

National Executive Report

41st Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students

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Land Acknowledgement

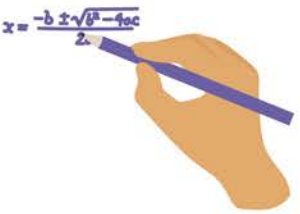
We would like to begin by acknowledging that although this meeting is taking place virtually, we currently each reside on the unceded and unsurrendered territories of Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge the land both as an explicit reminder of the ongoing colonialism taking place here in Canada and as 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 CFS

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. We're working 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

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 41st Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students!

For a few years now, we, as students, have been braving the new and unprecedented challenges of the pandemic. This September, we were thrilled to see students making a return back to campus and, for many students, attending in-person classes for the very first time in their post-secondary journey. From coast to coast, we are so excited to be back together again. We're thrilled to see the ways student unions across the country have adapted to the numerous challenges created, or exacerbated, by the pandemic, and the ways in which you have evolved programming and services to best suit the needs of your members. In recent months, National Executive members and Staff of the Federation have had the privilege of visiting campuses around the country to witness some of these changes, and we couldn't be more proud of all your efforts to support your students.

Many students have struggled due to structural and policy gaps that left them helpless and struggling throughout the pandemic. This continues to prove that when push comes to shove, students are often set up to fail and left on their own with little to no support from their institutions or governments— particularly impacting those with marginalized identities.

We have seen countless victories from the student movement throughout the years, and this year has been no different. From fighting for student and student union autonomy, to keeping post-secondary institutions in check, holding governments accountable, to creating safer, more accessible, and more affordable spaces for students to access education.

Over the Summer and Fall, we travelled to campuses across Turtle Island, meeting with students from coast to coast and compiling their shared experiences and identifying demands for free and accessible education, equitable policies, food security, adequate housing, safety, and more. We will continue to fearlessly advocate and organize for students and their rights to accessible post-secondary education for all.

As students, we represent the future. We must never forget the incredible potential of the student movement to bring equity, justice, and liberation of hardships endured by students for all future generations of learners to come. While the national student debt is currently sitting at $22.3 billion, it has never been more vital for students to have the avenues to stand up to and fight the

Message from the At-Large

federal government from profiting off of student debt and suffering.

From the recent win for students and workers with announcement of the short-term removal of the 20 hour working cap on International students, the expansion of student financial aid for students with disabilities, to additional federal work placements for students, and action on increasing funding for graduate students and post-doctoral students in the 2023 Budget, we are pleased to see action from the federal government that put students first. However, we know there is so much more work to be done.

Just this past year alone, we've witnessed and participated in so many student-led actions across the country. From a province-wide Day of Action in Newfoundland and Labrador, to an inspiring Atlantic RISE Summit and changes to healthcare coverage for international students in Nova Scotia, to the Demand the Future campaign in Ontario, a Skills Symposium in Manitoba, engagement with students in British Columbia, and the rebuilding connections with students in Saskatchewan and reactivating the Saskatchewan provincial component! Students across the country are doing the works that needs to be done to connect and uplift our communities and organize for a better future.

As we celebrate over 40 years of student advocacy, we want you all to remember that the work of the student movement is deeply rooted in resilience and resistance. These values are a vehicle for change that will continue to empower students to organize and win victories that once seemed unthinkable—the future is boundless when students take action for the future.

Thank you all for your dedication to the student movement and fight for free and accessible Education for All. We cannot wait to welcome you all in-person to the National General Meeting to continue to further the legacy of being a united student movement.

