

Opening Plenary Minutes

Annual General Meeting · Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario
Thursday, August 14 to Sunday, August 17, 2014 - Toronto, Ontario

CALL TO ORDER—Thursday, August 14, 2014

7:20 p.m. - Chairperson Alastair Woods called the 2014 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	Present
Local 25	Ontario College of Art and Design Student Union	Absent
Local 27	Queen's University Society of Graduate and Professional Students	Absent
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	Absent
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	Absent
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 Association générale des étudiantes et étudiants du Collège Boréal*	Present

*Prospective Member

Woods said that quorum had been reached.

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2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROXIES

Woods said that no proxies had been received for the meeting.

3. RATIFICATION OF PLENARY SPEAKER

2014/08:001 MOTION

Local 97/Local 20

Be it further resolved that Sylvia Sioufi be ratified as the Speaker for the 2014 Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

4. WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Woods provided some welcoming remarks.

Sioufi welcomed delegates to the general meeting and provided opening remarks.

5. RATIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS

2014/08:002 MOTION

Local 111/Local 88

Be it further resolved that the Association générale des étudiantes et étudiants du Collège Boréal be ratified as full members of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario.

CARRIED

6. ADOPTION OF PLENARY AGENDA

2014/08:003 MOTION

Local 109/Local 19

Be it resolved that the 2014 Annual General Meeting plenary agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

7. ADOPTION OF GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

2014/08:004 MOTION

Local 24/Local 71

Be it resolved that the 2014 Annual General Meeting agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

8. ADOPTION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

2014/08:005 MOTION

Local 82/Local 99

Be it resolved that the 2014 Semi-Annual General Meeting minutes be adopted.

CARRIED

9. OVERVIEW OF PROCEDURES

a. Rules of Order and Plenary Procedures

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 Renelle Als Lee made a presentation on the Federation's harassment policy.

c. Presentation by the Federation's Staff Relations Officer

Woods 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

2014/08:006 MOTION

Local 68/Local 54

Be it resolved that National Treasurer Gabe Hoogers be appointed as Electoral Officer for the 2014 Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

b. Overview of Election Schedule and Procedures

Electoral Officer Gabe Hoogers outlined the positions for election and the election procedures for the meeting.

11. STRIKING OF PLENARY SUB-COMMITTEES

a. Striking of Plenary Sub-Committees

2014/08:007 MOTION

Local 98/Local 97

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

2014/08:008 MOTION

Local 82/Local 41

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

CARRIED

12. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS SERVED WITH DUE NOTICE

a. Motions Referred to the Executive Committee

The following motion was referred to the Executive Committee by the January 2014 Semi-Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee recommended adoption of Motion 2014/01:048 with the subsequent amendment (2014/08:009).

2014/01:048 MOTION TO ADOPT ISSUES POLICY

Local 94/Local 47

Whereas a comprehensive and independent French language university that responds to the needs of Francophones and Francophiles in Ontario would facilitate access to education, support linguistic rights, and affirm francophone identities and cultures in Ontario; therefore,

Be it resolved that the following policy on “French Language University in Ontario” be adopted:

FRENCH LANGUAGE UNIVERSITY IN ONTARIO

The Federation recognizes the rights of Francophones and Francophiles in Ontario to attend post-secondary education in the official language of their choice.

The Federation recognizes that although bilingual post-secondary institutions play an important role in Ontario, the use of English still dominates these academic settings and means that many are forced to complete at least some of their program in English, and are therefore not a substitute for French post-secondary education.

The Federation supports the creation of an independent French language university in Ontario that responds to the needs of Francophone and Francophile communities in Ontario, that serves students from diverse backgrounds and regions, that delivers a wide range of programs identified as necessary by Francophone and Francophile communities in Ontario, and that affirms the vitality of the French language and francophone identities and cultures in Ontario. The university should be independently governed by the professors and students of the university and Francophone and Francophile communities in Ontario.

2014/08:009 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 98/Local 105

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/01:048 be amended to read:

FRENCH LANGUAGE UNIVERSITY IN ONTARIO

Preamble

The Federation recognizes the rights of Francophones and Francophiles in Ontario to attend post-secondary education in the official language of their choice.

The Federation recognizes that although bilingual post-secondary institutions play an important role in Ontario, the use of English still dominates these academic settings due to of government underfunding. Because of these financial shortfalls, bilingual institutions are unable to and do not prioritize ensuring that students are able to complete their entire degree in French. This means that students who wish to pursue post-secondary education in French are unable to in Ontario.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- Increased funding to bilingual post secondary education institutions so that all students who wish to pursue French post-secondary education may do so.
- The creation of an independent French language university in Ontario that responds to the needs of Francophone and Francophile communities in Ontario, that serves students from diverse backgrounds and regions, that delivers a wide range of programs identified as necessary by Francophone and Francophile communities in Ontario, and that affirms the vitality of the French language and francophone identities and cultures in Ontario.

- The French language university be independently governed by the professors and students of the university and Francophone and Francophile communities in Ontario.

The Federation opposes:

- Decreases in government funding from other bilingual institutions in Ontario.
- The replacement of programming already found at existing bilingual institutions with funding or programming at a new Francophone university.

2014/08:010 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 20

Be it resolved that Motions 2014/01:048 & 2014/08:009 be referred to the Policy Review and Development Committee

CARRIED

2014/01:048 REFERRED

2014/08:009 REFERRED

b. Motions Submitted by the Executive Committee

2014/08:011 MOTION

Local 98/Local 105

Whereas an auditor needs to be appointed each year in accordance with the Federation's bylaws; and

Whereas the Executive Committee is recommending Grant Thornton be reappointed; therefore

Be it resolved that Grant Thornton be reappointed as the Federations' auditor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

2014/08:012 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 20

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:011 be referred to the Budget Committee.

CARRIED

2014/08:011 REFERRED

c. Motions Submitted by Member Locals

The following motions were served by member locals with notice and shall be considered at the meeting.

2014/08:013 MOTION

Local 24/Local 105

Whereas between 1964 and 1990, Texaco (now Chevron) deliberately contaminated Ecuador's Amazon rainforest by dumping some 18 billion gallons of toxic waste water; and

Whereas the dumped contaminants left this area polluted 30 times more than the Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska; and

Whereas this has led to a proliferation of miscarriages, birth defects and cancer rates that are 30 times higher than elsewhere in the country with this tragedy having recently been called the Amazon's 'Chernobyl'; and

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Whereas this region’s Indigenous inhabitants are bearing the brunt of the genocidal effects of the Amazon’s destruction; and

Whereas Ecuadorian Indigenous communities took Chevron to court and recently won the lawsuit which included US\$9.5 billion in damages; and

As a result of losing the lawsuit, Chevron is pulling all of its assets out of Ecuador to avoid having them seized; and

Whereas in 2013 alone, Chevron spent US\$400 million for “legal services” that have been deemed unethical, allegedly employing dirty tricks to undermine the lawsuit, including allegedly harassing the plaintiff’s legal team; and

Whereas in response to Chevron pulling its assets out of Ecuador, a lawsuit was filed in Ontario to seek approval to pursue Chevron in Canada; and

Whereas in December 2013 the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled that Ecuador’s Indigenous Communities indeed have the right to pursue Chevron’s assets in Canada to enforce the US\$9.5 billion judgment awarded in Ecuador; and

Whereas Chevron’s assets in Canada are estimated at US\$15billion, making it possible for the judgment awarded in Ecuador collectable in Canada; and

Whereas a solidarity campaign called Chevron’s Dirty Hand has been started in Canada to raise awareness about Chevron; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation raise awareness of the atrocities that have taken place towards Indigenous people in Ecuador by Chevron; and

Be it further resolved that, the Federation endorse and join the *Chevron’s Dirty Hand* campaign; and

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to endorse and raise awareness of the *Chevron’s Dirty Hand* campaign by organizing documentary screenings and hosting events.

2014/08:014 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 20

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:013 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2014/08:013 REFERRED

2014/08:015 MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES POLICY

Local 24/Local 105

Whereas the tuition fees, and prevailing systems of oppression continue to limit access to colleges and universities in Ontario; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation’s policy on Accessibility be replaced with the following:

ACCESSIBILITY

Preamble

A system of accessible education is one in which all applicants who wish to attend a post-secondary institution may do so. The Federation recognizes that income inequality in Ontario, as well as systems of oppression including racism, sexism,

homophobia, transphobia and ableism continue to limit the ability of people to obtain a quality post-secondary education.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- the elimination of all financial and economic barriers to a post-secondary education;
- the elimination of tuition fees and other incidental user fees;
- the elimination of higher differential fees including, but not limited to, those applied to international and out-of-province students;
- the right of students to receive a post-secondary education in the language of their choice, including, but not limited to, French, English, and Aboriginal languages;
- the right of students to attend the post-secondary institution of their choice, without additional financial burden;
- the elimination of all other barriers to post-secondary education which may affect entry into post-secondary education institutions, including, but not limited to discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political affiliation, family status, socioeconomic class or disability;
- the removal of all conditions and barriers – as described above – within the post-secondary education system which may prevent students from attending and completing a program at a post-secondary institution;
- the right to the provision of universal, free, high quality child care;
- the elimination of barriers to accessibility resulting from geography;
- the elimination of enrolment quotas; and
- the implementation of a guaranteed minimum income for all students.

The Federation opposes:

- any systemic discrimination in any educational setting, including but not limited to the streaming of students into classes and programs of different academic status.

2014/08:016 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 20

Be it resolved that 2014/08:015 be referred to the Policy Review and Development Committee

CARRIED

2014/08:015 REFERRED

2014/08:017 MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES POLICY

Local 24/Local 105

Whereas the “Double Cohort” graduated high school in 2003, when students in both grade 12 and OAC graduated from Ontario high schools; and

Whereas the Federation adopted a policy in 2002 to support the hiring of new faculty and oppose public-private partnerships in construction related to the double cohort; and

Whereas these issues are covered substantially in other Federation issues policies; therefore

Be it resolved that the double cohort policy be removed from the Issues Policy manual.

