves’;
- and

Be it further resolved that all member locals be encouraged to join the Fight for \$15 and Fairness monthly provincial conference calls; and

Be it further resolved that member locals petition their campus Financial Aid offices to demand a \$15/hour minimum wage for work-study students; and

Be it further resolved that, where possible, member locals apply a \$15/hour minimum wage for their employees.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2016/01:013 MOTION TO REFER
Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:012 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:012 REFERRED

2016/01:014 MOTION
Local 32/94

Whereas the Lakehead University Student Union appoints approximately 40 students to committee’s within the University and rarely hears back from them; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation create resources, best practices, or a tool kit to help locals ensure they get the most out of the representatives they appoint to committees within their university, college, or community.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2016/01:015 MOTION TO REFER
Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:014 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:014 REFERRED

2016/01:016 MOTION
Local 78/94

Whereas many member locals have identified a desire for more Federation event information and content to be made available in digital format; and

Whereas having more digital content for Federation meetings and events would make them more accessible; and

Whereas relying more on digital distribution of material as opposed to printed would support environmental sustainability; and

Whereas member local delegations would benefit greatly from being able to access meeting and event information from their smart phones, tablets and other devices; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation investigate the digital delivery of content for Federation meetings and events; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation investigate the creation of a mobile application for such purpose, and to facilitate online engagement and discussion during meetings and events; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation ensures that the venues chosen for meetings and events provide sufficient WIFI bandwidth to accommodate the digital delivery of material.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Organizational Services and Development Committee.

2016/01:017 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:016 be referred to the Organizational Services and Development Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:016 REFERRED

2016/01:018 MOTION

Local 88/94

Whereas Indigenous students face many barriers while accessing post-secondary education; and

Whereas these barriers can often impact Indigenous students' abilities to get involved in their students' union and by extension, accessing spaces within the Canadian Federation of Students; and

Whereas over the past year, the Ontario Aboriginal Constituency Group has gained many new members; and

Whereas the Ontario Aboriginal Constituency Group is one of few organizing spaces for Indigenous students to come together; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation organize a Gathering of Indigenous Students in collaboration with the Ontario Aboriginal Constituency Group; and

Be it resolved that this Gathering be organized in June 2016, the same month as National Aboriginal Day.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2016/01:019 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:018 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:018 REFERRED

2016/01:020 MOTION

Local 109/94

Whereas aboriginal students live under constant oppression, marginalization, and stigma from all levels of society both within the college and university setting and outside of it; and

Whereas the barriers to education for aboriginal students are much higher than for other students and these barriers severely limit their access to education; and

Whereas aboriginal services on campus provide a crucial service to students that settlers cannot provide; and

Whereas funding for many aboriginal services on campuses in Ontario have been cut by the provincial government; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation lobby the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to expand and introduce targeted grants to support on-campus services for First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples; and

Be it further resolved that, the Federation include mandatory courses on the histories and experiences of First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples in future lobby efforts with MPPS; and

Be it further resolved that, the Federation develop educational campaign materials on the importance of including and centering the experiences of First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples in course curriculum.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2016/01:021 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:020 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:020 REFERRED

2016/01:022 MOTION

Local 109/94

Whereas, there are more than 1 billion Muslims in the world who are blamed and stigmatized for the actions of a few; and

Whereas, legislation such as Bill C-51, Bill C-24, and the Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act are consistent islamophobic rhetoric spewed by political leaders such as former Prime Minister Stephen Harper; and

Whereas there is an increase in microaggressions, social media attacks and physical assaults targeting Muslim people; and

Whereas visible Muslim womxn of colour and Muslim people of colour are disproportionately discriminated against and further marginalized; and

Whereas the Summary of Recommendations created in 2007 by the Federation's Task Force on Needs of Muslim Students have not been adopted by many colleges and universities in Ontario; therefore

Be it resolved that a Task Force on Combating Islamophobia at Ontario colleges and universities be struck; and

Be it further resolved that the Provincial Executive and the Task Force be tasked with creating a '*Challenge Islamophobia*' campaign in consultation with Racialized Coalitions, student groups from member locals, and external stakeholders; and

Be it further resolved that the materials reflect the diversity and intersectional struggles of Muslim students in Canada and around the world, including but not limited to sexism, racism, and xenophobia.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2016/01:023 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:022 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:022 REFERRED

2016/01:024 MOTION

Local 105/94

Whereas Ontario is the only province in Canada with specific accessibility legislation, with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act or AODA; and

Whereas compliance with the AODA is intended to eliminate barriers and prevent creation of new ones; and

Whereas students with disabilities in the Post-Secondary Education System are more likely to have an invisible disability which may put them at risk of being further marginalized as their disability is not believed by those in the system; and

Whereas the Federation has strongly advocated; supported and carried out campaigns for other marginalized groups on campus in a consistent and continuous way; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation comply with the AODA's *Accessibility rules for businesses and non-profits* as an expression of commitment and leadership in matters of accessibility; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation encourage member locals to comply with the AODA and supports their efforts by sharing training materials and templates for accessible plans.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Organizational Services and Development Committee.

2016/01:025 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:024 be referred to the Organizational Services and Development Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:024 REFERRED

2016/01:026 MOTION

Local 105/94

Whereas Islamophobic attacks against Muslims and those that “look like Muslims” continue to occur; and

Whereas debates around the niqab during the 2015 Federal election were rooted in misogyny, Islamophobia, and ultimately infringed on individual rights; and

Whereas the new majority Federal Liberal government has made commitments to repeal Bill C-24 and amend Bill C-51; and

Whereas Bill S-7 or the Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act encourages xenophobia and Islamophobic acts; and

Whereas the “No Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, Racism” campaign materials have not been recently updated; therefore

Be it resolved that the “No Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, Racism” campaign materials be updated to include a resource detailing what Islamophobia is and how to combat it on our campuses; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation write a letter to the new Liberal government highlighting the growing prevalence of Islamophobia and how that is related to the loss of individual rights and freedoms; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write similar letters; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation and member locals continue to lobby their MPs to repeal Bill C-24, Bill C-51, and Bill S-7.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2016/01:027 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:026 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:026 REFERRED

2016/01:028 MOTION

Local 105/94

Whereas the lack of legal entitlement to paid sick leave in Canada puts millions of workers at risk of losing their job for taking time off while sick; and

Whereas precarious employment such as part-time, contract work, temp-jobs, etc. generally does not include benefits; and

Whereas most of students are part-time workers; and

Whereas 1.6 million Ontario workers cannot afford to take a day off regardless of how sick they may be and even against their doctor’s advice to stay home; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation endorse the \$15 and Fairness campaign including this specific demand and makes a donation of \$500 to the Worker's Action Centre; and

