

39TH ANNUAL NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday November 17th -
Saturday November 21, 2020

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE REPORT

LAND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to begin by acknowledging that although this meeting is taking place virtually, we currently each reside on the unceded and unsurrendered territories of Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge the land both as an explicit reminder of the ongoing colonialism taking place here in Canada and as a reminder of the work that is yet to be done towards reconciliation between the Indigenous peoples of this land, settlers and the people who have been historically and violently displaced from their home territories to be placed here.

We encourage you to utilize the resource www.native-land.ca and take the time to learn about the territories on which you currently reside. It is not enough to just read these words at events, it is important to understand them, their historical context and their connection to promoting real reconciliation based dialogue and action.

ABOUT
THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

Established in 1981, the Canadian Federation of Students is the largest student organization in Canada, uniting more than 500,000 college, undergraduate, and graduate students from coast to coast. Our ultimate goal is to achieve a universal system of high-quality, public, post-secondary education in Canada that is tuition-free for domestic and international students.

MESSAGE

FROM THE AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVES

Dear Members,

Amidst a global pandemic, students across the country have worked relentlessly to push our issues to the forefront of the country's political agenda. Students made headlines nationwide with demands to include every student with adequate pandemic relief and unapologetic calls to bring education and climate justice for all.

We recognize that this has been a unique and challenging time for students across the country. As classes shifted online and work became even more precarious, we experienced new and enhanced challenges to accessing post-secondary education, yet we continued to be inspired by the power of students united. Back in April, we used our strength in numbers to secure the Canadian Emergency Student Benefit. This relief fund was a start, but there's still much left to be improved. In July, students were subject to a failed $912 million Canada Student Services Grant program; the funding of which has yet to be reallocated. As such, students took to emailing Minister Qualtrough, their local MPs, and signing a joint change.org petition with Don't Forget Students to demand adequate support.

Amidst added challenges, the online shift has also provided unique opportunities to strengthen our cross-provincial alliances. Students from Maritime provinces came together to host the first-ever Atlantic Skills Symposium to address key issues affecting their provinces and to collaboratively learn and discuss strategies for creating a more accessible post-secondary education system. Student organizers in Nova Scotia have also been leaders in creating cross-campus alliances and maintaining them in virtual settings to advocate via a united students and workers front. Newfoundland and Labrador student leaders have been at the head of advocacy for accessibility concerns relating to internet access, remote mental health services, and the challenges for international students having to navigate studying from their home countries.

This past year has also drawn heightened attention to anti-Black and anti-Indigenous systemic racism that exists in police and health care fields. Students are outraged by the explicit racism that continues to be exemplified and furthered the conversation to address ongoing racism being upheld by our institutions. The Federation released three workshops to accompany the Anti-Racism Toolkit, and have on-request led training sessions across campuses to support racialized student leaders. In Ontario, Black, Indigenous and Racialized students took to organizing the #AllOutSept30 virtual strike. Students emphasized the importance of Orange Shirt Day and demonstrated that they would not be silent by outlining calls to action for creating more inclusive, racially diverse and safe campuses.

In Manitoba, students continue to be under attack by their government, as they fight against suppressive conservative strategies to silence student voices. First faced with Bill 41 - which was comparable to the Student Choice Initiative overturned by Ontario students in 2019, and now faced with the 22 recommendations for provincial post-secondary education by the Auditor General, Manitoba students are fighting to ensure that post-secondary education remains a public good, rather than become another line item in the economic agenda. Cross-provincial support is critical to ensuring that students continue to come out stronger, bolder and more united than ever to fight oppressive governments.

All of these challenges have fueled the rollout of our new campaign, Education for All. We are so excited to see this campaign already being adapted at provincial and local levels to address the barriers to accessing post-secondary education. We know that a fully-publicly funded post-secondary education system is critical to a just-recovery from COVID-19 and to securing climate justice. On October 21, we were so excited to invite students to the first national strategizing workshop and create the groundwork for collective organizing. It is our duty as student leaders in the country to continue to pressure governments to enact real change on our campuses, in the environment, and on Parliament Hill.

Progressive change is within our grasp and students and youth are at the heart. Our work this year is just the beginning of building an equitable and sustainable future for all!

In Solidarity,
Your National At-Large Executives

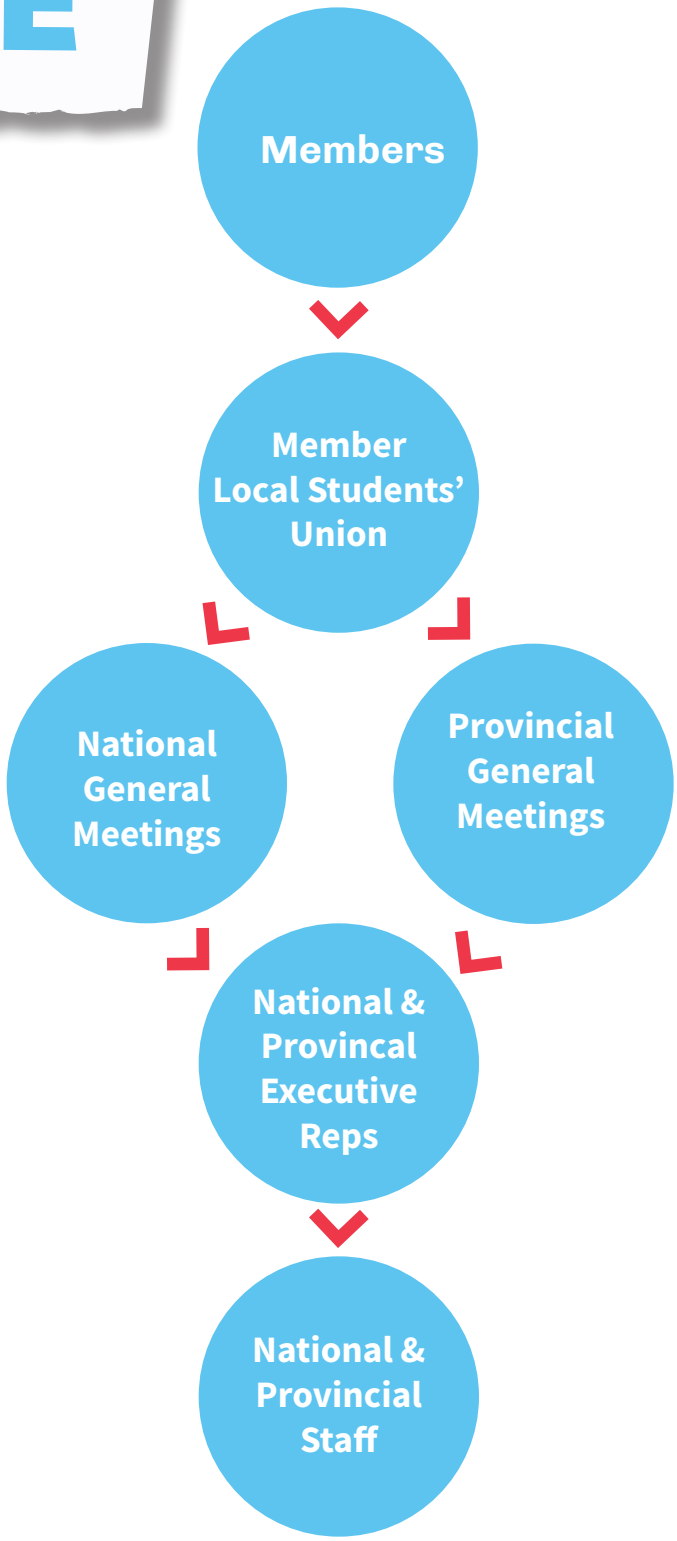


STRUCTURE

Member local students' unions set the priorities and direction of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Each year, the Federation holds national general meetings where delegates vote on motions brought forward by member local students' unions and determine campaign priorities for the period that follows. During the meetings, sub-committees, constituency groups, caucuses and provincial components discuss these motions and offer amendments before all member local students' unions vote on them. With the principle of "one member, one vote," each member local students' union has an equal say in all major decisions.