2014/08:018 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 20

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:017 be referred to the Policy Review and Development Committee

CARRIED

2014/08:017 REFERRED

2014/08:019 MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES POLICY

Local 24/Local 105

Whereas Ontario students pay the highest tuition fees in the country; and

Whereas tuition fees have increased by as much as 80 per cent since 2006 in Ontario; and

Whereas under the current framework, tuition fees will continue to increase by three to five per cent each year; therefore

Be it resolved that the current policy on User Fees/Tuition Fees be replaced with the following:

TUITION FEES

Preamble

Education is a fundamental right of every person without distinction of income, race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, political belief or economic or social condition. User fees, in the form of tuition fees and ancillary fees, constitute a barrier to accessing post-secondary education.

In 1948, the Government of Canada signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that states, "Everyone has the right to education". In 1976, Canada signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that states, "Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education".

The cost of post-secondary education and increasing debt levels are significant factors in the decision students make about whether or not to continue their studies beyond high school. It should be recognized that students from low income backgrounds are much more likely to be affected by financial issues when deciding whether to pursue post-secondary education. It should also be recognized that these financial barriers disproportionately affect traditionally marginalized communities.

Students participating in post-secondary education may face considerable financial barriers, including housing, transportation and living expenses, in addition to tuition fees. Many students may also forgo job earnings to attend a post-secondary institution. Of these, user fees account for the greatest up-front, universal barrier to obtaining a post-secondary education in Canada.

It is the responsibility of governments to fully fund post-secondary education. In the absence of adequate funding, post-secondary institutions often rely on private sources, such as user fees. In cases when governments have regulated tuition fees, faculty- or program-based student votes on tuition fee increases initiated by administrations of post-secondary education institutions have been used to circumvent provincial government policies on tuition fees and undermine the work of the student movement by dividing students among themselves.

The Federation believes that a universally accessible post-secondary education system will only be achieved once financial barriers to obtaining that education are eliminated. In particular, this requires that post-secondary education be entirely publicly funded, user fees are non-existent, and students have access to student financial assistance for living expenses in the form of non-repayable grants.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- universally accessible, publicly funded post-secondary education, including the elimination of all user fees, including tuition fees and ancillary fees;
- a robust up-front, needs-based grants system to cover students' living expenses while attending post-secondary education; and
- the elimination of existing fees beginning with progressive reductions.
- The Federation opposes:
 - the differentiation of fees on the basis of program, country or province of origin or student status, or for any other reason;
 - votes to increase user fees initiated by post-secondary institutions' administrations;
 - the justification that increased student financial assistance can offset the effects of higher tuition fees, including income-contingent loan repayment schemes, as they are designed to facilitate a system of individual fees in which students pay the full cost of post-secondary education, and invariably result in massive tuition fee increases; and
 - the use of tax credits and saving schemes as replacement for tuition fee reductions and non-repayable grants.

2014/08:020 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 20

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:019 be referred to the Policy Review and Development Committee

CARRIED

2014/08:019 REFERRED

2014/08:021 MOTION

Local 109/Local 105

Whereas the Strengthening Canadian Citizens Bill C-24, An Act to amend the Citizenship Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts is currently being considered; and

Whereas the law will:

- Make it much more difficult to obtain citizenship
- Make obtaining citizenship more expensive;
- Replace Judges as decision makers with Immigration officers; and
- Make it easier for citizenship to be revoked or stripped from Canadians.

Whereas the law will also:

- Extend the costly language test to include those aged 14 - 64 (currently, only those aged 18 - 55 take the test);

- Give Immigration officers authority to deny citizenship if they much as speculate that the applicant may not reside in Canada in the future;
- Increase the residency requirement during which an applicant must be in Canada as a Permanent Resident from 3 to 4 years and does not allow the applicant to count any of the time spent in Canada prior to obtaining permanent residency;
- Triple the application fee price;
- Remove a person's right to appeal a negative citizenship decision;
- Strip the right to an oral hearing in front of a judge for those who are having their citizenship revoked (it will make it so this decision is made by a bureaucrat without holding a hearing);
- Strip citizenship from those who did not obtain citizenship by birth if an official believes that the person never intended to live in Canada; and
- Strip citizenship from dual citizens even if they were born in Canada if convicted of certain crimes, even if those convictions occurred outside Canada.

Be it resolved that a letter be written to Prime Minister Stephen Harper that calls for the immediate withdrawal of amendments to the Citizenship Act or any other consequential amendments to other Acts (short title: Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act) that empower the government to introduce barriers in the way of obtaining Canadian citizenship: and allowing the government to arbitrarily strip persons of this status as morally, legally and ethically wrong; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write to the honourable Chris Alexander, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration & Multiculturalism and Prime Minister Stephen Harper to condemn the amendments as described in the Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act that will make it much more difficult for many to obtain citizenship, will replace Judges as decision makers (being arms length and independent) with Immigration officers in many cases (who are not independent, being employees of Citizenship and Immigration Canada) and Bill C-24 will also make it much easier for citizenship to be revoked; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to contact their local Member of Parliament to express utmost concern about the law and ask them to work towards rescinding the amendments as described in the Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act.

2014/08:022 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 20

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:021 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2014/08:021 REFERRED

2014/08:023 MOTION

Local 97/Local 105

Whereas the University of Toronto sold 245 College Street, a property currently used as student-run student space, to the private developer Knightstone Capital Management; and

Whereas the University of Toronto then bought back the property only to lease it to the same private developer that is planning to build and operate a private 25-storey residence with a majority of tenants being students; and

Whereas opposition to the project has already resulted in a successful downgrading of the residence from 42 storeys to 25 storeys; and

Whereas students, community members, residence associations, and city planners have opposed the construction of a private, for-profit residence for reasons including but not limited to, lack of oversight and protection for students, lack of rent controls and fear of rising rent prices in the area, interruption of the low density housing in the surrounding neighbourhood and the setting of a precedent for the construction of other similar properties in the neighbourhood; and

Whereas the Toronto City Council rejected Knightstone Capital Management's proposal for the residence; and

Whereas on June 19, 2014 the Ontario Municipal Board announced that it will override the Toronto City council decision and approve the project; therefore

Be it resolved that a letter opposing the recent Ontario Municipal Board's decision and the construction of a private residence be sent to Linda Tanaka, Executive Chair of the Ontario Municipal Board, Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Scott Mabury, Vice-President University Operations, University of Toronto; and

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to send similar letters.

2014/08:024 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 20

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:023 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2014/08:023 REFERRED

2014/08:025 MOTION

Local 97/Local 105

Whereas Fiona Johnstone filed a complaint against Canada Border Services Agency with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal for discrimination based on family status; and

Whereas Johnstone sought accommodation as a full-time employee with respect to her regular work shifts for the purposes of arranging child care, and

Whereas the Canada Border Services Agency argued that having children is a matter of "personal choice" and therefore does not require a duty for the employer to accommodate staff with child care needs;

Whereas the 2010 Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling indicated that employers have a legal obligation to accommodate workers' job schedules and their child care needs, and subsequently this ruling was upheld by the Federal Court and Federal Court of Appeal; and

Whereas the Canada Border Services Agency has announced it will not appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court meaning Johnstone has won her ten-year battle; and

Whereas this represents a significant victory for student workers; therefore

Be it resolved that an educational campaign about child care access and rights for student workers be developed; and

Be it further resolved that campaign materials educating student workers about the recent legal victory on the employer's duty to accommodate be developed.

2014/08:026 MOTION TO REFER
Local 24/Local 20

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:025 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2014/08:025 REFERRED

2014/08:027 MOTION
Local 97/Local 105

Whereas Legal Aid Ontario and the Province of Ontario have proposed a merger of seventeen legal aid clinics in the province into five mega-clinics, and

Whereas this merger was developed in a top-down manner without adequate consultation of clinic users and low-income communities; and

Whereas the proposed merger will undermine a community-based approach which supports low income communities, including students; and

Whereas the Law Union of Ontario, a coalition of over 200 lawyers, law students, and legal workers has opposed the merger, calling for Legal Aid Ontario and for the Province of Ontario to increase funding for existing community legal clinics in catchment areas with high levels of poverty; therefore

Be it resolved that a letter opposing the merger and in support of more funding for existing legal clinics be sent to Bob Ward, Chief Executive Officer of Legal Aid Ontario and Madeleine Meilleur, Attorney General; and

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to send similar letters.

2014/08:028 MOTION TO REFER
Local 24/Local 20

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:027 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2014/08:027 REFERRED

2014/08:029 MOTION TO AMEND OPERATIONS POLICY
Local 68/Local 105

Whereas the scheduling requirement contained in the operational policy on the Skills Development Symposium requires updating to provide greater flexibility; and

Whereas member locals should be responsible for covering the costs of participants who attend the Skills Symposium but don't attend at least 75 per cent of the workshops; and

Whereas the operational policy already allows for flexibility to accommodate those participants who might be absent for legitimate reasons including medical or personal reasons; and

Whereas the requirement for member locals to cancel participants should be increased from 24 hours to 72 hours to allow the Federation to adjust meal and room bookings; therefore

Be it resolved that the Timing and Location section of the Operational Policy on the Skills Development Symposium be amended to read:

The Symposium shall be held on a weekend in the months of May, June or July and shall be held in the Greater Toronto Area.

Be it further resolved that the second bullet point of the Fee section of the Operational Policy on the Skills Development Symposium be amended to read:

- The Federation reserves the right to invoice member local students' unions all expenses, including but not limited to meals, travel and accommodation costs, for participants that do not attend at least 75 per cent of workshops offered and for participants that cancel less than 72 hours prior to the start of the Symposium.