Be it further resolved that member locals take back a request to their campus to ask the students' union/association to endorse and donate to the campaign; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation writes a letter to the Ministry of Labour; the Ministry of Health and Long-term; and the Premier to demand paid sick days be legislated in the Employment Standards Act; and

Be it further resolved member locals be encouraged to write similar letters to Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Health and Long-term Care and the Premier's office as well as lobbying locally with their MPP in person and/or in writing.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2016/01:029 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:028 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:028 REFERRED

2016/01:030 MOTION

Local 105/94

Whereas all refugees are in great need of support and resources to settle in new countries; and

Whereas Canada is a country rich in resources and land; and, although Canada is on occupied First Nations territory, it is a stable state that can be a safe war-free haven for many refugees; and

Whereas there are thousands families currently in the war-torn state of Syria that are seeking urgent asylum and support; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation donate \$2000 to a solidly established organization, such as Lifeline Syria or an organization of similar reputation; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to make similar donations within their own means; and

Be it further resolved that member locals hold a one-day or week of awareness on campus about the crisis and need of refugees and work with campus groups to expand fundraising initiatives; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation continue its ongoing work to lobby the province and federal government to implement a don't ask don't tell policy, and to demand rights and access to public services and Canada's social safety net for all refugees and immigrants that come to Canada.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2016/01:031 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:030 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:030 REFERRED

2016/01:032 MOTION

Local 105/94

Whereas the Federation's Skills Development Symposium has a series of workshops and trainings that offer support and guidance to new student leaders; and

Whereas many students whom are elected to their students' union are not aware of their role and rights as an Employer; and

Whereas many students' unions have supported unionization and their workers are unionized; and

Whereas there is a need to better understand labour law; therefore

Be it resolved that a session on being an effective Employer in a unionized workplace be held at the next Skills Symposium and that trade unionists, from one of the major unions represented on campus, like the Canadian Union of Public Employees - Ontario, be approached to hold and present at this workshop.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Organizational and Services Development Committee.

2016/01:033 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:032 be referred to the Organizational Services and Development Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:032 REFERRED

2016/01:034 MOTION

Local 105/94

Whereas the Federation staff and many member local staff are unionized; and

Whereas every worker, regardless if they are in a union or not has a right to work in an environment that is free of harassment, discrimination and intimidation; and

Whereas the shifting of unionized work to workers outside of the union or bargaining unit through methods including but not limited to: contracting out work, hiring of non-unionized part-time or contract staff, and sudden restructuring are ways that employers expose clear anti-union tactics or harassment and intimidation; and

Whereas collective agreements are legal documents that exist to ensure a positive, fair and equitable work environment; therefore

Be it resolved that Federation issue a public statement, in the form of an open letter, that reaffirms and outlines our commitment to support unionization, unionized labour and the use of fair and democratic processes to resolve workplace issues and disputes; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write similar statements and open letters, and to circulate such letters to campus allies, and campus media; and

Be it further resolved that a reference guide be created to assist Executives and/or Board of students' unions and associations that outlines: the importance of having unionized workplaces, information on the process of unionization, and the Federation's Student-Worker Solidarity policy; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation approach and work with labour allies, including the Ontario Federation of Labour to develop the reference guide and an awareness campaign.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2016/01:035 MOTION TO REFER
Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:034 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:034 REFERRED

2016/01:036 MOTION
Local 68/94

Whereas the government of Newfoundland and Labrador, in their 2012 provincial budget, implemented the progressive measures students had advocated for, including the elimination of student loans in favour of needs based grants, and the continuation of the long-standing tuition fee freeze; and

Whereas these policies stand to make Newfoundland and Labrador the only province with a full system of needs-based grants; and

Whereas these measures reduce student debt and increase access to post-secondary education; and

Whereas students in Ontario pay the highest tuition fees in all of Canada; and

Whereas a commitment to improving access and improving quality of post-secondary education ensures that the province has the most highly skilled, highly educated workforce possible to contribute to and build Ontario's economy and future; and

Whereas the province of Ontario spent \$365.5 million on Ontario loans in 2014/2015 and issued \$335 million in provincial tuition tax credits in the 2014 tax year; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation lobby the Ontario provincial government to implement a grants structure that eliminates the provincial loan aspect of tuition fees, similar to that of the Newfoundland and Labrador government; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation lobby the Ontario provincial government to end the provincial tax credits and redirect those funds into up-front grants programs.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2016/01:037 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:036 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:036 REFERRED

2016/01:038 MOTION

Local 68/94

Whereas students adapting to post-secondary institutions need to adjust to significant changes, including but not limited to moving to a new area, separation from friends and family, establishing a new social network, managing a budget given the realities of the highest tuition fees in Canada, combining academic studies with other commitments, coping with access in a new environment and, for international students, living in a new country and adapting to a different culture; and

Whereas in addition to these stressors and challenges, students may enter post-secondary education with pre-existing psychological conditions, either declared or undeclared; and

Whereas mental health services on campuses are chronically underfunded and overbooked, forcing students to look off-campus for the mental health services that they require; and

Whereas the costs associated with off-campus mental health services like psychologists, psychiatrists and psychotherapists creates significant financial barriers for students; and

Be it resolved that the Federation develop a network of discounts for therapists, psychotherapists and psychiatrists in Ontario; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation work with Greenshield Canada to develop this network and locate and develop discounts for students suffering from mental health issues; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation continue to lobby the provincial government for better funding and resources on campuses for mental health services.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Organizational and Services Development Committee.

2016/01:039 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:038 be referred to the Organizational and Service Development Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:038 REFERRED

2016/01:040 MOTION

Local 68/94

Whereas many of us are settlers on this land and as such much respect, honour and sustain the colonized land of Turtle Island; and

Whereas a sustainable campus environment fosters and promotes a mentally healthy campus; and

Whereas Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability while recognizing performance in key areas such as site selection, water efficiency, material selection, energy and atmosphere and human and environmental health and places buildings in the rankings of LEED Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum; and

Whereas a well maintained and sustainable building supports the overall wellbeing of building occupants, while ensuring conservation, environmental sustainability and performance; and

Whereas in 2008 the British Columbia government created the BC Climate Action Plan that identified key areas to promote, enhance and maintain sustainability; and

Whereas in 2010 the British Columbia provincial government mandated that all public buildings, including health care buildings and public post-secondary institutions meet a minimum of LEED Gold requirement, as mandated in the BC Climate Action Plan; and

Be it resolved that the Federation lobby the Ontario provincial government to require public buildings to maintain at least a LEED Gold rating in order to receive approval; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation complete basic social media outreach tools outlining the importance of sustainable campus buildings in time for Earth Day 2016; and