The National Executive Committee is composed of representatives elected by member local students' unions.



CAMPAIGNS

01





EDUCATION FOR ALL CAMPAIGN

Students and supporters have been mobilizing for years in response to increasing tuition fees, skyrocketing student debt, and government funding. The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic crisis has created an environment where students need to escalate demands to ensure that they don't get left behind.

The Federation, along with solidarity partners (CAUT, CUPE and PSAC), will be launching the Education for All campaign in the winter of 2021. This campaign will have three phases with the goal of mobilizing students, workers including faculty, contract, academic staff, librarians, researchers, teaching assistants and support staff, community members, and political decision-makers to take action to achieve a high-quality, universally accessible and fully publicly-funded education system for all.

Over the next year, the campaign will fulfill its goal by executing three phases:
Awareness: The campaign will increase awareness of the feasibility of a fully publicly funded post-secondary education system through increased federal transfers to provinces.

Engagement: The campaign will gain supporters not only through engaging students, but through engaging workers including faculty, contract academic staff, and community members through social media actions and political engagement.

Mobilization: The campaign will build on the momentum from the first two phases to hold a Day of Action. The goal is to mobilize thousands of students, faculty, contract academic staff, librarians, researchers, teaching assistants and support staff, and community members from coast to coast to demand that the government implement high-quality and fully publicly-funded education for all.



EDUCATION FOR ALL WORKSHOP

On October 21, 2020, the national and provincial at-large led a 30 minute teach in, followed by provincially-focused breakout sessions. The breakout sessions provided an opportunity to further explore a number of issues and created a space for student leaders to connect. Ontario discussed “organizing through crisis” by exploring useful tactics and strategies that could be used to reach out to students and groups. Newfoundland and Labrador discussed “accessibility barriers” such as unreliable internet connection and the lack of access to regular on-campus supports. Nova Scotia explored tuition fees and faculty alliances. They also discussed racial justice and COVID-19 expulsions. Finally, Manitoba shared some insights about how they’re organizing against clear attacks not only on post-secondary education but on student unions in particular. This workshop represents just one of many strategies being employed to engage students in the Education for All campaign.







SUPPORT STUDENT PARENTS

The Federation's Support Student Parents Campaign was created to address the lack of affordable and accessible childcare spaces on campus. The realities of being a post-secondary student creates unique challenges for caregivers. On top of the burden of high tuition fees and student debt, along with a job market that continues to be marked by precarious work, the high cost of childcare can drive student parents into further debt or force them out of post-secondary institutions.

As part of this campaign, the "Support Student Parents Working Guide" was developed to support on-campus lobbying efforts for accessible childcare spaces. The guide addresses short, medium, and long term actions that student unions can take to provide support for student parents. The guide provides examples from various member locals and details what actions they took to ensure that student parents were supported on campus. In addition to providing examples, at each stage of the process, it discusses key partners for consideration.

STUDENT WORKER SOLIDARITY



The chronic underfunding of post-secondary education and the shifting priorities of colleges and universities affect workers and students on campuses in similar ways. The lack of public funding for post-secondary not only contributes to increasing tuition fees and reduced quality of education for students; but leads to increased precarious, underpaid and unsafe work conditions for workers. This issue is further compounded for students who are also workers on their campuses.

As part of this campaign, the "InterUnion Coalition Guide" was revamped in order to support student leaders in reaching across campus and into the community to build collective power. If students and workers join in solidarity, both are better positioned to make demands; including more funding, better working and learning conditions, and the protection of student and workers' rights both on and off-campus. The guide details how to make connections, share responsibility, how to support labour unions during bargaining and a strike and provides guidance on how to run a successful meeting.

ANTI-RACISM TOOLKIT

As racism persists and tuition costs continue to rise, there are significant barriers that disproportionately impact racialized and Indigenous students due to the marginalization of these communities. This past summer, in the wake of George Floyd's murder, we saw post-secondary institutions make commitments to anti-racism and taking specific actions to eliminate anti-Black racism. As student leaders continue to push their institutions for tangible commitments to anti-racism, this resource has proven timely and relevant.

During last year's General Meeting, the Federation was mandated to develop three workshops to complement the Anti-Racism toolkit. The first workshop helps student leaders identify the need for race-based data and research. The second workshop helps BIPOC executives build collective power by equipping them with tools and strategies for effective organizing on campus, forming coalitions, and identifying allies. The third and final workshop supports BIPOC executives by empowering them with the knowledge to navigate leadership in post-secondary institutions. It discusses common challenges that BIPOC leaders encounter, how to lobby administrators and how to set collective ethics to avoid conflict on teams.

NO ANTI-SEMITISM

Following the unanimously adopted resolution at the June general meeting, the Federation began consultations to update and expand the "No Anti-Semitism Campaign". After consultations with Independent Jewish Voices and campus groups from across the country, IJV is revising their definition of anti-semitism to ensure that it aligns with the beliefs, values, and mandate of the Federation. The updated definition will be added to materials and available in the catalogue and digital form. The revitalized campaign will include new materials and tools for students' unions and campus activists to advocate on issues such as Jewish holiday academic accommodations, addressing anti-semitic hate speech and graffiti on campus, introducing more prayer space and opposing anti-religious freedom laws like Quebec's Bill 21.

MY MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

The National Graduate Caucus (NGC) expressed concerns about the lack of awareness and institutional support for graduate students' mental health in post-secondary institutions in Canada. In response, the NGC engaged in a one-year research project to develop a graduate student mental health toolkit. The toolkit aims to equip graduate students' communities to evaluate and improve the state of graduate students' mental health and wellbeing at post-secondary institutions in Canada.
In addition, during last year's General Meeting, the Federation was mandated to develop a lobbying strategy for first-aid training. This past summer, the Federation developed and shared an Accessible First-Aid Training Lobbying Guide that outlines strategies to introduce accessible and cost-effective or free first-aid, mental health, and naloxone training to campuses.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

02



EDUCATION FOR ALL



In early January 2020, the Federation received an email from the office of Lindsay Mathyssen, the NDP critic for post-secondary education. This was the first of numerous communications aimed to ensure the Federation is able to continue to advocate on behalf of post-secondary students' needs and shape the federal government's priorities around PSE in this country.

On March 11, 2020, Federation representatives appeared on the Senate Committee on National Finance to testify in favour of forgiving student debt. Representatives emphasized the need to eliminate interest on loans in the Canada Student Loan Program and for the federal government to provide robust funding to post-secondary institutions in order to progressively reduce and eventually eliminate tuition fees. This delegation focused on these recommendations as the best and most comprehensive solution to breaking the cycle of student debt for students studying in Canada.

On September 1, 2020, Federation representatives attended the Ontario NDP's Town Hall on Tuition Fee Policy equipped with relevant questions and key concerns of our members. Representatives heard from various students on the need to decrease tuition fees and increase provincial government funding to post-secondary institutions. These calls to action supported the statements from the Federation's Ontario Representative, Kayla Weiler, who was a panellist at the event.

Finally, on September 18, 2020, Federation representatives attended a meeting with Senator Paula Simmons to discuss the next steps on a national plan to support the post-secondary sector in a COVID-19 world and outline key concerns and challenges that continue to be unaddressed by federal, provincial and territorial governments.