And as we always say, **"the students united, will never be defeated".**

In solidarity,
At-Large Representatives



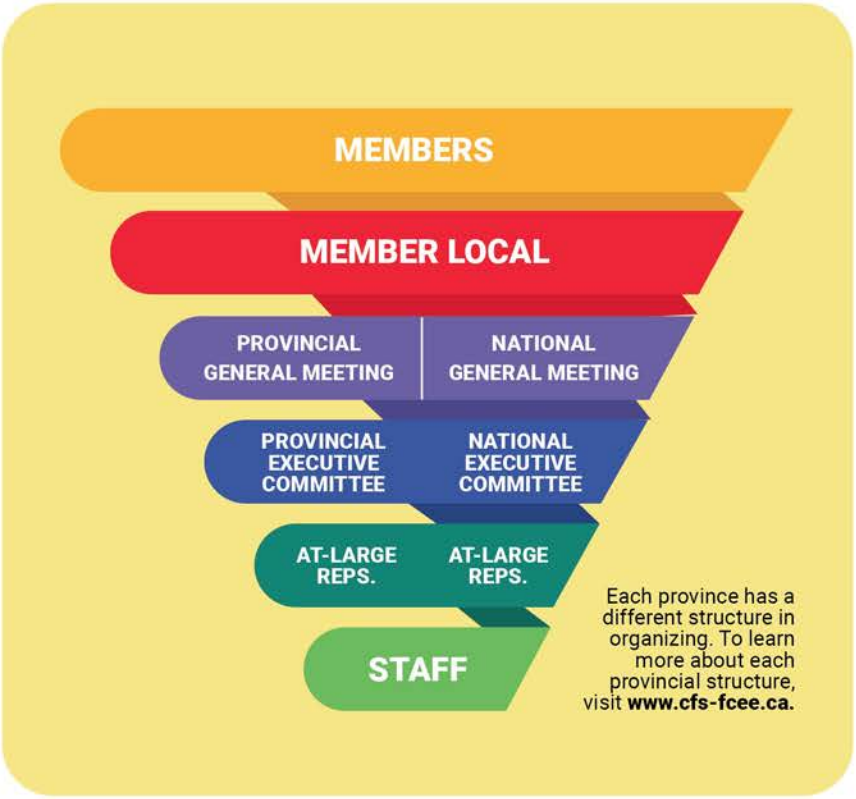


Structure

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

Campaigns Updates: 2022 Work Groups and Redevelopment Project

Following a campaigns motion from Local 68 at the 2021 National General Meeting, the Campaigns and Education Officer and the at-large executive facilitated working group sessions to gather student feedback on Federation campaigns.

During the fall 2021 National General Meeting (NGM), members voted to revamp the "Consent is Mandatory" and "United for Equity" Campaigns on campus. Recognizing changing societal attitudes and an increased need on campus, this campaign revamp ensured that students on campuses have the tools they need to advocate for more just campus communities.

Between February and April 2022, students participated in two campaigns working groups. Students from member locals across the country attended each meeting and they provided specific feedback on existing campaign materials, campaign documents, and participated in a campaign mood-boarding session to inform the redesigned visual identity of the campaign.

Campaigns Revamp - Project Timeline Overview

Item	Date	Notes
Motions Received	November 2022	Local 68 submitted two campaigns motions with deadlines for 2022
Working Group Call Out	January 2022	Working group call out included an information form
Working Group Meetings	February-April 2022	An average of ten students and staff members from provincial offices attended each meeting
Campaigns Office Hour	March 2022	Working group members provided with additional opportunities to provide feedback and discuss a vision for campaigns
Surveys	February-April 2022	The surveys existed as an asynchronous participation method for students unable to attend meetings

Campaigns

Campaigns Revamp - Project Timeline Overview

Item	Date	Notes
Feedback Compilation	April 2022	All feedback from each individual survey, the working group meetings, and campaigns office hour was compiled to create a content development plan The feedback also informed two separate design briefs that were sent to DePlume - An Indigenous owned and led design firm
Design Process Began	April 2022	Design de Plume supported the develop of an updated branding kit for both campaigns including new fonts, colours, and used the MURAL moodboards from the working group to produce new branding
Copywriting and Content Development	April-July 2022	Content development included the creation and writing of two new toolkits, sample tweets and social media captions, compilation of additional resources for student use
Design Process Continued	July - August 2022	Internal designer took completed brand guidelines and produced materials for Federation members
Final Revisions and Translation	August-September 2022	Materials, including the fact sheets were reviewed by the communications team and sent for translation
Material Distribution	September 2022	Updated campaigns guide was sent to members in an email with opportunities to place orders

Campaigns

Consent is Mandatory
Throughout spring 2022, the Campaigns and Education Officer has been working on creating a revamped campaign kit to support member locals in rolling out the Consent is Mandatory campaign. This will include updated visuals, a list of campaign tactics based on specific systems of oppression, and access to social media tools and templates. Some of the tools include sample tweets, instagram posts, and responses to pushback. The campaign will be rolled out before November 2022.