2014/08:030 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 20

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:029 be referred to the Organizational and Services Development Committee.

CARRIED

2014/08:029 REFERRED

2014/08:031 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 68/Local 105

Whereas votes on decertification take away from the important work of the Federation, including the campaigns and lobbying done on behalf of all members; and

Whereas in the past, individuals have attempted to coordinate decertification votes in order to tie up the Federation's resources; and

Whereas placing limits on the number of concurrent votes would be consistent with the Federation's national bylaws; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw II.5 "Vote to Decertify," Section a. "Petition" be amended to include the following:

- iii. There shall be no more than two (2) votes on decertification in any three-month period. In the event that there are more than two (2) valid petitions calling for a vote on decertification during any three-month period, the Executive Committee shall:
 - Consider the petitions in the order in which they are received; and
 - Schedule alternate voting dates for the third and subsequent petitions that call for a vote on decertification within any three-month period.

Be it further resolved that the Bylaws be renumbered accordingly.

2014/08:032 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 20

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:031 be referred to the Organizational and Services Development Committee.

CARRIED

2014/08:031 REFERRED

2014/08:033 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 68/Local 105

Whereas Bylaw II, Section 1 a.ii. makes reference to “the committee administering the campaign;” and

Whereas this is a reference to a previously existing referendum oversight committee which has since been deleted in the Bylaws; and

Whereas this change was not reflected in the above-referenced Bylaw; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw II-Membership, Section 1. “Full Membership” Section b. be amended to delete the following:

- ii. Other wording shall be determined by the committee administering the campaign as outlined in Section 3 (e) of this Bylaw.

2014/08:034 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 20

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:033 be referred to the Organizational and Services Development Committee.

CARRIED

2014/08:033 REFERRED

2014/08:035 MOTION

Local 78/Local 105

Whereas college and university administrations are increasingly attacking the autonomy of college and university students’ unions through such actions as freezing students’ union assets, refusing to transfer membership fees, and taking over student-run services; and

Whereas this autonomy is essential for students’ unions to effectively provide services and representation for their members; and

Whereas there is currently no legislation in Ontario that recognizes and protects the right for autonomous college and university students’ unions to exist on campuses; and

Whereas in April 2011, Liberal MPP Yasir Naqvi and NDP MPP Rosario Marchese tabled Bill 184, *An Act respecting student associations at post-secondary institutions in Ontario*, which drew heavily from Federation documents and outlined the right for student union autonomy at post-secondary institutions in Ontario; and

Whereas, this Bill would have ensured the collection and remittance by post-secondary institutions of fees levied by students’ unions; and

Whereas while Bill 184 was tabled, it was not enacted, in part, because of the dissolution of the legislature following the call for an election; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation support the drafting of provincial legislation modeled after Bill 184: *An Act respecting student associations at post-secondary institutions in Ontario* that would serve to recognize and protect students’ unions autonomy and right to organize, and enshrine the right for a student to belong to a students’ union;

Be it further resolved that, in addition to the rights outlined in Bill 184, that the Federation lobby that this draft provincial legislation include a clause that college and university

administrations are required to provide students' unions with a complete membership list, including contact information, on a per semester basis,

Be it further resolved that the provincial government be lobbied to enact such legislation.

2014/08:036 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 20

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:035 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2014/08:035 REFERRED

2014/08:037 MOTION

Local 78/Local 105

Whereas the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously struck down Canada's former anti-prostitution laws in December 2013 (the Bedford Case); and

Whereas Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin argued that Parliament has the power to "regulate against nuisances, but not at the cost of the health, safety, and lives of prostitutes," and that "it is not a crime in Canada to sell sex for money;" and

Whereas the Supreme Court's decision in the Bedford case was based on the rights of sex workers to security of the person, as defined by Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

Whereas the women involved in the Bedford case have argued that the former law prevented them from safely conducting their business as sex-trade workers, arguing that hiring bodyguards and drivers, being able to work in private homes, and talking with potential clients in public were important practices for their safety; and

Whereas draft legislation regarding prostitution, Bill C-36, was unveiled on June 4 by Minister of Justice Peter McKay; and

Whereas Bill C-36 fails to address the issues identified by the Court in Bedford and serves to criminalize various aspects of sex work, including the purchase of sexual services, the advertisement of sexual services, and the communication in public for the purpose of prostitution by anyone; and

Whereas Bill C-36 makes sex work increasingly difficult and dangerous for sex workers; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation write a letter to Minister of Justice Peter MacKay condemning Bill C-36, and encouraging Minister MacKay to meaningfully consult with sex workers and sex workers advocacy organizations to understand what their needs and wants are regarding legislation surrounding sex work in Canada; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation seek to publish letters to the editor in major Ontario newspapers condemning Bill C-36; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation encourage member locals to send similar letters.

2014/08:038 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 20

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:037 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2014/08:037 REFERRED

2014/08:039 MOTION

Local 78/Local 105

Whereas the Peoples' Social Forum (PSF) is being held in Ottawa from August 21 to 24; and

Whereas the PSF seeks to bring together over 5,000 participants from across the country to discuss strategies for challenging the austerity agenda and mobilizing against social and environmental injustices; and

Whereas the PSF will host workshops, trainings, speaking events, and artistic events geared towards popular education, community building, and skills development, and will address issues such as Indigenous sovereignty, labour solidarity, migrant justice, anti-racism, women's rights, and environmental justice; and

Whereas the PSF has been endorsed by several organizations across Canada, including the Public Service Alliance of Canada, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Council of Canadians, and the Indigenous Peoples' Solidarity Movement; and

Whereas the PSF will include a student movement assembly, bringing together students from Canada and Quebec to discuss how to fight for free education, and build unity among students and the broader public; and

Whereas the PSF will feature a workshop organized by a member local on the topic of student-worker solidarity, open for students, workers, and other stakeholders, to support the goal of greater cross-movement collaboration; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation and its member locals endorse the Peoples' Social Forum; and

Be it further resolved that member locals affirm their commitment to creating spaces for cross-movement solidarity following the Peoples' Social Forum through such actions as organizing collaborative events, participating in flying squads, and maximizing campaign mobilization through inclusive, broad-based objectives alongside targeted demands.

2014/08:040 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 20

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:039 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2014/08:039 REFERRED

13. PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2014/08:041 MOTION

Local 68/Local 32

Be it resolved that the Executive Committee report be accepted.

Chairperson Alastair Woods and National Executive Representative Anna Goldfinch presented the report of the Executive Committee.

2014/08:041 CARRIED

14. OTHER BUSINESS

2014/08:042 EMERGENCY MOTION

Local 24/Local 68

Whereas on July 9, Israel began its current military assault on Gaza which has resulted in the killing of 1,938 Palestinians, including 460 children, and lead to the displacement of more than 450,000 Palestinians; and

Whereas these attacks have included the bombing of Islamic University in Gaza on August 2 and the bombing of Al Quds Open University on July 29 that killed 22 people; and

Whereas both John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister Stephan Harper have released official statements declaring the Canadian government's "unconditional support for Israel"; and

Whereas the Gaza Civil Society released a statement on July 12, 2014 signed by 22 civil society organizations in Gaza calling for conscientious people all over the world to act and support the call for an arms embargo on Israel, the suspension of all free trade and bilateral agreements with Israel and the implementation of boycotts, divestments and sanctions; and

Whereas this call has been endorsed by students' unions across the country and throughout the world including the National Union of Students (UK); therefore

Be it resolved that the military assault on Gaza be condemned; and

Be it further resolved that the call by July 12, 2014 civil society organizations in Gaza be supported through actions that include:

- Joining the call for an arms embargo against Israel;
- Calling for the suspension of the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA);
- Endorsing the boycotts, divestments and sanctions campaign; and
- Writing a letter to John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister Stephan Harper condemning the Canadian government's unconditional support of Israel's actions.

2014/08:043 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 68

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:042 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2014/08:042 REFERRED

2014/08:044 EMERGENCY MOTION

Local 68/Local 109

Whereas students are calling on York University to take immediate action after racist flyers were posted around campus and inserted into home mailboxes in an adjacent

neighbourhood where many students live, authored by Immigration Watch Canada (IWC), taking aim at the participation of racialized students in post-secondary education and making derogatory remarks about immigrant communities; and

Whereas the diversity of university and college campuses and communities are a source of strength, and hate speech that fosters an unsafe environment for students is not to be tolerated; and

Whereas this is not the first time Immigration Watch Canada (IWC) has distributed offensive and racist materials to the public, including most recently, when the group delivered xenophobic and anti-immigrant materials to homes in nearby Brampton, a community many York University students call home; and

Whereas no one should be subjected to such hateful and offensive messaging on their campus or in their community; and

Whereas students deserve to live, work and study without fear of discrimination or harassment; and

Whereas the Toronto Police Services did not deem this act of aggression as within the threshold of a hate crime; and

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students is committed to fighting oppression in all its forms and continues to unite students and community members to challenge all forms of hate and discrimination; therefore

Be it resolved that a letter be written to the Toronto Police Services that malicious acts of xenophobia and racism such as those committed by Immigrant Watch Canada are direct attacks on the freedom and safety of individuals and families to Canada and international students at our institutions and should be considered a hate crime; and

Be it resolved that a letter be written condemning Immigrant Watch Canada (IWC) for the disgusting nature of said materials and other materials created around xenophobia and anti-immigration programming; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write similar letters to both the Toronto Police Services and Immigrant Watch Canada condemning the xenophobic and racist anti-immigrant nature of the IWC materials as hate speech.