ADVOCATING FOR BETTER MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS AND SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS LIVING WITH (DIS)ABILITIES

The Mental Health Commission of Canada has been conducting research and developing a new standard on psychological health and safety for PSS to be released later in 2020. The Federation was invited to review the standard's development and offer feedback for implementation of it for the Fall 2020 semester. However, since mental health is an urgent and key concern for students in post-secondary institutions due to the failure of many institutions to deliver essential mental health supports, the Federation extended this opportunity to all of its members to ensure a national standard of accountability for Canadian institutions. This was done in an effort to ensure a joint standard was created that is accessible, intersectional, and diverse in its approach to improving mental health supports in post-secondary institutions.

On June 18, 2020, Federation representatives submitted a brief to the Human Resources, Skills, and Social Development, and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA) Standing Committee on recommendations the federal government should adopt and follow in order to address the needs of post-secondary students. Six recommendations were made, including:

1) Universally accessible post-secondary education
2) Eliminating loan interest rates for the Canada Student Loans Program
3) Ensuring equitable access to education for Indigenous learners
4) Ensuring fairness for international students
5) Defending and ensuring graduate students' access to education
6) Implementing and funding better mental health supports for students



COVID-19: CESB/CERB SUPPORTS FOR POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

On August 14, 2020, The Federation attended the Honourable Maryam Monsef's meeting discussing the development of the National Action Plan to end gender-based violence. The meeting aligned with the Courage to Act, a 2-year initiative to end gender-based violence in post-secondary institutions in Canada, and its respective expert recommendations.

LOBBY WEEK 2020

Each year the Federation hosts lobby week to allow representatives from across the country to lobby their Members of Parliament and Senators regarding student issues and ideal solutions in the hopes of seeing them outlined within the new federal budget. At the beginning of the year, the Federation connected with Future Majority to discuss ways to collaborate lobbying efforts throughout 2020 and beyond in order to broaden the reach and impact in the fight to make Education for All a reality. Lobby week seeks to advocate for public, fully funded post-secondary education system while educating representatives on how quality post-secondary education intersects with critical social justice issues. These key intersections include climate justice, racial justice, fairness for international students, and ending funding and work precarity for post-secondary researchers and employees.

The Federation held the annual lobby week at Parliament Hill from February 18 to the 21, 2020, with preparatory delegate training on February 17, 2020. Delegates from across the country lobbied Members on 6 key asks:

1) The elimination of tuition fees in favour of universally accessible post-secondary education
2) Action and funding to ensure Indigenous, Metis, and Inuit learners' access to education
3) Increased funding to ensure graduate students have better access to education
4) Education and employment fairness for international students studying in Canada
5) Action to ensure climate justice and a just economic transition to a green future
6) Ensure students have access to adequate housing

COVID-19: CESB/CERB SUPPORTS FOR POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

On April 8, 2020, Federation representatives sent a meeting request to Justin Trudeau to discuss how to support post-secondary students through the COVID-19 pandemic but received no response. On April 15, 2020, Federation representatives sent the Prime Minister an open letter with over 30 student unions, coalitions, and groups' signatures urging that he include all students and recent graduates in the Canada Emergency Response Benefit's eligibility criteria. The letter was drafted in partnership with the #Don'tForgetStudents coalition and distributed through the Federation's numerous advocacy channels and partners, including the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance.

On April 17, 2020, Federation representatives met with the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development, and Disability Inclusion to discuss including students in the CERB.

On April 22, 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) which would support post-secondary students that are unable to secure employment over the summer months due to the COVID-19 pandemic but were not eligible for the CERB.

The Federation has since met with the #Don'tForgetStudents coalition to collaborate on a petition that calls on the federal government to redistribute and invest the scrapped $912 million from the Canada Student Service Grant (CSSG) into post-secondary students' current needs. The petition demands that the federal government use those funds to expand the Canadian Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) for three additional eligibility periods with an increase to $2,000 per month, to include international students and recent graduates from Fall 2019 onward who were not previously eligible for the benefit, and for collaboration with provincial and territorial governments to provide significant tuition relief to account for the international and national economic crisis.

SOLIDARITY

03



CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS

On December 4, Federation representatives met with Vicky Smallman, the National Director of the Women's and Human Rights for the Canadian Labour Congress to discuss ways in which both organizations can advance the rights of women and gender-diverse people, such as taking an active role in the review of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action.

Canadian Labour Congress
Congrès du travail du Canada

MENSTRUATION MATTERS CAMPAIGN

On December 4, Federation representatives met via teleconference with Olivia Karp, a Ryerson University student, to discuss ways to develop and implement the campaign Menstruation Matters. This campaign aims to make menstrual products free at post-secondary institutions in Ontario.



NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

On December 6, Federation representatives attended the vigil at Women's Monument at Minto Park in Ottawa where hundreds of people gathered to honour and remember the lives of the fourteen women that were lost at the École Polytechnique massacre. Federation representatives also attended a panel on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People organized by Ottawa's Women's Event Network at the National Arts Centre.

SOLIDARITY BILL 21 CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE

On December 13, the Federation released a statement in support of the CCLA's, the NCCM's, and Ichrak Nourel Hak's efforts to overturn Bill 21, a law introduced in Quebec against religious freedoms. The statement outlines that while Quebec's Court of Appeal did not mandate the province to suspend the ban until the Supreme Court hears the case as a constitutional challenge, it mentioned that such Bill will cause irreparable harm to those affected. .

CFS Supports Ongoing Efforts to Overturn Bill 21

Dec 13, 2019

WET'SUWET'EN SOLIDARITY ACTION

On January 10, Federation representatives attended the solidarity action for Unist'ot'en Camp of the Wet'suwet'en Nation, organized by Future Rising Ottawa, Climate Justice Climatique Ottawa, Extinction Rebellion Ottawa, and Climate Strike. The action, like many others, comes as the Supreme Court of British Columbia approved an injunction that would allow Coastal GasLink to build a pipeline on Wet'suwet'en territory. The rally closed down and intersection near Parliament Hill for nearly one hour to bring attention to this crisis.



DAY OF ACTION FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

On October 25, Federation representatives attended a rally in Ottawa organized by different labour and student groups in response to the government of Ontario's introduction of voluntary student unionism, cuts to OSAP, and rollback of a $15 minimum wage.

STUDENT STRIKE

On November 6, Federation representatives attended various one-day student-led strikes that happened across the province of Ontario. Students were protesting Ontario's cuts to education and demanded it to reverse cuts to OSAP grants, repeal the Student Choice Initiative, as well as to increase public funding for post-secondary education.



GLOBAL STUDENTS' VOICES: MIGRATION AND INCLUSION FORUM

From December 14 to 16, Federation representatives attended a forum on refugee and migrant access to education in Geneva, organized by the European Students Union (ESU) and the Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU). By the end of the forum, student representatives drafted several demands to government bodies and pertinent stakeholders on the matter of migration and education. These demands fall on four major topics that include access to education, immigration legislation, living conditions, and the role of students' unions and advocacy organizations.



LABOUR-STUDENT SOLIDARITY

On February 9, Federation representatives met with representatives of different labour organizations such as Unifor and CUPE in a training session to discuss strategies on fighting against austerity governments hosted by Goldblatt Partners.

CANADIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Federation representatives collaborated with Dr. Lisa Votta-Bleeker, Deputy CEO and Director of the Canadian Psychological Association, in developing a wellness factsheet tailored for post-secondary students to cope with COVID-19. The fact sheet included different sections such as mental health risks associated with COVID-19, coping with stress and anxiety, studying from home, impacts on graduate students and student research, ways to beat boredom, and when to see a healthcare professional. This factsheet was uploaded onto the Federation's website on April 13.