In support of the Consent is Mandatory campaigns revamp, the Campaigns and Education Officer participated in the following events and conversations:

- Queering Gender Based Violence Prevention - This event took place on June 15, 2022 and was facilitated by The Canadian Women's Foundation and Wisdom2Action.
  - The event featured a number of sector experts who spoke to organizations and service providers about gender based violence prevention in queer specific contexts.
- Some of the resources that informed the discussion include:
  - Queering Gender- Based Violence Prevention & Response in Canada JUNE 2022 | PREPARED BY: WISDOM2ACTION
  - Toolkit Queering GBV Prevention and Intervention: A Toolkit for Service Providers. This event provided insight into how the Consent is Mandatory campaign could better support student leaders from all intersections.



United for Equity
Upon conclusion of the working groups, the Campaigns and Education Officer along with the National Treasurer and National Deputy Chairperson compiled student and staff feedback to create a "Campaign Kit" that will house the campaign branding, social media copy, and any tools and resources needed for member locals to run the campaign. New additions to the campaign include updated definitions, outreach strategies, and a newly designed suite of digital materials.

Campaigns

Factsheet Redevelopment
In collaboration with the Research and Policy Analyst, the "Consent on Campus" fact sheet was updated. This factsheet includes some of the more recent statistics about sexual violence on campuses. It is the hope that campus leaders can rely on the new data when doing outreach work and formulating campus specific strategies.

The Research and Policy Analyst also updated the "International Student Undergraduate Tuition" factsheet. The factsheet shows the increasing and worrisome trend of exorbitant tuition increases over the past 5 years. It also includes an overview of the existing limitations regarding international student employment, decrease in government funding and breakdown of average tuition fees per international student by university and college. With this updated factsheet, student leaders and advocates can use the statistics and information to educate the public, student populations, and policymakers on the two-tiered education system and lived experiences of international students.

Atlantic Racialized and Indigenous Student Experience Forum (RISE) 2022
From June 20-22, 2022, delegates from across the country participated in the Atlantic Racialized Indigenous Student Experience (RISE) forum in Pictou, Nova Scotia. The Atlantic RISE Forum brought together Racialized and Indigenous students from the Atlantic provinces and the rest of the country. Delegates had the opportunity to learn and grow with the community through interactive workshops, skill-building activities, and facilitated discussions. Some of the key programming highlights included an Anti-Oppression workshop, a keynote from poet, scholar, and activist El Jones, and a workshop from the Youth Project about decolonizing gender.

Education for All
The Federation continues to work with the Education For All Coalition to develop research, and advocacy actions developed at government, and raise awareness of the need for high-quality, affordable, post-secondary education. A third report commissioned by the Education For All Coalition was released in the Spring of 2022.

Through the Federation's participation with the coalition, the focus is on advocating for key issues affecting students such as the need to expand tuition waivers, establishing local and provincial chapters, and producing sector-wide research in collaboration with coalition partners.

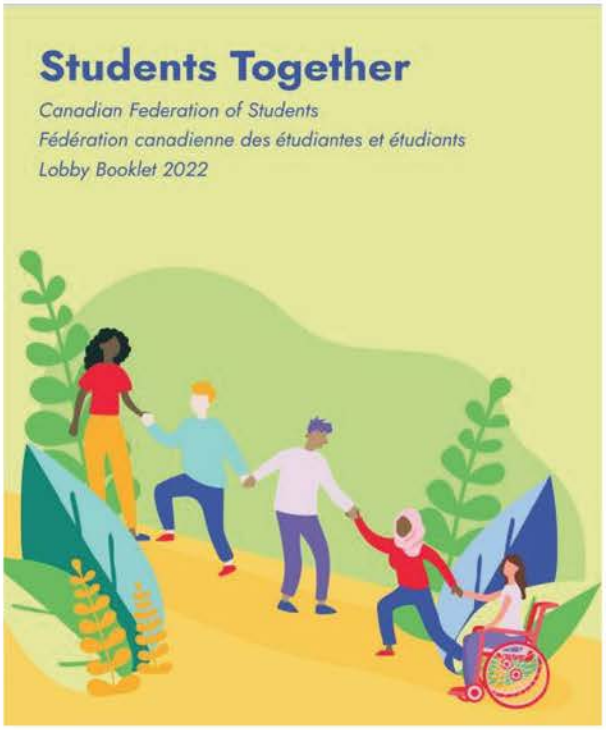
Government Relations

Lobby Week 2022
Every year the Federation hosts Lobby Week to allow representatives from across the country to lobby their Members of Parliament and Senators regarding student issues with the hopes of seeing them addressed within the new federal budget. The purpose of Lobby Week is to advocate for a publically fully funded post-secondary education system, while also highlighting the key intersections of student interests, including climate justice, racial justice, fairness for international students, and increasing funding for post-secondary researchers and employees.