Be it further resolved that the member locals encourage their institutions to meet a minimum LEED Gold sustainability requirement in the construction of all new buildings and consult with campus and local Indigenous groups.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2016/01:041 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:040 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:040 REFERRED

2016/01:042 MOTION

Local 82/94

Whereas the Federation supports a women's rights to control their own bodies, including but not limited to, the freedom of reproductive choice, including access to publicly-funded reproductive services; and

Whereas all childbearing humans should have the right to make the decision about their own bodies without feeling guilt or shame; and

Whereas many of our members become pregnant and find it difficult to seek the information needed about local abortion clinics and sexual health centers; and

Whereas anti-choice protestors are present on many of our campuses and in our communities; and

Whereas the current events in the United States surrounding Planned Parenthood are reflective of the violence that surrounds the discussion of whether or not abortions should be legal; and

Whereas the Federation created a pro-choice organizing kit that included factsheets, buttons, and contact information for local pro-choice organizations; and

Whereas there is a need to update the materials; therefore

Be it resolved that updates to the toolkit be made, including materials such as a myth/fact sheet, resources to support organizers on campus, buttons, and contact information for local pro-choice organizations, abortion clinics and sexual health centers; and

Be it further resolved that this material use trans inclusive language.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2016/01:043 MOTION TO REFER
Local 92/109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:042 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:042 REFERRED

13. PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2016/01:043 MOTION
Local 92/Local 97

Be it resolved that the presentation of the Executive Committee report be postponed to Closing Plenary.

CARRIED

14. OTHER BUSINESS

2016/01:044 MOTION
Local 109/Local 85

Whereas legislators in Denmark presented a bill on December 10, 2015, to the Parliament of Denmark which would allow authorities to confiscate jewelry, money and other valuables from refugees entering the country; and

Whereas Denmark has accepted only 20,000 asylum seekers in 2015 – 2% of the total to Arrive in Europe last year and the prime minister of Denmark, Lars Lokke Rasmussen, called for an end to the UN 1951 refugee convention, a law created in the aftermath of the Holocaust; and

Whereas the Danish Ministry of Integration has stated in a U.S. newspaper, The Washington Post, "The bill presented on 10 December 2015 provides the Danish authorities with the power to search clothes and luggage of asylum seekers – and other migrants without a permit to stay in Denmark – with a view to finding assets which may cover the expenses"; and

Whereas the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has censured Denmark for the proposal, stating "The signal Denmark's introduction of restrictions sends to other countries in the world [...] is worrisome and could fuel fear, xenophobia and similar

restrictions that would reduce – rather than expand – the asylum space globally and put refugees in need at life-threatening risks”; and

Whereas the Danish Parliament has secured a parliamentary majority in favour of debating the bill on January 13, 2016 with a view to vote on the bill on January 26, 2016; therefore

Be it resolved that the Canadian Federation of Students – Ontario write a letter to the Consulate General of Denmark in Toronto and the Danish Embassy in Ottawa asking the government of Denmark to reconsider its policies towards refugees; and

Be it further resolved that if said bill passes, the Canadian Federation of Students – Ontario include in the letter, a condemnation of the bill and highlight its contribution to fostering Islamophobia globally; and

Be it further resolved that student unions be encouraged to write similar letters.

2016/01:045 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/Local 41

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:044 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:044 REFERRED

2016/01:045 MOTION

Local 78/Local 105

Whereas Dr. Root Gorelick, an elected faculty representative to the Carleton University Board of Governors, has been blogging regularly about open meetings of the Board since 2013; and

Whereas in August 2015, the Executive Committee of the Board imposed additional restrictions on the ability of Board members to speak or communicate publicly about Board meetings (a ‘gag order’); and

Whereas this gag order impacts all Governors, severely limiting the ability of representatives (including students) to speak with and represent the constituencies which elected them; and

Whereas Dr. Gorelick has refused to sign the gag order, which would prohibit him from continuing to blog about anything discussed by the Board of Governors; and

Whereas, as a result, the Carleton University Board of Governors is expected to vote to remove Dr. Gorelick from the Board at their January 26, 2015 meeting;

Whereas in response to the gag order, the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) has unanimously passed a motion to begin a censure investigation against Carleton University for its disregard for the democratic functioning of the institution; and

Whereas the Council of the Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) of Carleton University voted on December 8, 2015 to express support for Dr. Gorelick against the actions of the Board of Governors; and

Whereas the actions of the Carleton University Board of Governors violate principles of openness and transparency in decision-making, and constitute clear attempts to stifle dissent and limit free speech; therefore

Be it resolved that the Provincial Executive of the Canadian Federation of Students— Ontario expresses its support for Dr. Root Gorelick against the actions of the Carleton University Board of Governors; and

Be it further resolved that the CFS-O issues a press release expressing its support for Dr. Root Gorelick, and affirming the principles of openness and transparency in university decision-making, to be released on or before Tuesday, January 26, 2016 in coordination with Local 78.

2016/01:046 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/Local 41

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:045 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:045 REFERRED

2016/01:047 MOTION

Local 19/Local 71

WHEREAS Enbridge’s Line 9 pipeline, a 40-year-old pipeline built to transport conventional oil westward, has recently been reversed to transport 300,000 barrels/per day of heavy crude, including diluted tar sands bitumen, from Sarnia, ON to refineries in Montreal, QB; and

WHEREAS the Line 9 reversal project is an example of infrastructure development that justifies and facilitates tar sand expansion that is displacing and poisoning First Nations communities in Alberta; and

WHEREAS expert opinion has testified there is a 90% likelihood of a significant Line 9 spill within the first five years of operation, which poses significant risks for First Nations, and other residents living along the pipeline route; and

WHEREAS Line 9 contravenes Indigenous Treaty Rights and is an example of ongoing colonial violence, environmental racism and economic exploitation of Indigenous communities in Canada; and

WHEREAS the Crown has a constitutional duty to consult with Indigenous communities and accommodate their interests as expressed in Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution; and

WHEREAS the Crown failed to consult with the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation on the Line 9 reversal project; and

WHEREAS the National Energy Board (NEB) of Canada, tasked with regulating oil pipelines development, approved the Line 9 reversal project despite the government’s failure to consult with the Chippewas of the Thames and other First Nations; and

WHEREAS the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation is currently seeking leave from the Supreme Court of Canada to overturn a Federal Court of Appeal ruling approving the authorization of the Line 9 reversal project; and

WHEREAS both the NEB and Enbridge have circumvented the Court of Appeal by opening the Line 9 pipeline, which became operational on December 3, 2015; and

WHEREAS the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation are working to raise \$400,000 to cover legal expenses; and

WHEREAS activities at Canadian Universities, including those of student unions in Ontario, occur on occupied lands without the consent of Indigenous communities; and

WHEREAS CFS-Ontario and CFS-National have made commitments to uphold the rights of Aboriginal students, and to work towards racial justice; and

WHEREAS CFS voted to formally oppose the Line 9 pipeline at the National General Meeting in June, 2014; therefore

Be it resolved that that the Canadian Federation of Students – Ontario donate \$2,000 to the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation's legal cost fund.