WET'SUWET'EN SOLIDARITY ACTION

On February 7, Federation representatives attended a rally in Anishinaabe Algonquin territory, Ottawa, in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs in denying pipeline expansion on their sovereign land. On February 12, Federation representatives attended a press conference organized by Indigenous youth who were occupying the Attorney General Minister of Justice building.



GREEN ECONOMY NETWORK (GEN)

GEN is a coalition of labour, environmental, and social justice organizations working to build a green economy in Canada. On February 13, Federation representatives participated in the Green Economy Network's (GEN) strategy and visioning meeting. The session included in-depth discussions on networking, campaigning, lobbying, communications, research & policy, grassroots & organizing, and membership structure of the network.

NO IHRA

On February 24, Federation representatives collaborated with the Independent Jewish Voices on a video that explains the 4 key reasons why people should oppose the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism. On March 5, Federation representatives had a meeting with IJV on future points of collaboration on the No IHRA campaign.



FIGHT FOR $15 & FAIRNESS

On March 18, the Federation endorsed $15 and Fairness calls to implement Health Emergency Protections (H.E.L.P.) on COVID-19 to have a comprehensive protection plan for workers, including to immediately give workers 21 paid emergency leave days with 7 paid emergency leave days as a permanent measure and the additional 14 during outbreaks such as the current COVID-19 crisis among other protections workers need.

MIGRANTS RIGHTS NETWORK

On March 18, the Federation endorsed the Migrants Rights Network Justice Demands on COVID-19 to call on the federal government to implement healthcare for all, worker protections, stop detentions & deportations, status for all, support the community, and meaningful consultations with migrant and community organizations.

MIGRANT RIGHTS NETWORK

JUST RECOVERY

On April 3, Federation representatives attended a videoconference with Canadian progressive civil societies hosted by Climate Action Network, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, and 350.org to discuss joint principles for a just recovery from COVID-19. Over 200 people across the country joined the call and a Slack channel called just-recovery-canada.slack.com was formed to shape the principles. Thus far, these sets of principles include: put people's health and wellbeing first with no exceptions, provide relief directly to people, prioritize the needs of workers, create resilience, build solidarity and equity across communities and borders.

STUDENT DAY OF ACTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH WET'SUWET'EN HEREDITARY CHIEFS

On March 4, Federation representatives attended and spoke at a rally in Carleton University to stand in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs. Federation representatives participated in a sign-making event organized by Local 78 and later on participated in a petition delivery to Export Development Canada to stop their multimillion-dollar loans to Coastal Gas Link pipeline which violates Indigenous rights.



COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES CANADA

From March 30, Federation representatives attend video conference meetings every Monday with various post-secondary stakeholders on the issue of responding to COVID-19 organized by Colleges and Institutes Canada. Some organizations include Universities Canada, CeWIL, Mental Health Commission of Canada and different colleges and university departments across the country. These calls are meant to update on what the government is doing for the post-secondary sector, areas that need to be addressed and to formulate joint advocacy points.

Colleges and Institutes Canada
Collèges et instituts Canada

#DON'TFORGETSTUDENTS

On April 6, Federation representatives began collaborating with the #Don'tForgetStudents, a coalition of post-secondary students and recent graduates, to push the federal government to include all students and recent graduates in the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). We have worked together on a joint press release, social media strategy, message box, exchange of information, among other things.
On April 15, the Federation released an open letter in conjunction with #Don'tForgetStudents and over 30 student organizations across the country asking Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to include students and recent graduates in the CERB.

#DON'T FORGET STUDENTS

GET CANADA CONNECTED COALITION

On June 12, the Federation joined the Get Canada Connected Coalition spearheaded by OpenMedia. The coalition is recommending the Minister of Rural Economic Development, Maryam Monsef, a $6 billion investment to the entire country connected, a timeline of bringing 100% of households online to at least 2025 if not earlier, the creation of a requirement to all ISPs to offer basic packages, no investments for outdated technologies, and support vibrant market competition to benefit community-owned/operated projects instead of the 'Big Three' monopolized internet providers.

#GetCanadaConnected COALITION

MIGRANTS WORKERS ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE

The Federation has partnered with Migrant Workers Alliance for Change to produce a series of testimonials to bring awareness to the harsh realities international students faced prior and throughout the pandemic. These testimonials cover three key topics: exclusion of the CESB for international students, rising differential tuition fees, and lack of or inadequate access to provincial healthcare programs. The shareables also indicate a petition organized by Migrant Rights to pressure the government to grant protections and fairness to this student demographic. The call-out was launched on May 6, and the response has been overwhelming. The Federation has been putting out these testimonials throughout May and will keep adding more in the weeks to come.

JUST RECOVERY

On May 26, Climate Action Network Canada launched the Just Recovery Principles which the Federation is a signatory along with other 200 organizations. The principles are available on the website www.justrecoveryforall.ca and the Federation is looking at ways to incorporate free education into these principles.

JUSTICE4BLACKLIVES

On June 5 Justice4BlackLives organized one of the largest rally's in Winnipeg against police and misactions. With the events that have been taking place across Turtle Island, 8 Black women acted fast by creating and organizing the rally with over 20,000 people in attendance.

JUSTICE FOR EISHIA: NOT ANOTHER INDIGENOUS LIFE

On June 19, Federation representatives attended #JusticeforEisha peaceful/rally at the Manitoba Legislative to honour Eishia who was a 16-year-old Indigenous youth who was wrongfully shot by Winnipeg Police Services during the pandemic, amongst other who lost their lives since April 2020.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS SURVEY

On May 12, CAUT and the Federation released the survey commissioned to Abacus Data showing that post-secondary students are reconsidering Fall semester plans in the wake of COVID-19. Most notably, is that 7 in 10 students said their employment plans have been negatively affected by COVID-19, One in two says that COVID-19 has made it more difficult to afford tuition and living costs, and 30 percent of returning and new students might change their plans about enrolling at a post-secondary institution in the fall.

INDIGENOUS IN POST-SECONDARY

On June 26, Federation representatives participated in a panel discussion hosted by University of Toronto Mississauga Local 109 on Indigenous students in Post-secondary education.

ORGANIZACIÓN CONTINENTAL LATINOAMERICANA Y CARIBEÑA DE ESTUDIANTES' (OCLAE) FORUM

On June 5, the Federation was invited by OCLAE, a federation of student federations from Latin America and the Caribbean, to participate in an online forum to share the realities students are facing in light of the pandemic and the calls to action student groups are making in response. Thirty-three student federations took part on the call from Chile all the way to Canada noting that the major patterns of concerns are access to the internet as programs move online, tuition fees, and lack of strong government responses.

GLOBAL STUDENT FORUM (GSF)

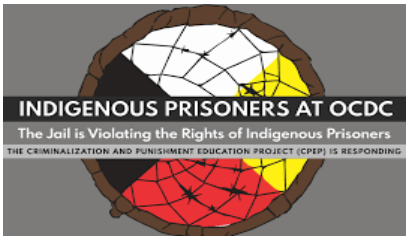
The GSF is a structure that is still in its formation and is meant to bring together student organizations and non-for-profits that work on student issues from all over the world. The leading organizations are regional platforms such as the OCLAE, the Commonwealth Student Association (CSA), the All-Africa Students Union (AASU), the European Students' Union (ESU), and the Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU). The Federation is an associate member; it is not a regional organization and Federation representatives are in the loop with the progress of the formation of this Forum. Any National Executive member is welcomed to become involved in this process and all pertinent documents are available upon request.