Prior to the December break, the Federation reached out to all Members of Parliament to provide an update on the current state of student debt. Furthermore, the Federation corresponded with all relevant Ministers regarding their newly-created mandate letters. The Federation's At-Large Executives held meetings with Members of Parliament in the lead-up to Lobby Week. These meetings mostly focused on the need for student support during the ongoing Omicron crisis.

The Federation held the annual Lobby Week at Parliament Hill from February 22 to 25, 2022, with three preparatory delegate training that fell on January 21, February 2, and February 17 to ensure delegates received adequate and thorough training.



Government Relations

We had a record-breaking number of delegates sign up (over 90) and students met with 62 Parliamentarians from every party to discuss issues impacting post-secondary students.

We released a survey to ask delegates how they felt the meetings went, and the overall response was very positive, with students feeling relatively prepared to go into the meetings due to the resources, as well as feeling like the meetings went well, with some MPs providing commitments. Since Lobby week, we followed up with thank you emails, as well as responses to some of the more specific questions Parliamentarians had. Delegates from across the country lobbied Members on 6 issues:

Education for All	**Fairness for International Students**	**Support for Indigenous Learners**
Wages & Cost of Living	**Climate Justice**	**Health Care & Mental Health Supports**

Some notable meetings that took place were with Minister Qualtrough (Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion), Minister Bennett (Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health), Minister Hussen (Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion), Minister Hajdu (Minister of Indigenous Services), as well as a meeting with MP Jagmeet Singh (Leader of the New Democratic Party) and MP Heather McPherson to discuss our support for Bill C-260 (the Canada Post-Secondary Education Act).

Government Relations

Education for All

In 2022, the Federation continued its work with labour partners PSAC, CUPE, NUPGE, and CAUT on the Education for All campaign. The campaign continues to advocate for the need for a fully-funded public system of post-secondary education and the elimination of privatization on campuses. The Federation will continue pursuing advocacy in the coalition that includes climate justice, racial justice, fairness for international students, and increased funding for graduate students and researchers.

Vote on Campus

The Federation met with Elections Canada on September 21, 2022, along with other student organizations and national groups, to discuss the planning ahead of the next federal election for the Vote on Campus program. The Federation's Chairperson, Marie Dolcetti-Koros, expressed the need for student employment to be clearly communicated and the passion that international students have for their involvement in the democratic process, advocating for opportunities to increase participation and relax limitations on eligibility requirements for non-citizens.

NAGSFA

The Federation was asked to collaborate with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations on a presentation developed for the National Advisory Group for Student Financial Assistance. On November 1, 2022, the national Deputy Chairperson, Wesam AbdElhamid Mohamed, participated in the joint presentation on behalf of the Federation that focused on common barriers and challenges that students experience when applying for financial assistance. This was the first student-led presentation hosted for the advisory group since 2015.

Government Relations

Submissions & Recommendations

In 2021, the Federal government sent numerous requests for submissions, recommendations, and feedback to the Federation. Through these requests, the Federation was able to continue to advocate on behalf of post-secondary students and graduates' needs and shape the federal government's priorities around post-secondary education in this country. The following requests for submissions and recommendations occurred in 2022:

1. In March 2022, MP Heather McPherson tabled Private Member's Bill C-260: the Canada Post Secondary Education Act. This was a re-introduced bill of the same name and contents by MP McPherson that dissolved in the House due to the 2021 Federal Election. The Federation continued to be consulted as a stakeholder in the re-introduction of the bill and provided recommendations. The Act would ensure that federal support for post-secondary education promotes high-quality and accessible education by establishing dedicated criteria and conditions that provinces would have to meet to obtain federal funding amounts. In the previous version of this bill that was tabled in the last parliamentary session, the Federation pushed for the inclusion of international students and has succeeded in the inclusion of international students in the current version of Bill C-260. The Federation participated in a press conference alongside CAUT in showing our support for the bill and its positive impacts on post-secondary students. We launched a campaign in support of the Bill alongside the Education for All stakeholders, and have asked our members to call on their Members of Parliament to vote in favour of Bill C-260.