2014/08:045 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 68

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:044 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2014/08:044 REFERRED

2014/08:046 EMERGENCY MOTION

Local 92/Local 98

Whereas the Sikh community of Ontario has established itself in all walks of life and has been an active and vibrant community in Ontario since their arrival in the early 1960s; and

Whereas the Sikh articles of faith are an integral part of the Sikh faith; and

Whereas the turban is an inseparable part of a Sikh and represents an integral part of the Sikh identity; and

Whereas the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees freedom of conscience and religion; and

Whereas the Ontario Human Right Code guarantees equal rights for all individuals in Ontario and prevents discrimination based on creed; and

Whereas the turban was incorporated in the Metropolitan Toronto Police uniform in 1986 and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police uniform in 1990; and

Whereas turban-wearing Sikhs are permitted to ride motorcycles with their turbans in British Columbia, Manitoba, the United Kingdom, India and many other countries around the world; and

Whereas the British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal held in 1999 "...based on my assessment of marginal risk, the identity of those who bear the risk, and the nature of the fundamental right infringed, I am not persuaded that the increased risk associated with non-helmeted motorcycling is so substantial that it constitutes undue hardship"; and

Whereas there has never been a single case of head injury to a turban-wearing motorcyclist in British Columbia or Manitoba; and

Whereas since February 2011, the Canadian Sikh Association has been working with all political parties in Ontario to grant a similar motorcycle helmet exemption in the province of Ontario; and

Whereas Sikh organizations across Ontario have unanimously supported this exemption through the passing of resolutions at all religious parades in Ontario and writing letter to Members of Provincial Parliament; and

Whereas the South Asian Bar Association of Toronto has publicly supported granting this exemption to turban-wearing Sikhs in Ontario; and

Whereas in November 2013, the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario and the New Democratic Party of Ontario wrote to the Minister of Transportation, calling upon him to bring a government bill to grant a motorcycle helmet exemption to turban-wearing Sikhs in Ontario and ensuring their respective caucus' support; and

Whereas in a submission to Ontario Premier Wynne on May 31, 2014, the Canadian Sikh Association wrote: "[the Minister of Transportation] proposed to exempt 400 series highways from a motorcycle helmet exemption for turbaned Sikhs in Ontario as a means to further address the safety issue. In our opinion, this proposal eliminates any issue of safety associated with the exemption."; and

Whereas in June 2014, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne committed to providing the Liberal Party of Ontario's position on this issue within the first 90 days of forming government; and

Whereas the Sikh community of Ontario now awaits the Liberal Party of Ontario's position on this important issue of religious freedom and equality in Ontario; and

Whereas an Open House was held at Queen's Park on July 23, 2014 to apprise returning and newly elected MPPs on the developments the Ontario Sikh community has made on this issue; and

Whereas on July 31, 2014 all four Sikh MPPs in the Liberal Party of Ontario, namely Mr. Vic Dhillon, Ms. Harinder K. Malhi, Ms. Amrit Mangat and Mr. Harinder Takhar, jointly wrote to the Premier of Ontario, calling upon her to promptly act on enacting legislation or regulation to allow turban-wearing Sikhs to ride a motorcycle in Ontario; therefore

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Be it resolved that the granting of a motorcycle helmet exemption to turban-wearing Sikhs in Ontario, as it has been granted in British Columbia, Manitoba, the United Kingdom and many other countries around the world be supported; and

Be it further resolved that a letter be written to Premier Kathleen Wynne and Minister of Transportation Steven Del Duca in support of granting a motorcycle helmet exemption to turban-wearing Sikhs in Ontario, as it has been granted in British Columbia, Manitoba, the United Kingdom and many other countries around the world; and

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

2014/08:047 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 68

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:046 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2014/08:046 REFERRED

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

16. RECESS

2014/08:048 MOTION

Local 41/Local 112

Be it resolved that plenary recess until 11:00 a.m. Sunday, August 17, 2014.

CARRIED

9:23 p.m. – The meeting recessed.

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1. CALL TO ORDER

11:23 a.m. – Plenary Speaker Sylvia Sioufi called Closing Plenary to order.

2. 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	Present
Local 25	Ontario College of Art and Design Student Union	Present
Local 27	Queen's University Society of Graduate and Professional Students	Absent
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	Absent
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	Absent
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	Present

Sioufi said that quorum had been reached.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Financial Coordinator Toby Whitfield presented the report on behalf of the Committee.

2014/08:049 MOTION

Local 41/Local 88

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Be it resolved that the 2014-2015 budget be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

2014/08:011 MOTION

Local 98/Local 105

Whereas an auditor needs to be appointed each year in accordance with the Federation's bylaws; and

Whereas the Executive Committee is recommending Grant Thornton be reappointed; therefore

Be it resolved that Grant Thornton be reappointed as the Federations' auditor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

CARRIED

2014/08:050 MOTION

Local 41/Local 24

Be it resolved that the Budget Committee Report be accepted.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATION OF THE CAMPAIGNS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairperson Alastair Woods presented the report on behalf of the Committee.

2014/08:013 MOTION

Local 24/Local 105

Whereas between 1964 and 1990, Texaco (now Chevron) deliberately contaminated Ecuador's Amazon rainforest by dumping some 18 billion gallons of toxic waste water; and

Whereas the dumped contaminants left this area polluted 30 times more than the Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska; and

Whereas this has led to a proliferation of miscarriages, birth defects and cancer rates that are 30 times higher than elsewhere in the country with this tragedy having recently been called the Amazon's 'Chernobyl'; and

Whereas this region's Indigenous inhabitants are bearing the brunt of the genocidal effects of the Amazon's destruction; and

Whereas Ecuadorian Indigenous communities took Chevron to court and recently won the lawsuit which included US\$9.5 billion in damages; and

As a result of losing the lawsuit, Chevron is pulling all of its assets out of Ecuador to avoid having them seized; and

Whereas in 2013 alone, Chevron spent US\$400 million for "legal services" that have been deemed unethical, allegedly employing dirty tricks to undermine the lawsuit, including allegedly harassing the plaintiff's legal team; and

Whereas in response to Chevron pulling its assets out of Ecuador, a lawsuit was filed in Ontario to seek approval to pursue Chevron in Canada; and

Whereas in December 2013 the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled that Ecuador's Indigenous Communities indeed have the right to pursue Chevron's assets in Canada to enforce the US\$9.5 billion judgment awarded in Ecuador; and

Whereas Chevron's assets in Canada are estimated at US\$15billion, making it possible for the judgment awarded in Ecuador collectable in Canada; and

Whereas a solidarity campaign called Chevron's Dirty Hand has been started in Canada to raise awareness about Chevron; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation raise awareness of the atrocities that have taken place towards Indigenous people in Ecuador by Chevron; and

Be it further resolved that, the Federation endorse and join the *Chevron's Dirty Hand* campaign; and

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to endorse and raise awareness of the *Chevron's Dirty Hand* campaign by organizing documentary screenings and hosting events.

CARRIED

2014/08:021

MOTION

Local 109/Local 105

Whereas the Strengthening Canadian Citizens Bill C-24, An Act to amend the Citizenship Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts is currently being considered; and

Whereas the law will:

- Make it much more difficult to obtain citizenship
- Make obtaining citizenship more expensive;
- Replace Judges as decision makers with Immigration officers; and
- Make it easier for citizenship to be revoked or stripped from Canadians.

Whereas the law will also:

- Extend the costly language test to include those aged 14 - 64 (currently, only those aged 18 - 55 take the test);
- Give Immigration officers authority to deny citizenship if they much as speculate that the applicant may not reside in Canada in the future;
- Increase the residency requirement during which an applicant must be in Canada as a Permanent Resident from 3 to 4 years and does not allow the applicant to count any of the time spent in Canada prior to obtaining permanent residency;
- Triple the application fee price;
- Remove a person's right to appeal a negative citizenship decision;
- Strip the right to an oral hearing in front of a judge for those who are having their citizenship revoked (it will make it so this decision is made by a bureaucrat without holding a hearing);
- Strip citizenship from those who did not obtain citizenship by birth if an official believes that the person never intended to live in Canada; and
- Strip citizenship from dual citizens even if they were born in Canada if convicted of certain crimes, even if those convictions occurred outside Canada.

Be it resolved that a letter be written to Prime Minister Stephen Harper that calls for the immediate withdrawal of amendments to the Citizenship Act or any other consequential amendments to other Acts (short title: Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act) that empower the government to introduce barriers in the way of obtaining Canadian citizenship: and allowing the government to arbitrarily strip persons of this status as morally, legally and ethically wrong; and

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Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write to the honourable Chris Alexander, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration & Multiculturalism and Prime Minister Stephen Harper to condemn the amendments as described in the Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act that will make it much more difficult for many to obtain citizenship, will replace Judges as decision makers (being arms length and independent) with Immigration officers in many cases (who are not independent, being employees of Citizenship and Immigration Canada) and Bill C-24 will also make it much easier for citizenship to be revoked; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to contact their local Member of Parliament to express utmost concern about the law and ask them to work towards rescinding the amendments as described in the Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act.

2014/08:051 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 41/Local 98

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:021 be amended to replace “letters” with “open letters.”

CARRIED

2014/08:021 CARRIED AS AMENDED

2014/08:023 MOTION

Local 97/Local 105

Whereas the University of Toronto sold 245 College Street, a property currently used as student-run student space, to the private developer Knightstone Capital Management; and

Whereas the University of Toronto then bought back the property only to lease it to the same private developer that is planning to build and operate a private 25-storey residence with a majority of tenants being students; and

Whereas opposition to the project has already resulted in a successful downgrading of the residence from 42 storeys to 25 storeys; and

Whereas students, community members, residence associations, and city planners have opposed the construction of a private, for-profit residence for reasons including but not limited to, lack of oversight and protection for students, lack of rent controls and fear of rising rent prices in the area, interruption of the low density housing in the surrounding neighbourhood and the setting of a precedent for the construction of other similar properties in the neighbourhood; and

Whereas the Toronto City Council rejected Knightstone Capital Management’s proposal for the residence; and

Whereas on June 19, 2014 the Ontario Municipal Board announced that it will override the Toronto City council decision and approve the project; therefore

Be it resolved that a letter opposing the recent Ontario Municipal Board’s decision and the construction of a private residence be sent to Linda Tanaka, Executive Chair of the Ontario Municipal Board, Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Scott Mabury, Vice-President University Operations, University of Toronto; and

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to send similar letters.