A STATEMENT ON ANTI-BLACK RACISM IN THE 2SLGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY

On July 17, 2020, 2Spirit and Queer Constituency Representative, Ahmed Abdallah, released a blog post on behalf of the National Queer Constituency of the Canadian Federation of Students regarding systemic and anti-Black racism that exists in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Emphasis was placed on the collective fight for community rights, and how this solidarity must be extended to BIPOC members. Honour was given to Kirvan Fortuin, Monika Diamond, Nina Pop, Tony McDade, Riah Milton who are identified as just a few of many Black queer folks who were murdered for simply existing as their true identities. Direction for non-Black, queer individuals was given to educate themselves and links to an allyship article and the Black Students' Caucus blog post were shared.

LEGAL NOTICE TO OTTAWA-CARLETON DETENTION CENTRE (OCDC) REGARDING ISSUES FACING INDIGENOUS PRISONERS

On July 30, The Federation signed onto a letter written by the Jail Accountability & Information Line. It speaks to the legal responsibility of OCDC to accommodate the spiritual and cultural needs of incarcerated Indigenous persons The letter was signed by 74 civil society organizations and was submitted just a few days after prisoners ended the second hunger strike at the provincial jail.



WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

On September 10, 2020, The Federation released a social media and blog post for World Suicide Prevention Day that highlighted available resources through the Federation, including the NGC Mental Health Toolkit and the COVID-19 fact sheet on student wellness. In addition, the new Accessible First-Aid lobbying guide was shared with members via email. The blog also called for diverse mental health responses and social workers in place of the police. Links to resources to help identify the signs of someone reaching out for help in a crisis, and free and diverse mental health support helpline initiatives were also included.

GLOBAL STUDENT FORUM (GSF)

Federation representatives sit at the Global Student Forum's Steering Committee. Presently the committee is developing pertinent policies to mandate the work of the GSF. Federation representatives are involved in the drafting of the COVID-19 and environmental justice policies.

MEETING WITH THE COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AUSTRALIA (CISA)

On July 23, 2020, The Federation met with representatives from CISA to connect our organizations and discuss their experiences with the privatized pathway program, Navitas, as well as share common experiences and barriers of international students. CISA revealed that pathway systems are highly normalized in Australia, due to the majority of post-secondary institutions being private. Navitas has reportedly been severely embedded into governing bodies, including having a seat on the international recruitment sector of the Australian Government. Both organizations shared comparable experiences for international students, including paying exorbitant tuition costs and difficulties accessing permanent residence - which is actually highly discouraged in Australia. CISA and the Federation hope to be able to meet to discuss international student issues on a global scale again in the future.

SERVICES

04



SERVICES



The Federation has a dual mandate to advocate on behalf of students and provide them with cost-saving services. These services offer member locals and individual members access to quality programs that promote ethically-sourced materials, an added value of membership, and cost savings. By using our services, students can immediately offset the high cost of education through savings on a day-to-day basis. The goals of the services are to bring additional revenue to the Federation to support campaigns and equity mandates and to bring added value to member locals and members through cost savings.

UFile

The Federation continues its partnership with UFile to bring free tax filing to members across the country. Students continue to take advantage of using the free, intuitive software that features a step-by-step process to input tax information to calculate the most favourable tax return. UFile is currently preparing materials that will be distributed by the Federation in early 2021.

New this year to the UFile program was refreshed promotional materials, digital creative for social media, and friends and family coupons.

Member locals that are interested in hosting tax clinics on campus should reach out to their Federation provincial office or the National Office for more information. Planning to host tax clinics should start in November 2020 so that volunteers can be properly trained and certified to assist members with tax filing. Member locals interested in hosting a tax clinic can reach the National Office for support.

HANDBOOK AND DAY PLANNER SERVICE

The members' Handbook and Day Planner Service was initiated to reduce the time and cost of producing handbooks and improve the overall quality of student union-produced day planners. Each day planner includes a calendar, a local campus section and a Federation section. Through our ability to purchase in bulk and by using economies of scale, the Federation is able to offer member locals a quality handbook for a significantly reduced price compared to market pricing.

This year, many member locals decided to decrease their order quantity or not order books due to the impacts of the pandemic and an unknown decision by campus administration on whether or not students would be returning to study in-person. The Federation was able to support participating member locals and kept costs as low as possible for quality, ethically produced books.

The Federation hopes to continue its partnership with a Toronto-based unionized printing company but is actively sourcing quotes from various printers to ensure members receive the lowest price possible. Like previous years, the program continues to produce the handbooks with post-consumer recycled paper and vegetable ink.

New for the handbook and day planner program this year is a completely redesigned calendar section. This customized calendar section provides more space for members to record their to-do lists, assignments, notes, and mood.

Member locals can accept 2021-2022 pricing for the handbook and day planner service in early 2021.



ETHICAL PURCHASING NETWORK

Since 2006, the Federation has coordinated the purchase of ethically produced and sustainably sourced materials for campuses across Canada. Products available through the Ethical Purchasing Network are union-made, from recycled materials, and are environmentally conscious.

The Federation has changed the general structure of the Ethical Purchasing Network since the Single Mother's Cooperative in El Salvador closed its doors and with some of the tariffs charged at the United States border in 2018. The Federation partners with a Canadian supplier for textiles and other supplies previously offered through the network. This partnership features negotiated pricing exclusive to member locals of the Federation. The Federation will remain the point of contact for placing orders and communicating with suppliers.

This year, the Federation was successfully able to partner with an organization to utilize all of the remaining mismatched coloured and sized shirts remaining in the Federation's inventory. This inventory remained with the Federation year after year as member locals expressed feedback there was no interest in obtaining these remaining shirts. The warehousing costs alone became a burden. The shirts will be utilized for community events and children's summer camps.

NATIONAL STUDENT HEALTH NETWORK

The National Student Health Network is a consortium for health and dental insurance that uses the combined purchasing power of Federation members to secure lower rates and better coverage. Working with Canada's only nonprofit insurance provider, Green Shield Canada (GSC), means that we can provide students with the best value and health outcomes and work collectively to move the industry in a positive direction. The Network also emphasizes annual rather than predatory multi-year contracts and more inclusive and holistic coverage options.

The Federation assists any member local with reviewing their plan renewal each year. This collaboration aims to ensure that member locals receive the best possible services and rates for their members in a profit-driven industry. The objective of this service is to ensure member locals are being told factual and transparent information from their health and dental insurance broker. For members of the National Student Health Network and Green Shield Canada, the plans are reviewed each year by a third-party consultant. This has saved participating member locals over $3 million dollars in premiums, since beginning this initiative in 2018.

Primary services of the Network include preparing promotional plan materials for each participating member local, processing opt-out requests, and negotiating for the best possible rates. The Network assists member locals and health plan administrators with the day-to-day operations of the health and dental plans to ensure the best possible experience for students.

Brand new to the Network for the 2020 plan year is Akira Virtual Health. Akira is a fully digital option for members to connect with a primary care physician or nurse for medical consultation. Akira offers various services, from medical consultations and advice, prescription medications, mental health support, diagnosis, imaging, labs, and referrals. Akira is available to members 24/7, in both French and English.

A new service of the Network, in its second year of availability, is BEACON. This is a CBT (cognitive behaviour therapy) program that is delivered digitally to students. Students can access BEACON through their GSC coverage, where they can connect with a mental health professional and begin the CBT based program. The Network and GSC have delivered promotional materials to all member locals on the Network, and continue to bring new and exciting materials from BEACON.

Another new service in its second year of availability is Interac e-transfer opt-outs. Participating member locals may choose to have their opt-out refunds delivered to approved members by Interac e-transfer. This solution can replace standard printed cheques if a member local prefers. Members can receive their opt-out refund quickly and efficiently, directly to their bank account of choice.