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to raise and/or donate funds to the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation's legal cost fund to appeal authorization of Enbridge's Line 9 pipeline

2016/01:048 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/Local 41

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:047 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:047 REFERRED

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Caitlin Smith made provided logistical announcements.

16. RECESS

2016/01:049 MOTION

Local 82/Local 97

Be it resolved that plenary recess until 10:00 a.m. Sunday, January 17, 2016.

CARRIED

9:26 p.m. – The meeting recessed.

Closing Plenary Minutes

Semi-Annual General Meeting · Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario
Thursday, January 14 to Sunday, January 17, 2016 - Toronto, Ontario

CALL TO ORDER

10:58 am - Plenary Speaker Sylvia Sioufi called the Closing Plenary to order.

1. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Local 1	Carleton University Students' Association	Absent
Local 19	University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union	Present
Local 20	Nipissing University Student Union	Present
Local 24	Ryerson Students' Union	Absent
Local 25	Ontario College of Art and Design Student Union	Present
Local 27	Queen's University Society of Graduate and Professional Students	Present
Local 30	Laurentian University Students' General Association	Absent
Local 32	Lakehead University Student Union	Present
Local 39	McMaster University Graduate Students' Association	Absent
Local 41	Student Federation of the University of Ottawa	Present
Local 47	University of Western Ontario Society of Graduate Students	Present
Local 48	University of Windsor Graduate Students' Society	Present
Local 49	University of Windsor Students' Alliance	Present
Local 54	University of Guelph Central Student Association	Present
Local 56	Wilfrid Laurier University Graduate Students' Association	Absent
Local 62	University of Guelph Graduate Students' Association	Absent
Local 68	York Federation of Students	Present
Local 71	Trent Central Student Association	Present
Local 78	Carleton University Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 82	Algoma University Students' Union	Present
Local 84	York University Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 85	Saint Paul University Students' Association	Present
Local 88	Association des étudiantes et étudiants francophones de l'Université Laurentienne	Present
Local 92	Student Association of George Brown College	Present
Local 93	Glendon College Student Union	Absent
Local 94	University of Ottawa Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 97	Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students of the University of Toronto	Present
Local 98	University of Toronto Students' Union	Present
Local 99	Scarborough Campus Students' Union, University of Toronto	Present
Local 102	Brock University Graduate Students' Association	Absent
Local 104	Laurentian Association of Mature and Part-Time Students	Absent
Local 105	Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson	Present
Local 106	Organization of Part-Time University Students, University of Windsor	Present
Local 107	Association étudiante de La Cité collégiale	Present
Local 109	University of Toronto at Mississauga Students' Union	Present
Local 110	Laurentian University Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 111	Laurentian Students' Union – Barrie	Present
Local 112	Association générale des étudiantes et étudiants du Collège Boréal	Absent

Sioufi said that quorum had been reached.

Page 2 – Closing Plenary Minutes

Semi-Annual General Meeting · Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario
Thursday, January 14 to Sunday, January 17, 2016 - Toronto, Ontario

2. BUSINESS TABLED FROM OPENING PLENARY

2016/01:050 MOTION

Local 107/Local 78

Be it resolved that the report of the Provincial Executive be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. PRESENTATION OF THE ELECTORAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Electoral Officer Anne-Marie Roy presented the Electoral Report.

2016/01:051 MOTION

Local 41/Local 54

Be it resolved that Rajean Hoilett be ratified as Chairperson for the 2016-2017 term.

CARRIED

2016/01:052 MOTION

Local 41/Local 54

Be it resolved that Gayle McFadden be ratified as National Executive Representative for the 2016-2017 term.

CARRIED

2016/01:053 MOTION

Local 41/Local 54

Be it resolved that Sami Pritchard be ratified as Treasurer for the 2016-2017 term.

CARRIED

2016/01:054 MOTION

Local 106/Local 32

Be it resolved that the report of the Chief Returning Officer be accepted; and

Be it further resolved that the ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Treasurer Sami Pritchard presented the report on behalf of the Committee.

2016/01:B01 MOTION

Local 54/Local 41

Be it resolved that the 2015-2016 revised budget be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

2016/01:B02 MOTION

Local 106/Local 99

Be it resolved that Grant Thornton be reappointed as the Federations' auditor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

CARRIED

2016/01: B03 MOTION

Local 105/Local 68

Be it resolved that the Budget Committee Report be accepted.

CARRIED

5. PRESENTATION OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND SERVICES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

National Executive Representative Gab Ross presented the report on behalf of the Committee.

2016/01:N05 MOTION

Local 78/Local 94

Whereas many member locals have identified a desire for more Federation event information and content to be made available in digital format; and

Whereas having more digital content for Federation meetings and events would make them more accessible; and

Whereas relying more on digital distribution of material as opposed to printed would support environmental sustainability; and

Whereas member local delegations would benefit greatly from being able to access meeting and event information from their smart phones, tablets and other devices; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation investigate the digital delivery of content for Federation meetings and events and that report be provided by the next general meeting; and

Be it further resolved that hard copies be made available to attendees who indicate that they would like this option.

CARRIED

2016/01:N09 MOTION

Local 105/Local 94

Whereas Ontario is the only province in Canada with specific accessibility legislation, with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act or AODA; and

Whereas compliance with the AODA is intended to eliminate barriers and prevent creation of new ones; and

Whereas students with disabilities in the Post-Secondary Education System are more likely to have an invisible disability which may put them at risk of being further marginalized as their disability is not believed by those in the system; and

Whereas the Federation has strongly advocated; supported and carried out campaigns for other marginalized groups on campus in a consistent and continuous way; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act's Accessibility (AODA) rules for businesses and non-profits, while aiming to meet best practices, as an expression of commitment and leadership in matters of accessibility; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation supports the efforts by sharing training materials and templates for accessible plans, which outline minimal AODA requirements as well as best practices and that these materials be updated; and

Page 4 – Closing Plenary Minutes

Semi-Annual General Meeting · Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario
Thursday, January 14 to Sunday, January 17, 2016 - Toronto, Ontario

Be it further resolved that the Federation supports the efforts by sharing training materials and templates for accessible plans, which outline minimal AODA requirements as well as best practices and that these materials be updated continuously; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation encourage member locals to comply with the AODA, while aiming to meet the best practises.