2014/08:052 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 47/Local 19

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:023 be amended to include:

Be it resolved that the Federation oppose the ability of the unelected and unaccountable OMB to overturn city council decisions.

CARRIED

2014/08:053 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 19 / Local 47

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:023 be amended to include:

Be it further resolved that the Federation support the rights of municipalities to autonomy and self-determination and to support the efforts of municipalities to free themselves from the Ontario Municipal Board.

CARRIED

2014/08:023 CARRIED AS AMENDED

2014/08:025 MOTION

Local 97/Local 105

Whereas Fiona Johnstone filed a complaint against Canada Border Services Agency with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal for discrimination based on family status; and

Whereas Johnstone sought accommodation as a full-time employee with respect to her regular work shifts for the purposes of arranging child care, and

Whereas the Canada Border Services Agency argued that having children is a matter of “personal choice” and therefore does not require a duty for the employer to accommodate staff with child care needs;

Whereas the 2010 Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling indicated that employers have a legal obligation to accommodate workers’ job schedules and their child care needs, and subsequently this ruling was upheld by the Federal Court and Federal Court of Appeal; and

Whereas the Canada Border Services Agency has announced it will not appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court meaning Johnstone has won her ten-year battle; and

Whereas this represents a significant victory for student workers; therefore

Be it resolved that an educational campaign about child care access and rights for student workers be developed; and

Be it further resolved that campaign materials educating student workers about the recent legal victory on the employer’s duty to accommodate be developed.

2014/08:054 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 97 / Local 94

Be It resolved motion 2014/08: 025 be amended so it reads as follows:

Be it resolved that the Federation, working together with the Ontario Coalition for Better Childcare and other such groups, develop material about the newly expanded rights and responsibilities concerning the duty to accommodate based on family status and childcare responsibilities; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation incorporate the promotion and protection of these newly expanded rights into childcare and accessibility campaigns; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to educate their students, administrators, employers and others about these newly expanded rights.

CARRIED

2014/08:025 CARRIED AS AMENDED

2014/08:027 MOTION

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Local 97/Local 105

Whereas Legal Aid Ontario and the Province of Ontario have proposed a merger of seventeen legal aid clinics in the province into five mega-clinics, and

Whereas this merger was developed in a top-down manner without adequate consultation of clinic users and low-income communities; and

Whereas the proposed merger will undermine a community-based approach which supports low income communities, including students; and

Whereas the Law Union of Ontario, a coalition of over 200 lawyers, law students, and legal workers has opposed the merger, calling for Legal Aid Ontario and for the Province of Ontario to increase funding for existing community legal clinics in catchment areas with high levels of poverty; therefore

Be it resolved that a letter opposing the merger and in support of more funding for existing legal clinics be sent to Bob Ward, Chief Executive Officer of Legal Aid Ontario and Madeleine Meilleur, Attorney General; and

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to send similar letters.

CARRIED

2014/08:035

MOTION

Local 78/Local 105

Whereas college and university administrations are increasingly attacking the autonomy of college and university students' unions through such actions as freezing students' union assets, refusing to transfer membership fees, and taking over student-run services; and

Whereas this autonomy is essential for students' unions to effectively provide services and representation for their members; and

Whereas there is currently no legislation in Ontario that recognizes and protects the right for autonomous college and university students' unions to exist on campuses; and

Whereas in April 2011, Liberal MPP Yasir Naqvi and NDP MPP Rosario Marchese tabled Bill 184, *An Act respecting student associations at post-secondary institutions in Ontario*, which drew heavily from Federation documents and outlined the right for student union autonomy at post-secondary institutions in Ontario; and

Whereas, this Bill would have ensured the collection and remittance by post-secondary institutions of fees levied by students' unions; and

Whereas while Bill 184 was tabled, it was not enacted, in part, because of the dissolution of the legislature following the call for an election; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation support the drafting of provincial legislation modeled after Bill 184: *An Act respecting student associations at post-secondary institutions in Ontario* that would serve to recognize and protect students' unions autonomy and right to organize, and enshrine the right for a student to belong to a students' union;

Be it further resolved that, in addition to the rights outlined in Bill 184, that the Federation lobby that this draft provincial legislation include a clause that college and university administrations are required to provide students' unions with a complete membership list, including contact information, on a per semester basis;

Be it further resolved that the provincial government be lobbied to enact such legislation.

2014/08:055

MOTION TO AMEND

Local 98/Local 109

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:035 be amended to include:

Be it further resolved that the Federation create materials to educate members about the importance of right to organize legislation for students' unions.

CARRIED

2014/08:056 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 98/Local 109

Be it resolved that the second clause of Motion 2014/08:035 be amended to read:

Be it further resolved that, in addition to the rights outlined in Bill 184, that the Federation lobby that this draft provincial legislation include a clause that college and university administrations are required to provide students' unions with a complete membership list, including contact information including but not limited to email addresses, on a per semester basis;

CARRIED

2014/08:035 CARRIED AS AMENDED

2014/08:037 MOTION

Local 78/Local 105

Whereas the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously struck down Canada's former anti-prostitution laws in December 2013 (the Bedford Case); and

Whereas Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin argued that Parliament has the power to "regulate against nuisances, but not at the cost of the health, safety, and lives of prostitutes," and that "it is not a crime in Canada to sell sex for money;" and

Whereas the Supreme Court's decision in the Bedford case was based on the rights of sex workers to security of the person, as defined by Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

Whereas the women involved in the Bedford case have argued that the former law prevented them from safely conducting their business as sex-trade workers, arguing that hiring bodyguards and drivers, being able to work in private homes, and talking with potential clients in public were important practices for their safety; and

Whereas draft legislation regarding prostitution, Bill C-36, was unveiled on June 4 by Minister of Justice Peter McKay; and

Whereas Bill C-36 fails to address the issues identified by the Court in Bedford and serves to criminalize various aspects of sex work, including the purchase of sexual services, the advertisement of sexual services, and the communication in public for the purpose of prostitution by anyone; and

Whereas Bill C-36 makes sex work increasingly difficult and dangerous for sex workers; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation write a letter to Minister of Justice Peter MacKay condemning Bill C-36, and encouraging Minister MacKay to meaningfully consult with sex workers and sex workers advocacy organizations to understand what their needs and wants are regarding legislation surrounding sex work in Canada; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation seek to publish letters to the editor in major Ontario newspapers condemning Bill C-36; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation encourage member locals to send similar letters.

2014/08:057 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 20/Local 47

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Be it resolved that the first clause of Motion 2014/08:037 be amended to read:

Be it resolved that the Federation write an open letter to Minister of Justice Peter MacKay condemning Bill C-36, and encouraging Minister MacKay to meaningfully consult with sex workers and sex workers advocacy organizations to understand what their needs and wants are regarding legislation surrounding sex work in Canada.

2014/08:037 CARRIED AS AMENDED

2014/08:039 MOTION

Local 78/Local 105

Whereas the Peoples' Social Forum (PSF) is being held in Ottawa from August 21 to 24; and

Whereas the PSF seeks to bring together over 5,000 participants from across the country to discuss strategies for challenging the austerity agenda and mobilizing against social and environmental injustices; and

Whereas the PSF will host workshops, trainings, speaking events, and artistic events geared towards popular education, community building, and skills development, and will address issues such as Indigenous sovereignty, labour solidarity, migrant justice, anti-racism, women's rights, and environmental justice; and

Whereas the PSF has been endorsed by several organizations across Canada, including the Public Service Alliance of Canada, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Council of Canadians, and the Indigenous Peoples' Solidarity Movement; and

Whereas the PSF will include a student movement assembly, bringing together students from Canada and Quebec to discuss how to fight for free education, and build unity among students and the broader public; and

Whereas the PSF will feature a workshop organized by a member local on the topic of student-worker solidarity, open for students, workers, and other stakeholders, to support the goal of greater cross-movement collaboration; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation and its member locals endorse the Peoples' Social Forum; and

Be it further resolved that member locals affirm their commitment to creating spaces for cross-movement solidarity following the Peoples' Social Forum through such actions as organizing collaborative events, participating in flying squads, and maximizing campaign mobilization through inclusive, broad-based objectives alongside targeted demands.

CARRIED

2014/08:042 EMERGENCY MOTION

Local 24/Local 68

Whereas on July 9, Israel began its current military assault on Gaza which has resulted in the killing of 1,938 Palestinians, including 460 children, and lead to the displacement of more than 450,000 Palestinians; and

Whereas these attacks have included the bombing of Islamic University in Gaza on August 2 and the bombing of Al Quds Open University on July 29 that killed 22 people; and

Whereas both John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister Stephan Harper have released official statements declaring the Canadian government's "unconditional support for Israel"; and

Whereas the Gaza Civil Society released a statement on July 12, 2014 signed by 22 civil society organizations in Gaza calling for conscientious people all over the world to act and

support the call for an arms embargo on Israel, the suspension of all free trade and bilateral agreements with Israel and the implementation of boycotts, divestments and sanctions; and

Whereas this call has been endorsed by students' unions across the country and throughout the world including the National Union of Students (UK); therefore

Be it resolved that the military assault on Gaza be condemned; and

Be it further resolved that the call by July 12, 2014 civil society organizations in Gaza be supported through actions that include:

- Joining the call for an arms embargo against Israel;
- Calling for the suspension of the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA);
- Endorsing the boycotts, divestments and sanctions campaign; and
- Writing a letter to John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister Stephen Harper condemning the Canadian government's unconditional support of Israel's actions.