The Network is refining the Continuing Coverage care plans to bring refined materials for member locals. Continuing Care plans are specifically designed for any member to purchase as they transition from their Students' Union health and dental plan. These customized plans offer low rates for members so that they continue to be covered for health and dental essential services such as drug, extended healthcare, and dental after graduating, reducing to part-time, or no longer qualifying for the mandatory health and dental plan. This service is available to all members of the Federation, even if their previous health and dental plan were not GSC.

The Federation continues to diligently work on bringing new additions to the Network. Introduced in November of 2019, an International Student

Health Care plan is being created that will allow international students to access primary care coverage. This service allows member locals to take control of international health care plans on campus, which are typically outsourced to companies such as UHIP and Guard Me. The Network's International Student Health Care plan will provide transparent, quality coverage for international students without the extremely high commissions that other companies currently charge. The Federation is seeking interested member locals who would like to learn more about this plan so that, together, we can bring higher quality coverage to international students at a cheaper price.

A preferred pharmacy network is currently being finalized that will allow members to receive an additional discount on prescription medications at popular pharmacies across Canada. These pharmacies include Lawtons Drugs, Sobeys Pharmacy, Foodland Pharmacy, FreschCo Pharmacy, IGA Pharmacy, Safeway Pharmacy, Thrifty Foods and Sobeys Pharmacy by Mail. This network will allow members to access discounted costs of prescription medications and dispensing fees along with savings on every day, over the counter pharmacy products.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT IDENTITY CARD

The International Student Identity Card provides over 150,000 discounts worldwide. The card allows members to save on everyday purchases, travel, events, and attractions. The card is free as a benefit of membership for all members of the Canadian Federation of Students, a $20 value to members.

The Federation and ISIC global have committed to a more environmentally-friendly issuing process, promoting the virtual ISIC over physical cards. The virtual card allows members to have access to their ISIC at any time by using the mobile app available on all smartphones or computers. This ensures members always have access to their cards and the ability to obtain discounts. Member locals and Federation representatives have now primarily switched to issuing virtual. New discounts from Apple, Samsung, Brother have been added, among 15 others.

A new ISIC website has been relaunched that is simpler to navigate and easier for members to order their card as a benefit of membership.

The Federation can also create customized ordering portals for each member local. Member locals are able to direct their members to this customized portal to order an ISIC. Member locals will continue to be able to issue the card in addition to the customized portal. Any member local interested in having a customized order portal for ISIC can reach the National Office for support.

STUDENT WORK ABROAD PROGRAM (SWAP)

SWAP Working Holidays is Canada's largest international work exchange and travel program for students and youth. The program has been a Federation service for over 30 years. In the later 2000s, the program's operation was contracted out to Merit Travel, a Canadian travel company. The current agreement between Merit Travel and the Federation sees high commissions being charged on all SWAP related sales. This has impacted the profitability of the program.

Federation staff worked diligently with SWAP, Merit Travel, and legal counsel to find the most amicable solution to return profitability to the program. Leading up to March 2020, all avenues were being explored to enhance SWAP, including program development, refining operations, amending the services agreement and commission structure, selling the program, or winding down the program completely.

The Federation had sourced an interested company that would like to learn more about purchasing the SWAP program. BUNAC is an international travel

specialty company who are experts in the working holiday visa. The organization is already a major partner of SWAP in countries such as Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

Unfortunately, the impacts of COVID-19 and the global pandemic has had a devastating impact on SWAP, Merit Travel, and all of the partners that SWAP collaborated with around the globe. Since March 2020, the Federation has been working diligently with the administrator of SWAP – Merit Travel – to amicably minimize further losses and position the program for closure.

DIGITAL SERVICES

Established by a resolution at the May 2004 National General Meeting, the Federation's Digital Services was launched in 2005 in order to provide website, email, and mailing list services to member locals. As with all of the Federation's co-operative services, the goal of Digital Services is to provide high quality, student-focused services as cost-effectively as possible.

The Federation offers dedicated Canadian cloud hosting to member locals and components. This provides reliable and efficient hosting solutions to any web applications, including WordPress. The Federation offers support to member locals to host and maintain WordPress content management systems.

The Federation continues to provide domain name registration and management services, such as annual renewals and DNS configurations, as part of its Digital Services. Domain name registration and management requires purchasing domain names from companies that are designated registrars. This year, the Federation successfully transitioned all managed domains to a Canadian hosting registrar and has proven to be a robust, efficient, and full-featured service for the large number of domain names that the Federation registers, manages, and renews every year.

For email service, the Federation is able to support member locals' transition to solutions such as Google GSuite and Microsoft 365. Most member locals will be able to adopt these services at no cost, as a benefit of being a not-for-profit organization. Not only do these platforms provide powerful email service, but also groups, mailing lists, file storage, and productivity software like Microsoft Word and Google Docs.

An additional service the Federation maintains is a powerful letter writing tool. Member locals can collaborate with the Federation to offer this tool, which allows students to take action and send a pre-written letter to the board of governors, municipal council, provincial representatives, and even members of parliament.



INTERNAL

05

STUDENT CHOICE INITIATIVE

In January 2019, the Ontario Government announced detrimental changes to postsecondary education. Instead of improving the quality of education for students, the government launched a direct attack on students' unions and the Federation. The impact of these changes range from increased student debt, more loans, less grants and a massive reduction on student-focused advocacy and services on campus. The Federation collected a petition with 20,000 signatures, facilitated dozens of volunteer trainings and town halls, started campus coalitions, led rallies and occupations, held a week of action, organized a province - wide walkout, and more.

The Federation initiated a legal challenge alongside the York Federation of Students on the basis that the government lacked the authority to implement such a policy and acted with an improper purpose. The hearing lasted six hours, during which the Canadian Federation of Students, the York Federation of Students, and the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union(as intervenors) presented their case to repeal this policy. On November 21, 2019, the Divisional Court released their unanimous decision deeming the Student Choice Initiative unlawful.

The Government of Ontario filed an appeal to the decision of the Ontario Divisional Court on December 6, 2019, to overturn the Student Choice Initiative ruling. The appeal has been reviewed and the court has decided to proceed with the appeal hearing. A date has not yet been scheduled for the hearing. Goldblatt Partners, the firm representing the Federation and York Federation of Students (local 68), anticipate a hearing may be scheduled in the spring or summer of 2021. Due to COVID19, all court appointments have been delayed.

Until a decision is made by the Court of Appeal for Ontario, Student Choice Initiative remains unlawful and opt-out portals are illegal for institutions to operate. On July 2, 2020, the Federation was pleased to hear that the University of Toronto, Queen's University, University of Ottawa, University of Waterloo and the University of Western joined the Student Choice Initiative challenge as intervenors. On August 21, Goldblatt proposed to the Ontario government to withdraw the case which if agreed to, would allow student unions to continue regular operations. On September 15, 2020, the government responded and noted they would like to proceed with the appeal.

The Federation is committed to ensuring that progessive student issues remain at the forefront of government and public awareness.

BUILDING UPDATE

Throughout the 2019 period, the National Executive reported to members various concerns regarding the National Office property located at 338 Somerset Street West, Ottawa. In light of the Student Choice Initiative, office size exceeding the needs of the organization, and ballooning maintenance costs associated with a heritage property, the National Executive began the process of selling the property. The property exceeded 8,000 square feet of space and required significant investment to maintain, including more immediate attention to plumbing, foundational, and structural issues. The property was officially sold in April of 2020 for $2,700,000.
A search for a new office took place over 11 months to replace 338 Somerset Street West. This included smaller properties the Federation could purchase and spaces available for lease.