2. The Federation was asked to submit a pre-budget submission in advance of Budget 2023. The Federation provided a list of 6 recommendations the federal government should adopt and follow in order to address the needs of post-secondary students:
   - Universally Accessible and Free Post-Secondary Education
   - Fairness for International Students
   - Housing
   - Graduate Students and Research
   - Improvements to Mental Health Supports
   - Decolonize Learning

Solidarity

Vote 16 Initiative
On April 7, 2022, the Federation met with MP Taylor Bachrach to discuss his office's legislative initiative to lower the national voting age to 16. The Federation discussed opportunities to support the legislation in a bipartisan manner as a continuation of the Federation's longstanding history of advocating for increased youth participation and education in elections to further legislative action on issues affecting students and Youth.

On September 28, 2022, the Federation endorsed bill C-210 proposed by MP Taylor Bachrachan and the Vote16 campaign to lower the national voting age to 16. The Federation discussed opportunities to support the legislation bipartisanly as a continuation of the Federation's longstanding history of advocating for increased youth participation and education in elections to further legislative action on issues affecting students and Youth.

CLMG Spring 2022 Members' Assembly
On May 26, 2021, the National Deputy Chairperson participated in this spring's 2022 Members' Assembly with the ICLMG. There was discussion surrounding various human rights issues and the national Chairperson ensured that human rights issues affecting students, particularly international students, were central to the discussions taking place.

Climate Anxiety Podcast (Courage My Friends)
On June 8, 2022, the National Chairperson was invited and spoke on the Climate Anxiety Podcast to talk about the work that the Federation is doing to advocate for effective climate change policy, the robust work of climate change activists in the student movement, and the disproportionate effect climate change has on students. Climate anxiety and climate justice organizing: Fearing the future, finding hope and fighting for our planet – Part 2

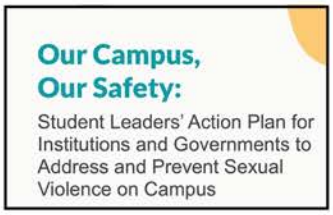
Solidarity

Debt Collective Canada
The Federation has continued to participate in the development of the newly-created Canadian chapter of the Debt Collective. The Federation will continue to ensure that advocacy surrounding student debt is placed at the forefront of the conversation surrounding debt abolishment and intersecting issues affected by debt in Canada.

Alternative Federal Budget
The Federation participated in various working groups in the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives initiative, the Alternative Federal Budget (AFB). The Federation advocated for free and accessible education and increased student supports to be included in the AFB. The AFB was published on September 22, 2022 and the Federation shared the AFB on social media.



Student Leader's Action Plan
In June 2022, student leaders representing a combined 1.2 million students across the country gathered to discuss gender-based and sexual violence at post-secondary institutions. The Federation is proud to be of the organizations that helped inform the Our Campus, Our Safety: Student leader Action Plan. This plan is an important reminder that student voices and experiences are central to the creation of policies and protocols for safe(r) campus communities.



Our Campus, Our Safety: Student Leaders' Action Plan for Institutions and Governments to Address and Prevent Sexual Violence on Campus

Solidarity

Support Our Science

On August 11, 2022, the Federation and the National Graduate Caucuses endorsed the Support Our Science campaign calling for academic support and living wages for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral scholars. The Federation's research and policy analyst, James Casey, attended the rally at Parliament Hill and continues to collaborate with campaign organizers on with campaign organizers on alignment of priorities with organizations in the education sector ahead of pre-budget submissions, continuing dialogue with the Minister of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development, and continuing to promote the letter writing campaign to put pressure on the government to seek action on ensuring Graduate Students and Post-doctoral Scholars do not live in poverty, which has already seen letters sent by over 1,500 people and a petition signed by over 3,500 people.

Consent Awareness Week

From September 19-23, the Federation joined Possibility Seeds and student leaders across Canada to promote Consent Awareness Week to advocate against Gender Based Sexualized Violence on campus and the Our Campus Our Safety action plan. The Federation continues to support the implementation of Canada's Action Plan Against Gender-Based Violence through the Consent is Mandatory campaign.

LeadNow

On September 29, 2022, the Federation's National Chairperson and Director of Strategy, along with the CFS-ON chairperson, met with Managing Organizer from LeadNow, Dan Mossip-Balkwill, to discuss ongoing campaign initiatives and solidarity opportunities. The Federation and LeadNow hope to continue to work together over the next year to provide engagement opportunities for members while amplifying the Federation's campaigns.