2014/08:058 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 54/Local 20

Be it resolved that the final clause of Motion 2014/08:042 be amended to read:

Writing an open letter to John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister Stephen Harper condemning the Canadian government's unconditional support of Israel's actions.

CARRIED

2014/08:059 MOTION TO EXTEND SPEAKERS LIST

Local 24/Local 41

Be it resolved that the speaker's list be extended by 3 in favour and 3 opposed.

CARRIED

2014/08:060 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 71 / 109

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:042 be amended to include:

- Encouraging member locals, universities, colleges and other organizations to adopt boycotts and divestments against Israeli apartheid policies.

CARRIED

2014/08:042 CARRIED AS AMENDED

2014/08:044 EMERGENCY MOTION

Local 68/Local 109

Whereas students are calling on York University to take immediate action after racist flyers were posted around campus and inserted into home mailboxes in an adjacent neighbourhood where many students live, authored by Immigration Watch Canada (IWC), taking aim at the participation of racialized students in post-secondary education and making derogatory remarks about immigrant communities; and

Whereas the diversity of university and college campuses and communities are a source of strength, and hate speech that fosters an unsafe environment for students is not to be tolerated; and

Whereas this is not the first time Immigration Watch Canada (IWC) has distributed offensive and racist materials to the public, including most recently, when the group delivered

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xenophobic and anti-immigrant materials to homes in nearby Brampton, a community many York University students call home; and

Whereas no one should be subjected to such hateful and offensive messaging on their campus or in their community; and

Whereas students deserve to live, work and study without fear of discrimination or harassment; and

Whereas the Toronto Police Services did not deem this act of aggression as within the threshold of a hate crime; and

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students is committed to fighting oppression in all its forms and continues to unite students and community members to challenge all forms of hate and discrimination; therefore

Be it resolved that a letter be written to the Toronto Police Services that malicious acts of xenophobia and racism such as those committed by Immigrant Watch Canada are direct attacks on the freedom and safety of individuals and families to Canada and international students at our institutions and should be considered a hate crime; and

Be it resolved that a letter be written condemning Immigrant Watch Canada (IWC) for the disgusting nature of said materials and other materials created around xenophobia and anti-immigration programming; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write similar letters to both the Toronto Police Services and Immigrant Watch Canada condemning the xenophobic and racist anti-immigrant nature of the IWC materials as hate speech.

2014/08:061 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 109/Local 41

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:044 be amended to include:

Be it further resolved that a complaint be made to the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario in coordination with other groups committed to combatting racism and xenophobia.

2014/08:044 CARRIED AS AMENDED

2014/08:046 EMERGENCY MOTION

Local 92/Local 98

Whereas the Sikh community of Ontario has established itself in all walks of life and has been an active and vibrant community in Ontario since their arrival in the early 1960s; and

Whereas the Sikh articles of faith are an integral part of the Sikh faith; and

Whereas the turban is an inseparable part of a Sikh and represents an integral part of the Sikh identity; and

Whereas the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees freedom of conscience and religion; and

Whereas the Ontario Human Right Code guarantees equal rights for all individuals in Ontario and prevents discrimination based on creed; and

Whereas the turban was incorporated in the Metropolitan Toronto Police uniform in 1986 and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police uniform in 1990; and

Whereas turban-wearing Sikhs are permitted to ride motorcycles with their turbans in British Columbia, Manitoba, the United Kingdom, India and many other countries around the world; and

Whereas the British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal held in 1999 "...based on my assessment of marginal risk, the identity of those who bear the risk, and the nature of the fundamental right infringed, I am not persuaded that the increased risk associated with non-helmeted motorcycling is so substantial that it constitutes undue hardship"; and

Whereas there has never been a single case of head injury to a turban-wearing motorcyclist in British Columbia or Manitoba; and

Whereas since February 2011, the Canadian Sikh Association has been working with all political parties in Ontario to grant a similar motorcycle helmet exemption in the province of Ontario; and

Whereas Sikh organizations across Ontario have unanimously supported this exemption through the passing of resolutions at all religious parades in Ontario and writing letter to Members of Provincial Parliament; and

Whereas the South Asian Bar Association of Toronto has publicly supported granting this exemption to turban-wearing Sikhs in Ontario; and

Whereas in November 2013, the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario and the New Democratic Party of Ontario wrote to the Minister of Transportation, calling upon him to bring a government bill to grant a motorcycle helmet exemption to turban-wearing Sikhs in Ontario and ensuring their respective caucus' support; and

Whereas in a submission to Ontario Premier Wynne on May 31, 2014, the Canadian Sikh Association wrote: "[the Minister of Transportation] proposed to exempt 400 series highways from a motorcycle helmet exemption for turbaned Sikhs in Ontario as a means to further address the safety issue. In our opinion, this proposal eliminates any issue of safety associated with the exemption."; and

Whereas in June 2014, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne committed to providing the Liberal Party of Ontario's position on this issue within the first 90 days of forming government; and

Whereas the Sikh community of Ontario now awaits the Liberal Party of Ontario's position on this important issue of religious freedom and equality in Ontario; and

Whereas an Open House was held at Queen's Park on July 23, 2014 to apprise returning and newly elected MPPs on the developments the Ontario Sikh community has made on this issue; and

Whereas on July 31, 2014 all four Sikh MPPs in the Liberal Party of Ontario, namely Mr. Vic Dhillon, Ms. Harinder K. Malhi, Ms. Amrit Mangat and Mr. Harinder Takhar, jointly wrote to the Premier of Ontario, calling upon her to promptly act on enacting legislation or regulation to allow turban-wearing Sikhs to ride a motorcycle in Ontario; therefore

Be it resolved that the granting of a motorcycle helmet exemption to turban-wearing Sikhs in Ontario, as it has been granted in British Columbia, Manitoba, the United Kingdom and many other countries around the world be supported; and

Be it further resolved that a letter be written to Premier Kathleen Wynne and Minister of Transportation Steven Del Duca in support of granting a motorcycle helmet exemption to turban-wearing Sikhs in Ontario, as it has been granted in British Columbia, Manitoba, the United Kingdom and many other countries around the world; and

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

CARRIED

2014/08:062 EMERGENCY MOTION
Local 109/Local 98

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Whereas on August 9, Michael Brown, a black youth was allegedly executed by a police officer Darren Wilson in the town of Ferguson, Missouri; and

Whereas Michael Brown's body was left on the street in plain view of the public in broad daylight at approximately 1 p.m.; and

Whereas Michael Brown was unarmed, was not charged with any crime and had his hands up in surrender when he was gunned down; and

Whereas Michael Brown informed this police officer that he was unarmed and asked him to not to shoot after being hit by several gunshots, one of which was fired from within the police cruiser; and

Whereas the Ferguson Police Department have responded to peaceful protest actions by using tear gas, rubber bullets sound cannons and military tactics including implementing a no-fly zone and preventing media from witnessing/reporting the events; and

Whereas a similar incident occurred on August 11th in Florence, Los Angeles where Ezell Ford was shot during an "investigative stop" despite complying with officers; and

Whereas blacks in Canada experience the same amount of racism such as the "carding" system in Toronto which is worse than the "stop and frisk" law in New York; and

Whereas black lives are valuable; therefore

Be it resolved that an open letter be written to the Ferguson Police Department to condemn the killing of the unarmed, Black teenager Michael Brown by police officer Darren Wilson; and

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

Be it further resolved that the Ferguson Police Department's response to peaceful protesters be condemned; and

Be it further resolved that solidarity actions for the Black community in Ferguson and organizing surrounding racial profiling by police be supported.

CARRIED

2014/08:063

MOTION

Local 19/Local 105

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

CARRIED

5. PRESENTATION OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND SERVICES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

National Executive Representative Anna Goldfinch presented the report on behalf of the Committee.

2014/08:029

MOTION TO AMEND OPERATIONS POLICY

Local 68/Local 105

Whereas the scheduling requirement contained in the operational policy on the Skills Development Symposium requires updating to provide greater flexibility; and

Whereas member locals should be responsible for covering the costs of participants who attend the Skills Symposium but don't attend at least 75 per cent of the workshops; and

Whereas the operational policy already allows for flexibility to accommodate those participants who might be absent for legitimate reasons including medical or personal reasons; and

Whereas the requirement for member locals to cancel participants should be increased from 24 hours to 72 hours to allow the Federation to adjust meal and room bookings; therefore

Be it resolved that the Timing and Location section of the Operational Policy on the Skills Development Symposium be amended to read:

The Symposium shall be held on a weekend in the months of May, June or July and shall be held in the Greater Toronto Area.

Be it further resolved that the second bullet point of the Fee section of the Operational Policy on the Skills Development Symposium be amended to read:

- The Federation reserves the right to invoice member local students' unions all expenses, including but not limited to meals, travel and accommodation costs, for participants that do not attend at least 75 per cent of workshops offered and for participants that cancel less than 72 hours prior to the start of the Symposium.

CARRIED

2014/08:031 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS
Local 68/Local 105

Whereas votes on decertification take away from the important work of the Federation, including the campaigns and lobbying done on behalf of all members; and

Whereas in the past, individuals have attempted to coordinate decertification votes in order to tie up the Federation's resources; and

Whereas placing limits on the number of concurrent votes would be consistent with the Federation's national bylaws; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw II.5 "Vote to Decertify," Section a. "Petition" be amended to include the following:

- iii. There shall be no more than two (2) votes on decertification in any three-month period. In the event that there are more than two (2) valid petitions calling for a vote on decertification during any three-month period, the Executive Committee shall:
 - Consider the petitions in the order in which they are received; and
 - Schedule alternate voting dates for the third and subsequent petitions that call for a vote on decertification within any three-month period.

Be it further resolved that the Bylaws be renumbered accordingly.