A freehold commercial condominium property became available in Ottawa, directly on the main transit-way and main highway 417, located at 200-2725 Queensview Drive. This smaller, 3,000 square feet property offered more functional space and the building was constructed in 2009. Compared to the Federation's previous property, 200-2725 Queensview Drive is substantially less to own and maintain.

The cost to lease a similar sized property in Ottawa would be more per month than the costs associated with owning and maintaining 200-2725 Queensview Drive. Another benefit of this new property is that it is structured so that it would be easily partitioned if the Federation required less space. This would allow the Federation to find a tenant to rent a portion of the space, who would contribute to maintenance costs through lease payments. The National Executive approved purchasing this property for $1,050,000, and the Federation took possession on August 17, 2020.
The new address of the Federation's National Office is:
Canadian Federation of Students
200-2725 Queensview Drive
Ottawa, ON, K2B 0A1

MEMBERSHIP FEES

When the Federation was founded in 1981, the national membership fee was set at $2.00 per student per semester. In 1992, member locals voted to increase the fee from $2.00 to $3.00. At the same time, a Bylaw was adopted stipulating that starting in 1996, the fee would be adjusted each academic year by the rate of change in the Canadian Consumer Price Index (CPI) during the previous calendar year. The Federation's national membership fee for the current academic year is $4.76 per student per semester2

NATIONAL
EXECUTIVE TEAM

Between national general meetings, the National Executive, along with the staff of the organization, manage the Federation's projects and implement the vision outlined by members.

Chairperson: Sofia Descalzi
Deputy Chairperson: Nicole Brayiannis
National Treasurer: Alannah McKay
British Columbia Representative: Sarah Strachan
Alberta Representative: vacant
Saskatchewan Representative: Chiamaka Ezekwesili
Manitoba Representative: Brenden Gali
Ontario Representative: Kayla Weiler
Quebec Representative: vacant
New Brunswick Representative: Ramin Shamsdini
Nova Scotia Representative: JoAnna Clark
Prince Edward Island Representative: Vacant
Newfoundland & Labrador Representative: Bailey Howard
2Spirit and Trans Commissioner: Olson Crow
Black Students' Caucus Representative: Azinwi Kien Saningong
Circle of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students' Representative: Megan Malcolm
Colleges & Institutes Representative: Taranjeet Manchanda
National Graduate Caucus Representative (interim): Wesam Abdelhamid Mohamed
Francophone Students' Representative: Pape Abdoulaye Xavier Diagne
International Students' Representative: Ankit Tripathi
Racialized Students' Representative: Vacant
Student Disability Justice Representative: Levi Clarkson
Women's Representative: Noelle Sagher

NATIONAL
STAFF TEAM

Campaigns Coordinator: Diana Idibe
Communications Coordinator: Taylan McRae-Yu
Finance Director (part-time): Lesley Griffiths
Director of Services: Corey Grist
Executive Director: Nicole Picton
Manitoba Organizer: Elizabeth Shearer
Maritimes Organizer: Sarah Trower
Membership & Services Coordinator: Raven Davidson
Newfoundland & Labrador Organizer: Alex Wicks
Research & Government Relations Coordinator: Shailene Panylo



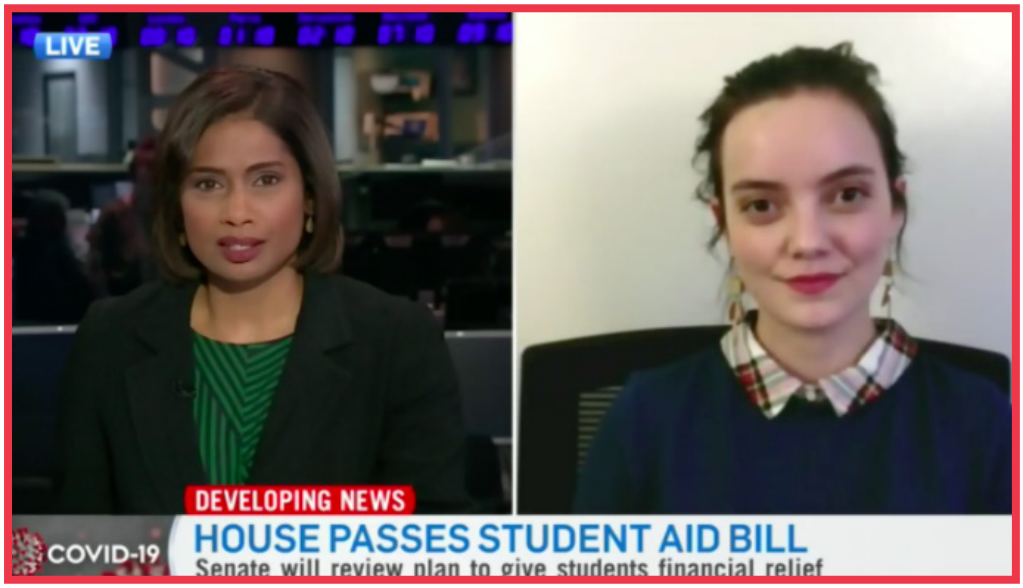
COMMUNICATIONS

06

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

This year, the Federation has been featured in countless articles, radio broadcasts, and television shows. We are considered the most reliable voice of the student movement and continue to be called on to share our opinions and advice. This is advantageous because it has allowed us to push student issues to the forefront of the media and the public's attention.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have experienced a significant increase in media features to share our insight for the student experience. The main of focus these interviews included COVID-19 student relief supports - including the Canadian Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) and the failed Canada Student Service Grant (CSSG), safety concerns about return to campus, increasing tuition fees, a decimated job market, and the overall current state of post-secondary education.



Sofia Descalzi, Chairperson, joined CTV News at the start of the pandemic to discuss the newly announced Canadian Emergency Student Benefit and Canada Student Service Grant, and to outline the shortfalls of these programs and necessary next steps for student relief.

"We still have cops on our campuses that brutalize students, we still have security that cards students, we still have racist profs that say the N-word in classes," says Azinwi Kien, Black Students Representative, in a feature with Vice News.


Canadian Universities Using 'Black Death as a PR stunt': Students

Black students say their experiences on campus are in sharp contrast to the rosy Black Lives Matter statements universities have been making in recent weeks.

By Sarah Krichel

June 18, 2020, 11:58am SHARE TWEET Snap

PROTESTERS GATHER DURING A RALLY IN TORONTO ON SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2020. THE CANADIAN PRESS IMAGES/CHRIS YOUNG



"It's clear that this isn't an area where we can afford to make cuts if we want to ensure a functioning society after the pandemic... we've asked for an immediate significant reduction in tuition fees, because Nova Scotia actually has the highest tuition fees in the entire country," says Joanna Clark, Nova Scotia Chairperson, in a feature with HalifaxToday.



Nicole Brayiannis, National Deputy Chairperson, discusses the dangers and inaccessibility of the Canada Student Service Grant for students and calls for the allocation of the $912 million to the CESB in a feature with Hill Times.



Nicole Brayiannis, National Deputy Chairperson, alongside Brandon Rheal Amyot, Local 32 Board of Director and Don't Forget Students representative, joined CBC's Power and Politics to discuss the failed Canada Student Service Grant program and shortfalls of pandemic student relief.



"Canada needs to protect the people it welcomes through its borders, including international students. 'The international students of today are future Canadians; we should be treated like our lives matter as well,' Ada said. Extending CESB to include international students would be a step in the right direction to support all students who study in Canada during these unprecedented times." - Wesam AbdElhamid Mohamed, Chairperson of the National Graduate Caucus, writes in an article for New Canadian Media.