CARRIED

2016/01:N13 MOTION

Local 105/Local 94

Whereas the Federation's Skills Development Symposium has a series of workshops and trainings that offer support and guidance to new student leaders; and

Whereas many students whom are elected to their students' union are not aware of their role and rights as an Employer; and

Whereas many students' unions have supported unionization and their workers are unionized; and

Whereas there is a need to better understand labour law; therefore

Be it resolved that a session on being an effective Employer in a unionized workplace be held at the next Skills Symposium and that trade unionists, from one of the major unions represented on campus, like the Canadian Union of Public Employees - Ontario, be approached to hold and present at this workshop; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation provide written materials on the duties of member locals as employers.

CARRIED

2015/08:N16 MOTION

Local 68/Local 94

Whereas students adapting to post-secondary institutions need to adjust to significant changes, including but not limited to moving to a new area, separation from friends and family, establishing a new social network, managing a budget given the realities of the highest tuition fees in Canada, combining academic studies with other commitments, coping with access in a new environment and, for international students, living in a new country and adapting to a different culture; and

Whereas in addition to these stressors and challenges, students may enter post-secondary education with pre-existing psychological conditions, either declared or undeclared; and

Whereas mental health services on campuses are chronically underfunded and overbooked, forcing students to look off-campus for the mental health services that they require; and

Whereas the costs associated with off-campus mental health services like psychologists, psychiatrists and psychotherapists creates significant financial barriers for students; and

Be it resolved that the Federation develop a network of discount psychologists, psychiatrists, naturopaths and other licenced and regulated counselling professionals in Ontario; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation work to identify queer and trans positive psychologists, psychiatrists, naturopaths and other licenced and regulated counselling professionals as part of this network; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation work with Greenshield Canada to develop this network and locate and develop discounts for students suffering from mental health issues; and

Be it further resolved that a document that discloses regional elder and traditional councillors be developed in consultation with the Aboriginal constituency group and local indigenous community leaders; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation continue to lobby the provincial government for better funding and resources on campuses for mental health services.

CARRIED

2016/01:N17 MOTION

Local 97/Local 88

Be it resolved that the Organizational and Services Development Committee Report be accepted.

CARRIED

6. PRESENTATION OF THE CAMPAIGNS AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairperson Rajean Hoilett presented the report on behalf of the Committee.

2016/01:N01 MOTION

Local 92/Local 49

Whereas the Federal Liberal government promised in its platform to make it easier for international students and other temporary residents to become Canadian citizens by restoring the residency time credit; and

Whereas International Students contribute billions of dollars every year to the Canadian economy and also contribute towards the economic growth by studying and working; and

Whereas 90% of international students tend to stay permanently in Canada after their studies; and

Whereas the previous government in January 2015 changed immigration policies and rules and made a new system called Express Entry System, which not only restricts the international students to apply and receive permanent residency; and

Whereas each day that passes by, more international students are negatively impacted by this existing changes in the immigration policy; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation write letters to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship and the Prime Minister condemning the sweeping changes to immigration policies that places undue hardship on international students seeking residency; and

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

Be it further resolved the Federation request a meeting the Prime Minister and the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and citizenship to advocate for changes; and

Be it further resolved that, the Federation's National Executive Representative present this to the national executive and include the following items in lobbying initiatives to:

Page 6 – Closing Plenary Minutes

Semi-Annual General Meeting · Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario
Thursday, January 14 to Sunday, January 17, 2016 - Toronto, Ontario

- New/Separate category should be created for international students, which ensures easy, quick and better access to pathways for permanent residency and citizenship
- International Students should be exempted from NOC category system; and

Be it further resolved that a committee of the Ontario Executive be formed to help facilitate the above mentioned meetings, letter writing and advocacy; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation partner with any other like-minded organization for an action to call on change.

CARRIED

2016/01:N02

MOTION

Local 92/Local 105

Whereas the Federation adopted a motion at the August 2015 General Meeting supporting the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC); and

Whereas sections 10.ii and 10.iii of the TRC Calls to Action reads as: “We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles: ii. Improving education attainment levels and success rates. iii. Developing culturally appropriate curricula.”; and

Whereas the use of sacred medicines are an important part of daily survival and success for Indigenous students, including at school; and

Whereas only a handful of universities and colleges have policies around the right to use sacred medicines on campus; and

Whereas some of these policies were created and implemented without any consultation with Indigenous students and are in fact quite harmful; and

Whereas many other schools do not even have policies to begin with; therefore

Be it resolved the Federation develop and collect a survey that helps member local students’ unions conduct research on the State of Right to Use Sacred Medicine policies across Ontario colleges and universities including but not limited to, research on which schools currently do not have policies, what existing policies look like, and the history of how existing policies were created and implemented; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation develop a toolkit for member locals to create/improve policies on the use of sacred medicines on their campuses; and

Be it further resolved that this research and the creation of the toolkit be done in collaboration with the Ontario Aboriginal Constituency Group; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to work in partnership with existing Indigenous groups as well as regional Elders and knowledge holders.

CARRIED

2016/01:N03

MOTION

Local 32/Local 54

Whereas movements in other jurisdictions have won \$15 minimum wages, paid sick days, fairer scheduling and measures to improve work, while also fighting to join unions; and

Whereas students in the United States have raised the demand for \$15 and decent work alongside demands for tuition-free education and cancellation of student debt; and

Whereas the Ontario government is currently reviewing employment & labour laws; and

Whereas too many students are currently engaged in precarious, low wage employment; therefore

Be it resolved that all member locals be encouraged build, mobilize and support the Fight for \$15 and Fairness campaign including, but not limited to, the following demands:

- a legislated, indexed minimum wage of at least \$15/hour;
 - equal pay for workers regardless of their status as students;
 - fair scheduling and adequate hours;
 - paid sick days;
 - proper enforcement of the laws;
 - measures to make it easier for workers to join – and keep – their unions;
 - recognizing mid-term and final examinations as a category under ‘personal leaves’;
- and

Be it further resolved that all member locals be encouraged to join the Fight for \$15 and Fairness monthly provincial conference calls; and

Be it resolved that member locals petition their campus Financial Aid and other relevant offices to demand a \$15/hour minimum wage for work-study students; and

Be it further resolved that, where possible, member locals apply a \$15/hour minimum wage for their employees; and

Be it further resolved that member locals petition their campus Financial Aid and/or other relevant offices to demand: \$15/hour minimum wage for on-campus jobs and work-study students, equal pay and access to on campus job opportunities for students regardless of their immigration status and an increase to job opportunities and/or employment funds for international students; and

Be it further resolved that member locals reach out to all labour unions on campus to form a coalition in support of the campaign.