CARRIED

2014/08:033 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS
Local 68/Local 105

Whereas Bylaw II, Section 1 a.ii. makes reference to "the committee administering the campaign;" and

Whereas this is a reference to a previously existing referendum oversight committee which has since been deleted in the Bylaws; and

Whereas this change was not reflected in the above-referenced Bylaw; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw II-Membership, Section 1. "Full Membership" Section b. be amended to delete the following:

- ii. Other wording shall be determined by the committee administering the campaign as outlined in Section 3 (e) of this Bylaw.

CARRIED

2014/08:064 MOTION

Local 54/Local 98

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

CARRIED

6. PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Ontario Fieldworker Michelle LeBlanc presented the report on behalf of the Committee.

2014/01:048 MOTION TO ADOPT ISSUES POLICY

Local 94/Local 47

Whereas a comprehensive and independent French language university that responds to the needs of Francophones and Francophiles in Ontario would facilitate access to education, support linguistic rights, and affirm francophone identities and cultures in Ontario; therefore,

Be it resolved that the following policy on “French Language University in Ontario” be adopted:

FRENCH LANGUAGE UNIVERSITY IN ONTARIO

The Federation recognizes the rights of Francophones and Francophiles in Ontario to attend post-secondary education in the official language of their choice.

The Federation recognizes that although bilingual post-secondary institutions play an important role in Ontario, the use of English still dominates these academic settings and means that many are forced to complete at least some of their program in English, and are therefore not a substitute for French post-secondary education.

The Federation supports the creation of an independent French language university in Ontario that responds to the needs of Francophone and Francophile communities in Ontario, that serves students from diverse backgrounds and regions, that delivers a wide range of programs identified as necessary by Francophone and Francophile communities in Ontario, and that affirms the vitality of the French language and francophone identities and cultures in Ontario. The university should be independently governed by the professors and students of the university and Francophone and Francophile communities in Ontario.

2014/08:009 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 98/Local 105

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/01:048 be amended to read:

Be it resolved that the following Issues Policy on “French Language University in Ontario” be adopted:

FRENCH LANGUAGE UNIVERSITY IN ONTARIO

Preamble

The Federation recognizes the rights of Francophones and Francophiles in Ontario to attend post-secondary education in the official language of their choice.

The Federation recognizes that although bilingual post-secondary institutions play an important role in Ontario, the use of English still dominates these academic settings due to of government underfunding. Because of these financial shortfalls, bilingual institutions are unable to and do not prioritize ensuring that students are able to complete their entire degree in French. This means that students who wish to pursue post-secondary education in French are unable to in Ontario.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- increased funding to bilingual post secondary education institutions so that all students who wish to pursue French post-secondary education may do so;
- the creation of an independent French language university in Ontario that responds to the needs of Francophone and Francophile communities in Ontario, that serves students from diverse backgrounds and regions, that delivers a wide range of programs identified as necessary by Francophone and Francophile communities in Ontario, and that affirms the vitality of the French language and francophone identities and cultures in Ontario; and
- the French language university be independently governed by the professors and students of the university and Francophone and Francophile communities in Ontario.

The Federation opposes:

- decreases in government funding from other bilingual institutions in Ontario; and
- the replacement of programming already found at existing bilingual institutions with funding or programming at a new Francophone university.

2014/08:065 MOTION TO AMEND AMENDMENT

Local 111/Local 97

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:009 be amended to read:

FRENCH LANGUAGE UNIVERSITY IN ONTARIO

Preamble

The Federation recognizes the rights of Francophones and Francophiles in Ontario to attend post-secondary education in the official language of their choice.

The Federation recognizes that although bilingual post-secondary institutions play an important role in Ontario, the use of English still dominates these academic settings due to of government underfunding. Because of these financial shortfalls, bilingual institutions are unable to and do not prioritize ensuring that students are able to complete their entire degree in French. This means that students who wish to pursue post-secondary education in French are unable to do so in Ontario.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- increased funding to Francophone and bilingual post-secondary education institutions, so that all students who wish to pursue French post-secondary education may do so;
- the creation of a stand-alone French language university in Ontario that responds to the needs of Francophone and Francophile communities in Ontario, that serves students from diverse backgrounds and regions, that delivers a wide range of programs identified as necessary by Francophone and Francophile communities in Ontario, and that affirms the vitality of the French language and francophone identities and cultures in Ontario; and
- that this university be governed by the Francophone and Francophile communities in Ontario, including significant and meaningful student and faculty representation.

The Federation opposes:

- decreases in government funding from bilingual institutions in Ontario; and
- the withdrawing of government funding and program cuts from current bilingual institutions in Ontario.

CARRIED

2014/08:009 CARRIED AS AMENDED

2014/01:048 CARRIED AS AMENDED

2014/08:015 MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES POLICY

Local 24/Local 105

Whereas the tuition fees, and prevailing systems of oppression continue to limit access to colleges and universities in Ontario; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation's policy on Accessibility be replaced with the following:

ACCESSIBILITY

Preamble

A system of accessible education is one in which all applicants who wish to attend a post-secondary institution may do so. The Federation recognizes that income inequality in Ontario, as well as systems of oppression including racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia and ableism continue to limit the ability of people to obtain a quality post-secondary education.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- the elimination of all financial and economic barriers to a post-secondary education;
- the elimination of tuition fees and other incidental user fees;
- the elimination of higher differential fees including, but not limited to, those applied to international and out-of-province students;
- the right of students to receive a post-secondary education in the language of their choice, including, but not limited to, French, English, and Aboriginal languages;
- the right of students to attend the post-secondary institution of their choice, without additional financial burden;
- the elimination of all other barriers to post-secondary education which may affect entry into post-secondary education institutions, including, but not limited to discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political affiliation, family status, socioeconomic class or disability;
- the removal of all conditions and barriers – as described above – within the post-secondary education system which may prevent students from attending and completing a program at a post-secondary institution;
- the right to the provision of universal, free, high quality child care;
- the elimination of barriers to accessibility resulting from geography;
- the elimination of enrolment quotas; and
- the implementation of a guaranteed minimum income for all students.

The Federation opposes:

- any systemic discrimination in any educational setting, including but not limited to the streaming of students into classes and programs of different academic status.

2014/08:066 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 98/Local 19

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:015 be amended to read:

ACCESSIBILITY

Preamble

A system of accessible education is one in which all applicants who wish to attend a post-secondary institution may do so. The Federation recognizes that income inequality in Ontario, as well as systems of oppression including racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism and ableism continue to limit the ability of people to obtain a quality post-secondary education.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- the elimination of all financial and economic barriers to a post-secondary education;
- the elimination of tuition fees and other incidental user fees;
- the elimination of higher differential fees including, but not limited to, those applied to international and out-of-province students;
- the right of students to attend the post-secondary institution of their choice, without additional financial burden;
- the elimination of all other barriers to post-secondary education which may affect entry into post-secondary education institutions, including, but not limited to discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political affiliation, family status, citizenship or ancestry, socioeconomic class, age or disability;
- the removal of all conditions and barriers – as described above – within the post-secondary education system which may prevent students from attending and completing a program at a post-secondary institution;
- the right to the provision of universal, free, high quality child care;
- the elimination of barriers to accessibility resulting from geography;
- the elimination of enrolment quotas; and
- the implementation of a guaranteed minimum income for all students.

The Federation opposes:

- any systemic discrimination in any educational setting, including but not limited to the streaming of students into classes and programs of different academic status that impedes post-secondary education opportunities.

CARRIED

2014/08:015 CARRIED AS AMENDED

2014/08:017 MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES POLICY

Local 24/Local 105

Whereas the “Double Cohort” graduated high school in 2003, when students in both grade 12 and OAC graduated from Ontario high schools; and

Whereas the Federation adopted a policy in 2002 to support the hiring of new faculty and oppose public-private partnerships in construction related to the double cohort; and

Whereas these issues are covered substantially in other Federation issues policies; therefore

Be it resolved that the double cohort policy be removed from the Issues Policy manual.

CARRIED

2014/08:019 MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES POLICY

Local 24/Local 105

Whereas Ontario students pay the highest tuition fees in the country; and

Whereas tuition fees have increased by as much as 80 per cent since 2006 in Ontario; and

Whereas under the current framework, tuition fees will continue to increase by three to five per cent each year; therefore

Be it resolved that the current policy on User Fees/Tuition Fees be replaced with the following:

TUITION FEES

Preamble

Education is a fundamental right of every person without distinction of income, race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, political belief or economic or social condition. User fees, in the form of tuition fees and ancillary fees, constitute a barrier to accessing post-secondary education.

In 1948, the Government of Canada signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that states, “Everyone has the right to education”. In 1976, Canada signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that states, “Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education”.

The cost of post-secondary education and increasing debt levels are significant factors in the decision students make about whether or not to continue their studies beyond high school. It should be recognized that students from low income backgrounds are much more likely to be affected by financial issues when deciding whether to pursue post-secondary education. It should also be recognized that these financial barriers disproportionately affect traditionally marginalized communities.

Students participating in post-secondary education may face considerable financial barriers, including housing, transportation and living expenses, in addition to tuition fees. Many students may also forgo job earnings to attend a post-secondary institution. Of these, user fees account for the greatest up-front, universal barrier to obtaining a post-secondary education in Canada.

It is the responsibility of governments to fully fund post-secondary education. In the absence of adequate funding, post-secondary institutions often rely on private sources, such as user fees. In cases when governments have regulated tuition fees, faculty- or program-based student votes on tuition fee increases initiated by administrations of post-secondary education institutions have been used to circumvent provincial government policies on tuition fees and undermine the work of the student movement by dividing students among themselves.