Solidarity

Orange Shirt Day

On September 30, 2022, the Federation participated in the first Orange Shirt Day. Orange shirt day is a day to honour Indigenous children who were forcibly removed from their home communities and placed in residential schools. The orange shirt refers to the new shirt that Phyllis Webstad was given by her grandmother before she went to St. Joseph's Mission residential school. The orange shirt symbolizes what was taken away from Phyllis and so on September 30, all wear orange shirts to remember that every child matters. The At-large executives and staff members all wore orange shirts featured on Federation social media. Additionally, the Federation directed members to resources like books, movies, and podcasts so that they could educate themselves and show solidarity.



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 while member locals are able to focus budget allocations on advocating for members. The additional 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.

National Student Health Network

NATIONAL STUDENT HEALTH NETWORK

The National Student Health Network (NSHN) 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 national non-profit 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 NSHN also emphasizes annual rather than predatory multi-year rate 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 NSHN and GSC, each unique plan is reviewed annually by an independent consultant. This has saved participating member locals over $3.7 million dollars in premiums, since beginning this initiative in 2018.

Primary services of the NSHN include preparing promotional plan materials for each participating member local, processing opt-out refunds, negotiating for the best possible rates, forming strategic partnerships with quality service providers, and implementing innovative solutions for all members. The NSHN 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.

Services

Last year, both the NSHN and GSC completely refreshed all materials, including print and digital resources. The GSC website was transformed into a fully accessible website with refined content and tailored student-focused pages. The Student Centre platform, which is a custom website dedicated to each participating member local, was included in this refresh. The NSHN followed suit, rebranding all print and digital materials which matched the design of digital assets for a seamless and recognizable experience for students. Students now have access to GSC Everywhere – a leading online experience for students to submit claims, sign up for direct deposit reimbursement, participate in exclusive GSC programs, and access their plan member ID card. GSC Everywhere is also completely mobile, available on all major app stores that can be downloaded to smartphone devices.

The NSHN is pleased to provide all NSHN member locals with the Inkblot Student Assistance Program (SAP) to support members and their dependents. Inkblot is Canada's first and largest digital SAP provider which offers video counselling delivered on a secure and encrypted platform. Live counselling sessions take place on a member's smartphone, tablet, or laptop. Inkblot offers phone appointments and in-person appointments if a practitioner is within the member's community. Members can make an appointment within 24-48 hours. This program is completely confidential, voluntary, and accessible at their convenience. Particularly, for students who may be residing in remote locations or smaller communities where mental health practitioners are simply not present or have long waitlists. Inkblot offers immediate and confidential help with personal life, relationships, family, school, work concerns – any time, any place, and in over 20 languages. Through culturally diverse practitioners such as Social Workers, Psychotherapists, and Registered Clinical Counsellors with minimum masters-level education, members can access short- or long-term counselling based on their clinical needs and preferences.

Services

All members have:

- A full spectrum of short and long-term support;
- 5 hours of individual counselling per student per year; additional hours can be submitted to GSC for reimbursement as per the benefit plan design;
- 5 hours of couple counselling per student per year; additional hours can be submitted to GSC for reimbursement as per the benefit plan design;
- Complimentary 15-minute initial session;
- Mental health assessment tool and matching technology to pair a student with a committed and reoccurring practitioner that matches their needs including care needs and personal preferences;
- Video, phone, and in-person counselling delivery formats;
- 24/7/365 crisis support phone line, answered by masters-level clinician;
- Student mental health training online platform;
- Personalized wellness hub and content board featuring diverse and engaging content, relevant to students;
- Accessible through the fully featured mobile app or webpage.

Inkblot also features additional services available to students, all at no additional costs. Examples of Inkbot's Work-life Advisory Services include:



- Legal Services- legal consultations for real estate, family/custody, wills/estate planning, landlord/tenant issues, criminal
- Fianancial Services - debt management, budgeting, buying/selling a home, RRSP/TFSA contributions
- Life Coaching - locating childcare, eldercare and other local resources
- Health Coaching - health coaching including nutrition, chronic medical conditions, smoking cessation, weight management, postpartum support
- Career Coaching - career development and transitions, resume review, interview skills

The NSHN continues to work with PocketPills, a digital pharmacy, to connect students with pharmacists right from their computer or smartphone. PocketPills provides students with the lowest cost dispensing fee and drug costs. Combining this with the ease of access, PocketPills can transfer or fill prescriptions with a few actions through their smartphone app. Besides prescriptions, PocketPills offers a variety of vitamins and

Services

other wellness products that empower members to prioritize their health. Medications are couriered to students' addresses, no matter where they are located, with the quickest

priority setting. All members of the NSHN have access to this service, including customized promotional materials. From January 2022 through to the end of August 2022, the NSHN and PocketPills were able to offer all NSHN members 100% prescription drug coverage, regardless of their health plan benefits. Beginning in September 2022, all members receive an additional 10% coverage, reducing their copay while bundling a competitively low prescription refill fee. A value-added service included with PocketPills is complimentary access to a virtual doctor. When members have a question about the medications or have an ailment needing attention, the PocketPills virtual doctor may be an option!