CARRIED

2016/01:N04 MOTION

Local 32/Local 94

Whereas the Lakehead University Student Union appoints approximately 40 students to committee’s within the University and rarely hears back from them; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation create resources, best practices, or a tool kit to help locals ensure they get the most out of the representatives they appoint to committees within their university, college, or community; and

Be it resolved that the Federation create resources, best practices, or a tool kit to help locals manage or guide the representatives on institution committees and provide those representatives with the support and resources they need to effectively participate in committee settings.

CARRIED

2016/01:N06

MOTION

Local 88/Local 20

Whereas Indigenous students face many barriers while accessing post-secondary education; and

Whereas these barriers can often impact Indigenous students' abilities to get involved in their students' union and by extension, accessing spaces within the Canadian Federation of Students; and

Whereas over the past year, the Ontario Aboriginal Constituency Group has gained many new members; and

Whereas the Ontario Aboriginal Constituency Group is one of few organizing spaces for Indigenous students to come together; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation organize a Gathering of Indigenous Students in collaboration with the Ontario Aboriginal Constituency Group; and

Be it further resolved that this Gathering be organized in June 2016, the same month as National Aboriginal Day; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to send a minimum of one Indigenous student from their membership at large.

CARRIED

2016/01:N07

MOTION

Local 109/ Local 49

Whereas aboriginal students live under constant oppression, marginalization, and stigma from all levels of society both within the college and university setting and outside of it; and

Whereas the barriers to education for aboriginal students are much higher than for other students and these barriers severely limit their access to education; and

Whereas aboriginal services on campus provide a crucial service to students that settlers cannot provide; and

Whereas funding for many aboriginal services on campuses in Ontario have been cut by the provincial government; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation lobby the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to create a more sustainable process for funding allocation and expand grants to support on-campus services for First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples;

Be it further resolved that the Federation encourages collaboration from university services and student groups with Indigenous centres to increase Indigenous awareness;

Be it further resolved that the Federation include required courses and append, moderate or update existing historical curriculum in consultation with Indigenous faculty members on the histories and experiences of First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples in future lobby efforts with MPPS; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation develop educational campaign materials on the importance of including and centering the experiences of First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples in course curriculum; and

Be it further resolved that with all lobbying platforms and developing means of awareness specific to Indigenous experiences, such as required courses and educational campaigns, that the Federation emphasizes the experiences of Indigenous womxn, girls and two-spirited people; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation consult with the Aboriginal Constituency Group under the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario to meet these demands.

CARRIED

2015/08:N08

MOTION

Local 109/Local 78

Whereas, there are more than 1 billion Muslims in the world who are blamed and stigmatized for the actions of a few; and

Whereas, legislation such as Bill C-51, Bill C-24, and the Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act are consistent islamophobic rhetoric spewed by political leaders such as former Prime Minister Stephen Harper; and

Whereas there is an increase in microaggressions, social media attacks and physical assaults targeting Muslim people; and

Whereas visible Muslim womxn of colour and Muslim people of colour are disproportionately discriminated against and further marginalized; and

Whereas the Summary of Recommendations created in 2007 by the Federation's Task Force on Needs of Muslim Students have not been adopted by many colleges and universities in Ontario; therefore

Be it resolved that a Task Force on Combating Islamophobia at Ontario colleges and universities be struck; and

Be it further resolved that the Provincial Executive and the Task Force be tasked with creating a '*Challenge Islamophobia*' campaign in consultation with Racialized Coalitions, student groups from member locals, and external stakeholders; and

Be it further resolved that the materials reflect the diversity and intersectional struggles of Muslim students in Canada and around the world, including but not limited to sexism, racism, and xenophobia; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to contribute to this initiative by striking their own task force on combatting Islamophobia which includes their racialized coalitions and student groups, and/or facilitating member contributions to the provincial Task Force in an effort to save time and minimize difficulties that may be faced due to the direct collaboration of the provincial taskforce and member locals; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation reproduce the *No Islamaphobia, anti-semitism, racism* campaign materials to assist member locals in striking campus taskforces during the Winter of 2016.

CARRIED

Page 10 – Closing Plenary Minutes

Semi-Annual General Meeting · Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario
Thursday, January 14 to Sunday, January 17, 2016 - Toronto, Ontario

2016/01:N10 MOTION

Local 105/Local 109

Whereas Islamophobic attacks against Muslims and those that “look like Muslims” continue to occur; and

Whereas debates around the niqab during the 2015 Federal election were rooted in misogyny, Islamophobia, and ultimately infringed on individual rights; and

Whereas the new majority Federal Liberal government has made commitments to repeal Bill C-24 and amend Bill C-51; and

Whereas Bill S-7 or the Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act encourages xenophobia and Islamophobic acts; and

Whereas the “No Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, Racism” campaign materials have not been recently updated; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation write a letter to the new Liberal government highlighting the growing prevalence of Islamophobia and how that is related to the loss of individual rights and freedoms and be mindful of the impressions it gives of Muslims and Muslim majority countries in official statements; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write similar letters; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation and member locals continue to lobby their MPs to repeal Bill C-24, Bill C-51, and Bill S-7; and

Be it resolved that the Federation write a letter to the new Liberal government highlighting the growing prevalence of Islamophobia and how that is related to the loss of individual rights and freedoms, be mindful of the impressions it gives of Muslims and Muslim majority countries in official statements and to condemn islamophobic laws and attitudes in other countries.

CARRIED

2016/01:N11 MOTION

Local 105/Local 82

Whereas the lack of legal entitlement to paid sick leave in Canada puts millions of workers at risk of losing their job for taking time off while sick; and

Whereas precarious employment such as part-time, contract work, temp-jobs, etc. generally does not include benefits; and

Whereas most of students are part-time workers; and

Whereas 1.6 million Ontario workers cannot afford to take a day off regardless of how sick they may be and even against their doctor’s advice to stay home; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation make a \$500 donation to the Workers’ Action Centre to support the \$15 & Fairness Campaign; and

Be it further resolved member locals take back a request to their campus to ask the students’ union/association to also donate to the campaign; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation writes a letter to the Ministry of Labour; the Ministry of Health and Long-term; and the Premier to demand paid sick days be legislated in the Employment Standards Act; and

Be it further resolved member locals be encouraged to write similar letters to Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Health and Long-term Care and the Premier's office as well as lobbying locally with their MPP in person and/or in writing.

CARRIED

2016/01:N12 MOTION

Local 105/Local 25

Whereas all refugees are in great need of support and resources to settle in new countries; and

Whereas Canada is a country rich in resources and land; and, although Canada is on occupied First Nations territory, it is a stable state that can be a safe war-free haven for many refugees; and

Whereas there are thousands families currently in the war-torn state of Syria that are seeking urgent asylum and support; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation donate \$2000 to a solidly established organization, such as Lifeline Syria or an organization of similar reputation; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to make similar donations within their own means; and

Be it further resolved that member locals hold a one-day or week of awareness on campus about the crisis and need of refugees and work with campus groups and the administration to expand fundraising initiatives; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation continue its ongoing work to lobby the province and federal government to implement a don't ask don't tell policy, review it's safe country policy and to demand rights and access to public services and Canada's social safety net for all refugees and immigrants that come to Canada.