The Federation believes that a universally accessible post-secondary education system will only be achieved once financial barriers to obtaining that education are eliminated. In particular, this requires that post-secondary education be entirely publicly funded, user fees are non-existent, and students have access to student financial assistance for living expenses in the form of non-repayable grants.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- universally accessible, publicly funded post-secondary education, including the elimination of all user fees, including tuition fees and ancillary fees;

- a robust up-front, needs-based grants system to cover students' living expenses while attending post-secondary education; and
- the elimination of existing fees beginning with progressive reductions.
- The Federation opposes:
 - the differentiation of fees on the basis of program, country or province of origin or student status, or for any other reason;
 - votes to increase user fees initiated by post-secondary institutions' administrations;
 - the justification that increased student financial assistance can offset the effects of higher tuition fees, including income-contingent loan repayment schemes, as they are designed to facilitate a system of individual fees in which students pay the full cost of post-secondary education, and invariably result in massive tuition fee increases; and
 - the use of tax credits and saving schemes as replacement for tuition fee reductions and non-repayable grants.

2014/08:067 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 19/Local 47

Be it resolved that Motion 2014/08:019 be amended to read:

TUITION AND USER FEES

Preamble

Education is a fundamental right of every person without distinction of income, race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, political belief or economic or social condition. Tuition fees, user fees and ancillary fees constitute a barrier to accessing post-secondary education.

In 1948, the Government of Canada signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that states, "Everyone has the right to education". In 1976, Canada signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that states, "Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education".

The cost of post-secondary education and increasing debt levels are significant factors in the decision students make about whether or not to continue their studies beyond high school. It should be recognized that students from low-income backgrounds are much more likely to be affected by financial issues when deciding whether to pursue post-secondary education. It should also be recognized that these financial barriers disproportionately affect traditionally marginalized communities.

Students participating in post-secondary education may face considerable financial barriers, including housing, transportation and living expenses, in addition to tuition, ancillary and user fees. Many students may also forgo job earnings to attend a post-secondary institution. Of these, user fees account for the greatest up-front, universal barrier to obtaining a post-secondary education in Canada.

It is the responsibility of governments to fully fund post-secondary education. In the absence of adequate funding, post-secondary institutions often rely on private sources, such as tuition, user and ancillary fees. In cases when governments have regulated tuition fees, faculty- or program-based student votes on tuition, user and ancillary fee increases initiated by administrations of post-secondary education institutions have been used to circumvent provincial government policies on fees and

undermine the work of the student movement by dividing students among themselves.

The Federation believes that a universally accessible post-secondary education system will only be achieved once financial barriers to obtaining that education are eliminated. In particular, this requires that post-secondary education be entirely publicly funded, tuition, user and ancillary fees are non-existent, and students have access to student financial assistance for living expenses in the form of non-repayable grants.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- universally accessible, publicly funded post-secondary education, including the elimination of all fees, including tuition, user and ancillary fees;
- a robust up-front, needs-based grants system for both full- and part-time students to cover living expenses while attending post-secondary education; and
- the elimination of existing fees beginning with progressive reductions.

The Federation opposes:

- the differentiation of fees on the basis of program, country or province of origin, student status, language or medium of study or for any other reason;
- the use of differential government funding schemes that force post-secondary institutions to increase fees;
- all efforts, including budget votes, undertaken by administrations, governments or any third party corporation or organization to increase fees at post-secondary institutions;
- increases in fees other than those democratically and legitimately initiated by student societies for the benefit of students;
- the justification that increased student financial assistance can offset the effects of higher tuition fees, including income-contingent loan repayment schemes, as they are designed to facilitate a system of individual fees in which students pay the full cost of post-secondary education, and invariably result in massive tuition fee increases; and
- the use of tax credits and saving schemes as replacement for tuition fee reductions and non-repayable grants.

CARRIED

2014/08:019 CARRIED AS AMENDED

2014/08:068 MOTION

Local 84/Local 92

Be it resolved that the report of the Policy Review and Development Committee be accepted.

CARRIED

7. PRESENTATION OF THE ELECTORAL REPORT

Electoral Officer Gabe Hoogers presented the Electoral Report.

2014/08:069 MOTION

Local 109/Local 78

Be it resolved that Nicole Desnoyers be ratified as the Women's Commissioner for the 2014-2015 term; and

Be it further resolved that Pascale Diverlus be ratified as the Constituency Commissioner for the 2014-2015 term; and

Be it further resolved that the following Caucus representatives be ratified for the 2014-2015 term:

Francophone and Bilingual Caucus Chairperson	Gabrielle Ross-Marquette
Francophone and Bilingual Caucus Deputy Chairperson	Rym Ben Berrah
Northern Region Commissioner	Ian McRae
Ontario Graduate Caucus Chairperson	Christina Muehlberger
Ontario Graduate Caucus Vice Chairperson	Jesse Root

Be it further resolved that the following Constituency Group representatives be ratified for the 2014-2015 term:

Aboriginal Students Constituency Group Commissioner	Meghan Caveen
International Students Constituency Group Commissioner	Ebi Agbeyegbe
Mature and Part-Time Constituency Group Commissioner	Dwayne Anderson
Queer and Trans Students Constituency Group	Jesse Root
Racialized Students Constituency Group Commissioner	Hamoudi Hneinou
Students with Disabilities Constituency Group Commissioner	Janet Rodriguez

Be it further resolved that the report of the Chief Returning Officer be accepted.

CARRIED

8. ADJOURNMENT

2014/08:070 MOTION

Local 41/Local 98

Be it resolved that plenary adjourn.

CARRIED

1:55 p.m. - Plenary adjourned.

Attendance

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DELEGATIONS

Local 19

University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union

Hussain Masoom
Soaleha Shams
Michelle St-Amour
Nickie Van Lier
Kim Veller

Local 20

Nipissing University Student Union

Yannick Benoit
Chris Burke

Local 24

Ryerson Students' Union

Dora Adobea
Pascale Diverlus
Rajean Hoilett
Gilary Massa
Jesse Root
Corey Scott
Saphi Subendran

Local 25

Ontario College of Art and Design Student Union

Serena Qu

Local 32

Lakehead University Students' Union

Madeleine Belgum
Taylor Covino
Safiya Magomadova
Ian McRae
Britney Price-Kucher
Matt Quick
Niharika Shahi

Local 41

Student Federation of the University of Ottawa

Roméo Ahimakin
Nicole Desnoyers
Dave Eaton
Amy Hammett
Ikram Hamoud
Chris Hynes
Anne-Marie Roy

Local 47

Univeristy of Western Ontario Society of Graduate Students

Tamara Hinan
Golam Marshed Maruf
Alison Shott
Alex Yan

Local 54

University of Guelph Central Student Association

Sonia Chwalek
Sonalie Menezes
Peter Miller
Brittany Skelton

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Local 68

York Federation of Students

Meghan Du Cille
Hamoudi Hneinou
Julian Jasniewski
Mithilen Mathipalan
Gayle McFadden
Hamid Osman

Local 71

Trent Central Students' Association

Mayra Asmar
Boykin Smith
Betelhem Wondimu

Local 78

Carleton University Graduate Students' Association

Irem Bor
Michael Bueckert
Rabbi Hossain
Nicole Hunt
Christina Muehlberger
Sam Ponting

Local 82

Algoma University Students' Union

Meghan Caveen
Jeremy Pereira
Kasey Politano

Local 84

York University Graduate Students' Association

Hossein Davarinejad
Saviz Ehyai
Jennifer Farmer
Nusrat Huq
Lucas McCann
Paul O'Brien

Local 85

Saint Paul University Students' Association

Claudia Beaudry

Local 92

Student Association of George Brown College

Gagan Deep
Jatinder Maan
Karla Orantes
Saroop Pahal
Michelle Pettis
Halley Requena-Silva

Local 94

University of Ottawa Graduate Students' Association

Gabrielle Ross-Marquette

Local 97

Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students of the University of Toronto

Margaret Ebifegha
Susan Froom
Bryan Murray
Susan Murray

Maina Rambali
Danielle Sandhu
Kriya Siewrattan

Local 98

University of Toronto Students' Union

Yolen Bollo-Kamara
Pierre Harfouche
Sandy Hudson
Igor Samardzic
Najiba Sardar
Grace Slobodian
Cameron Wathey
ZiJian Yang

Local 99

Scarborough Campus Students' Union

Anika Ahmed
Sabrine Azraq
Amir Bashir
Tahsin Chowdhury
Nikki Dionisio
Kaleab Mulatu
Sanoj Navan
Kavita Siewrattan

Local 105

Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson

Dwayne Anderson
Rabbia Ashraf
Denise Hammond
Orion Keresztesi
Priyanth Nallaratnam
Janet Rodriguez

Local 107

Association étudiante de La Cité collégiale

Rym Ben Berrah
Grace Busanga
Marie-Fleur Cyr-Beaudoin
Jennifer Gravel

Local 109

University of Toronto at Mississauga Students' Union

Ebi Agbeyegbe
Bryan Chelvanaigum
Hassan Havili
Genny Lawen
Amir Moazzami
Francesco Otello-DeLuca
Melissa Theodore

Local 110

Laurentian Graduate Students' Association

Martine Dennie

Local 111

Laurentian Students' Union

Ashley Shannahan
James Westman

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Local 112

Association générale des étudiants et des étudiantes du Collège Boréal
Sophie Bernier-Gagnon

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CAUCUS AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Chairperson

Alastair Woods

National Executive Representative

Anna Goldfinch

Ontario Graduate Caucus Deputy Chairperson

Justine De Jaegher

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

National Treasurer

Gabe Hoogers

FEDERATION STAFF

Campaigns Coordinator

Caitlin Smith

Communications and Government Relations Coordinator

Kaley Kennedy

Fieldworker

Michael LeBlanc

Financial Coordinator

Toby Whitfield

Internal Coordinator

Ashkon Hashemi

Organizer

Jeremy Salter

Northern Fieldworker

Christine Bourque

Services Coordinator

Hildah Otieno