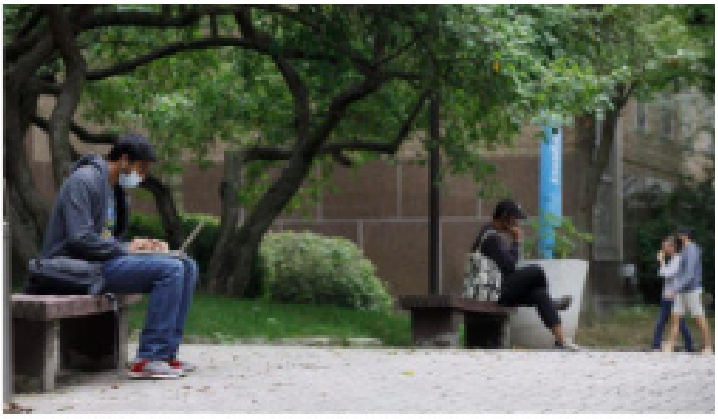


LETTER: Don't forget international students

Premium content
The Chronicle Herald
Published: Aug 04 at 1:20 p.m.
Updated: Aug 05 at 6 a.m.

The St. John's area is home to thousands of international students who attend Memorial University and contribute to the fabric of our community. — Telegram file photo

"For a provincial government that has focused on immigration as a way forward, neglecting international students is not only counter-intuitive but counter-productive." - Bailey Howard, Chairperson of Newfoundland and Labrador, writes in an open letter for The Chronicle Herald.

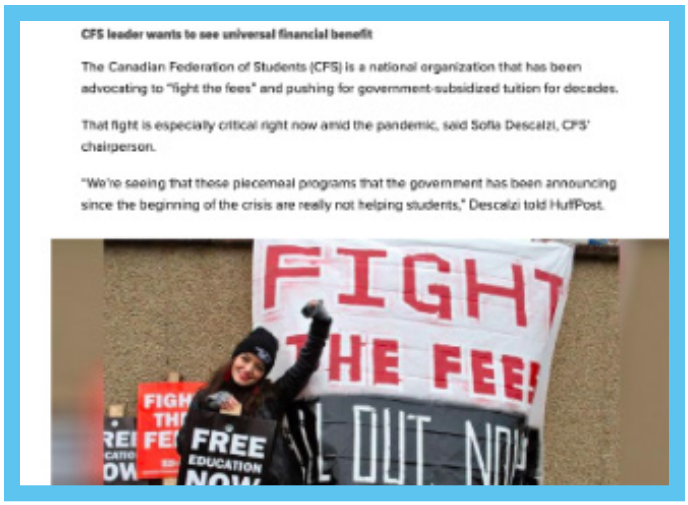


People sit at the Ryerson University campus in Toronto, Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020. Post-secondary students are paying the same or more tuition compared to last year, including fees for inaccessible facilities as many take classes online. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Cole Burston

Post-secondary students paying for inaccessible services as they study online

Canadian Federation of Students says the fees are an added burden on young people

"Fees are an added burden on young people who have been left behind throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The federation is calling on the federal government to provide immediate financial support for post-secondary students," says Nicole Brayiannis, National Deputy Chairperson in a feature with The Canadian Press.



CFS leader wants to see universal financial benefit

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) is a national organization that has been advocating to "fight the fees" and pushing for government-subsidized tuition for decades.

That fight is especially critical right now amid the pandemic, said Sofia Descalzi, CFS' chairperson.

"We're seeing that these piecemeal programs that the government has been announcing since the beginning of the crisis are really not helping students," Descalzi told HuffPost.

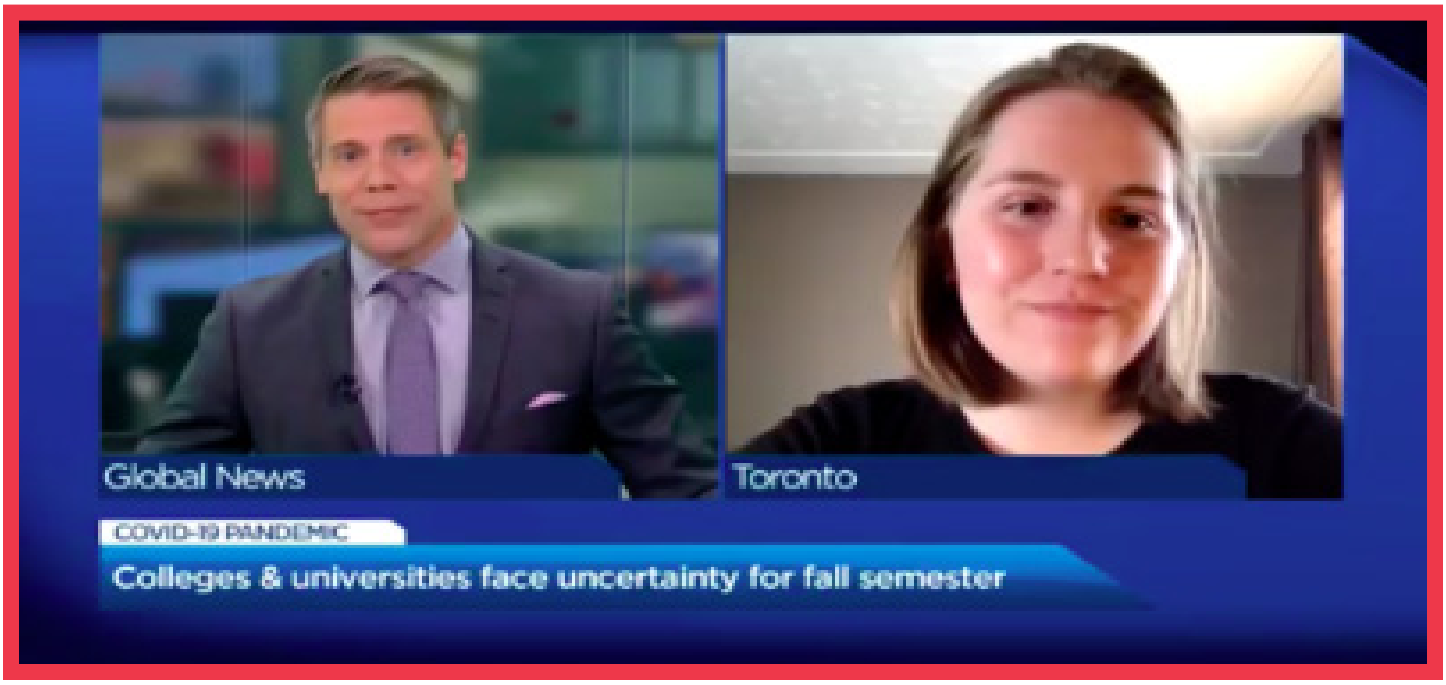
Sofia Descalzi, National Chairperson, emphasizes the need for free education and comprehensive financial support programs for post-secondary students in a feature with Huffington Post.



hrone speech reaction

iz, labour, educators, chiefs and advocates weigh in

"In the throne speech today we heard that this government not only wants to control how our post-secondary institutions are funded but also threatens student choices in what they study. This is unacceptable and this government is telling students and faculty that they don't respect their environments of learning," says Brenden Gali, Manitoba Chairperson, in a feature with Winnipeg Free Press.



Kayla Weiler, Ontario National Executive Representative, joins Global News to discuss challenges facing students in the fall semester, including high tuition fees following a summer of unemployment.



Nicole Brayiannis, National Deputy Chairperson, joined Unpublished Ottawa's podcast alongside labour union coalition partners from the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) and the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) to discuss safety concerns for returning to campus and barriers to online learning during COVID-19.