CARRIED

2016/01:N14 MOTION

Local 105/ Local 94

Whereas the Federation staff and many member local staff are unionized; and

Whereas every worker, regardless if they are in a union or not has a right to work in an environment that is free of harassment, discrimination and intimidation; and

Whereas the shifting of unionized work to workers outside of the union or bargaining unit through methods including but not limited to: contracting out work, hiring of non-unionized part-time or contract staff, and sudden restructuring are ways that employers expose clear anti-union tactics or harassment and intimidation; and

Whereas collective agreements are legal documents that exist to ensure a positive, fair and equitable work environment; therefore

Be it resolved that Federation issue a public statement, in the form of an open letter, that reaffirms and outlines our commitment to support unionization, unionized labour and the use of fair and democratic processes to resolve workplace issues and disputes; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write similar statements and open letters, and to circulate such letters to campus allies, and campus media; and

Be it further resolved that a reference guide be created to assist Executives and/or Board of students' unions and associations that outlines: the importance of having unionized

workplaces, information on the process of unionization, and the Federation's Student-Worker Solidarity policy; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation approach and work with labour allies, including the Ontario Federation of Labour to develop the reference guide and an awareness campaign.

CARRIED

2016/01:N15 MOTION

Local 105/ Local 94

Whereas the government of Newfoundland and Labrador, in their 2012 provincial budget, implemented the progressive measures students had advocated for, including the elimination of student loans in favour of needs based grants, and the continuation of the long-standing tuition fee freeze; and

Whereas these policies stand to make Newfoundland and Labrador the only province with a full system of needs-based grants; and

Whereas these measures reduce student debt and increase access to post-secondary education; and

Whereas students in Ontario pay the highest tuition fees in all of Canada; and

Whereas a commitment to improving access and improving quality of post-secondary education ensures that the province has the most highly skilled, highly educated workforce possible to contribute to and build Ontario's economy and future; and

Whereas the province of Ontario spent \$365.5 million on Ontario loans in 2014/2015 and issued \$335 million in provincial tuition tax credits in the 2014 tax year; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation lobby the Ontario provincial government to implement a grants structure that eliminates the provincial loan aspect of tuition fees, similar to that of the Newfoundland and Labrador government; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation lobby the Ontario provincial government to end the provincial tax credits and redirect those funds into up-front grants programs; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation lobby the Ontario provincial government to end late payment interest charges associated with tuition fees that are paid after the deadlines set by various universities and colleges in Ontario; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation lobby the Ontario provincial government to work with the Federal government to eliminate existing student debt in the province.

CARRIED

2016/01:N17 MOTION

Local 68/ Local 94

Whereas many of us are settlers on this land and as such much respect, honour and sustain the colonized land of Turtle Island; and

Whereas a sustainable campus environment fosters and promotes a mentally healthy campus; and

Whereas Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability while recognizing performance in key areas such as site selection, water efficiency, material selection, energy and atmosphere and human and

environmental health and places buildings in the rankings of LEED Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum; and

Whereas a well maintained and sustainable building supports the overall wellbeing of building occupants, while ensuring conservation, environmental sustainability and performance; and

Whereas in 2008 the British Columbia government created the BC Climate Action Plan that identified key areas to promote, enhance and maintain sustainability; and

Whereas in 2010 the British Columbia provincial government mandated that all public buildings, including health care buildings and public post-secondary institutions meet a minimum of LEED Gold requirement, as mandated in the BC Climate Action Plan; and

Be it resolved that the Federation lobby the Ontario provincial government to require public buildings to maintain at least a LEED Gold rating in order to receive approval; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation complete basic social media outreach tools outlining the importance of sustainable campus buildings in time for Earth Day 2016; and

Be it further resolved that the member locals encourage their institutions to meet a minimum LEED Gold sustainability requirement in the construction of all new buildings and consult with campus and local Indigenous groups.

2016/01:N17 MOTION

Local 68/ Local 109

Be it resolved that motion 2016/01:N17 be referred the Ontario executive committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:N18 MOTION

Local 82/ Local 94

Whereas the Federation supports a women's rights to control their own bodies, including but not limited to, the freedom of reproductive choice, including access to publicly-funded reproductive services; and

Whereas all childbearing humans should have the right to make the decision about their own bodies without feeling guilt or shame; and

Whereas many of our members become pregnant and find it difficult to seek the information needed about local abortion clinics and sexual health centers; and

Whereas anti-choice protestors are present on many of our campuses and in our communities; and

Whereas the current events in the United States surrounding Planned Parenthood are reflective of the violence that surrounds the discussion of whether or not abortions should be legal; and

Whereas the Federation created a pro-choice organizing kit that included factsheets, buttons, and contact information for local pro-choice organizations; and

Whereas there is a need to update the materials; therefore

Be it resolved that updates to the toolkit be made, including materials such as a myth/fact sheet, resources to support organizers on campus, buttons, and contact information for local pro-choice and reproductive justice organizations, abortion clinics and sexual health centers; and

Page 14 – Closing Plenary Minutes

Semi-Annual General Meeting · Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario
Thursday, January 14 to Sunday, January 17, 2016 - Toronto, Ontario

Be it further resolved that the toolkit include information specific to international students access to reproductive services and counselling; and

Be it further resolved that this material use trans inclusive language; and

Be it further resolved that this material includes intersectionality with racialized and Indigenous child-bearing humans.

CARRIED

2016/01:E01 MOTION

Local 19/Local 71

Whereas Enbridge's Line 9 pipeline, a 40-year-old pipeline built to transport conventional oil westward, has recently been reversed to transport 300,000 barrels/per day of heavy crude, including diluted tar sands bitumen, from Sarnia, ON to refineries in Montreal, QB; and

Whereas the Line 9 reversal project is an example of infrastructure development that justifies and facilitates tar sand expansion that is displacing and poisoning First Nations communities in Alberta; and

Whereas expert opinion has testified there is a 90% likelihood of a significant Line 9 spill within the first five years of operation, which poses significant risks for First Nations, and other residents living along the pipeline route; and

Whereas Line 9 contravenes Indigenous Treaty Rights and is an example of ongoing colonial violence, environmental racism and economic exploitation of Indigenous communities in Canada; and

Whereas the Crown has a constitutional duty to consult with Indigenous communities and accommodate their interests as expressed in Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution; and

Whereas the Crown failed to consult with the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation on the Line 9 reversal project; and

Whereas the National Energy Board (NEB) of Canada, tasked with regulating oil pipelines development, approved the Line 9 reversal project despite the government's failure to consult with the Chippewas of the Thames and other First Nations; and

Whereas the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation is currently seeking leave from the Supreme Court of Canada to overturn a Federal Court of Appeal ruling approving the authorization of the Line 9 reversal project; and

Whereas both the NEB and Enbridge have circumvented the Court of Appeal by opening the Line 9 pipeline, which became operational on December 3, 2015; and

Whereas the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation are working to raise \$400,000 to cover legal expenses; and

Whereas activities at Canadian Universities, including those of student unions in Ontario, occur on occupied lands without the consent of Indigenous communities; and

Whereas CFS-Ontario and CFS-National have made commitments to uphold the rights of Aboriginal students, and to work towards racial justice; and

Whereas CFS voted to formally oppose the Line 9 pipeline at the National General Meeting in June, 2014; therefore

Be it resolved that the Canadian Federation of Students – Ontario donate \$2,000 to the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation's legal cost fund; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to raise and/or donate funds to the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation's legal cost fund to appeal authorization of Enbridge's Line 9 pipeline; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation work in collaboration with the Aboriginal constituency group and the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation in developing resource materials for member locals to utilize in their efforts of garnering monetary support for Chippewa of the Thames First Nation.

CARRIED

2016/01:E02 MOTION

Local 78/Local 105

Whereas Dr. Root Gorelick, an elected faculty representative to the Carleton University Board of Governors, has been blogging regularly about open meetings of the Board since 2013; and

Whereas in August 2015, the Executive Committee of the Board imposed additional restrictions on the ability of Board members to speak or communicate publicly about Board meetings (a 'gag order'); and

Whereas this gag order impacts all Governors, severely limiting the ability of representatives (including students) to speak with and represent the constituencies which elected them; and

Whereas Dr. Gorelick has refused to sign the gag order, which would prohibit him from continuing to blog about anything discussed by the Board of Governors; and

Whereas, as a result, the Carleton University Board of Governors is expected to vote to remove Dr. Gorelick from the Board at their January 26, 2015 meeting; and

Whereas in response to the gag order, the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) has unanimously passed a motion to begin a censure investigation against Carleton University for its disregard for the democratic functioning of the institution; and

Whereas the Council of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) of Carleton University voted on December 8, 2015 to express support for Dr. Gorelick against the actions of the Board of Governors; and

Whereas the actions of the Carleton University Board of Governors violate principles of openness and transparency in decision-making, and constitute clear attempts to stifle dissent and limit free speech; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation expresses its support for Dr. Root Gorelick against the actions of the Carleton University Board of Governors; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation issues a press release expressing its support for Dr. Root Gorelick, and affirming the principles of openness and transparency in university decision-making, to be released on or before Tuesday, January 26, 2016 in coordination with Local 78.

CARRIED

2016/01:E03 MOTION

Local 109/Local 85

Whereas legislators in Denmark presented a bill on December 10, 2015, to the Parliament of Denmark which would allow authorities to confiscate jewelry, money and other valuables from refugees entering the country; and

Page 16 – Closing Plenary Minutes

Semi-Annual General Meeting · Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario

Thursday, January 14 to Sunday, January 17, 2016 - Toronto, Ontario

Whereas Denmark has accepted only 20,000 asylum seekers in 2015 – 2% of the total to Arrive in Europe last year and the prime minister of Denmark, Lars Lokke Rasmussen, called for an end to the UN 1951 refugee convention, a law created in the aftermath of the Holocaust; and

Whereas the Danish Ministry of Integration has stated in a U.S. newspaper, The Washington Post, “The bill presented on 10 December 2015 provides the Danish authorities with the power to search clothes and luggage of asylum seekers – and other migrants without a permit to stay in Denmark – with a view to finding assets which may cover the expenses”; and

Whereas the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has censured Denmark for the proposal, stating “The signal Denmark’s introduction of restrictions sends to other countries in the world [...] is worrisome and could fuel fear, xenophobia and similar restrictions that would reduce – rather than expand – the asylum space globally and put refugees in need at life-threatening risks”; and

Whereas the Danish Parliament has secured a parliamentary majority in favour of debating the bill on January 13, 2016 with a view to vote on the bill on January 26, 2016; therefore

Be it resolved that the Canadian Federation of Students – Ontario write a letter to the Consulate General of Denmark in Toronto and the Danish Embassy in Ottawa asking the government of Denmark to reconsider its policies towards refugees; and

Be it further resolved that if said bill passes, the Canadian Federation of Students – Ontario include in the letter, a condemnation of the bill and highlight its contribution to fostering Islamophobia globally; and

Be it further resolved that student unions be encouraged to write similar letters.

CARRIED

2016/01:E04

MOTION

Local 84/Local 78

Whereas the previous Harper government secured the sale of \$15 billion worth of armoured combat vehicles to Saudi Arabia; and

Whereas the armoured vehicles being sold are being manufactured by the London, Ontario-based firm, General Dynamics Land Systems; and

Whereas the Saudi Arabian State is a significant human rights violator, having recently executed 47 of its Shi’a activists in January, including a prominent Shia cleric Nimr al-Nimr; and

Whereas Federal export controls require that in the case of arms sales to countries with a persistent record of serious violations of the human rights of their citizens, Canada must first obtain assurances that the goods would not be used against the buyer’s civilian population; and

Whereas the sale of armoured combat vehicles will further increase the threat of violence to Saudi civilians; and

Whereas Under Canadian law, the government should do an official assessment of whether the transactions will further endanger human rights in Saudi Arabia; and

Whereas Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs has not done a human rights assessment of Saudi Arabia in the past two years even though Ottawa is brokering a \$15-billion arms deal to sell fighting vehicles to Saudi Arabia; and

Whereas the government has to date refused to say whether it obtained these assurances from the Saudi Arabian State; and

Whereas the Federation has an International Issues policy opposing "any actions of torture and any attempt to infringe on human rights" and "all actions of violence against civilians by government forces and private agencies"; and

Whereas Justin Trudeau was elected Prime Minister on a campaign of "real change," and has the ability to rescind a contract negotiated under the previous government; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation issue a statement condemning the recent executions of civilians carried out by the Saudi Arabian State; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation release a statement calling on Justin Trudeau and the Federal government to cancel the sale of armoured vehicles to Saudi Arabia; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation encourage member locals to release similar statements to their members and their local MPs.

CARRIED

2016/01:E04

MOTION

Local 109/Local 82

Be it resolved that the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee Report be accepted.

CARRIED

7. OTHER BUSINESS

8. ADJOURNMENT

2016/01: N19

MOTION

Local 41/Local 85

Be it resolved that plenary adjourn.

CARRIED