Participating members continue to have the option of accessing Maple telemedicine in their plan if the member local has opted to include Maple within their plan design. Maple is a fully digital option for members to connect with a primary care physician or nurse for medical consultation. Maple offers various services, from medical consultations and advice to prescription medications, mental health support, diagnosis, imaging, labs, and referrals. Participating members receive customized promotional materials to ensure all members are aware of this service

All participating NSHN member locals have access to a fully facilitated opt-out refund process. Touting Interac e-transfer, the opt-out process is quick and easy for members to accept their refunds, in cash, as quickly as possible to their bank account of choice. The Interac e-transfer opt-out solution is available in addition to the standard printed cheque refund option if a member local prefers.

The NSHN 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 member local 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 provider was not GSC.

Services

New for September 2022 is the availability of an International Student Health Care plan. In development since 2019, this care plan allows international students to access primary care coverage that is truly equivalent to provincial coverage. This service allows member locals to take control of international healthcare plans on campus, which are typically outsourced to companies such as UHIP and Guard Me. The NSHN's International Student Health Care plan provides transparent, quality coverage for international students without the extremely high commissions that other companies currently charge.

Based on member local demand, the Federation also offers discounted pricing on sexual health products. Through a bulk order, the Federation is able to purchase sexual health products on behalf of member locals, passing on the savings directly to the member local.

In the health and dental industry, there recently has been a shift in the ownership of health and dental providers in Canada, which greatly affects members of the Federation. In Canada, there are a variety of health and dental brokers, which provide insurance to students. These include brokers such as Studentcare, We Speak Student, Gallivan, and Student VIP. Brokers charge students' unions a commission to offer their services and act as the middle person between the students' union and the insurance company. As the middle entity, a broker manages the relationship with the insurance company and sets its own pricing that is charged to the students' union for members to access the health and dental plans. Unfortunately, there are a variety of commission charges and other fees usually opaquely disguised within these rates that students pay.

As of December 2020, Gallivan, We Speak Student, and Studentcare has been purchased and is now wholly owned by a for-profit, once publicly traded TSX company called People Corporation. In early 2021, People Corporation was acquired by Goldman Sachs, buying out the shareholders of People Corporation, and selling to one of the world's largest publicly traded banking conglomerates. For Federation members that partner with these providers, this means that students' health and dental premiums are funding investors' pockets and propelling the actions of such large investment banking institutions. People Corporation describes the student market as "highly attractive" and has identified students as a large revenue-generating component for their business and acquirer's shareholders.

Services

This news only emphasizes that the Federation can bring better service, cheaper premiums, and be a voice to fight privatization and capitalism in collaboration with our member locals. The Federation's National Student Health Network is partnered with equitable insurers, such as Green Shield Canada, Canada's only national not-for-profit health and dental provider. The Network eliminates the need for for-profit brokers and brings members affordable health and dental insurance from a Canadian-owned, not-for-profit company.

Handbook and Day Planner Service

The members' Handbook and Day Planner Service were 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 fully customized member local section and a Federation section. Through our ability to purchase in bulk and by using economies of scale, the Federation can offer member locals a quality handbook for a significantly reduced price compared to market pricing. By member locals joining the order, all member locals benefit through the bulk buy purchase. Additional value-add is provided by the Federation offering the complete administrative coordination and logistics of the order.

This year, many member locals returned to ordering and increased their order quantity as campuses offered more in-person learning. 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 handbooks with post-consumer recycled paper and vegetable ink.

New for the handbook and day planner program 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. The Federation plans to redesign many sections of content for the handbook program this year.

Member locals can expect the 2023-2024 pricing for the handbook and day planner service in early 2023.

Services

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. A variety of popular discounts continuously are being added to the ISIC discount portfolio, including brands such as Apple, Samsung, popular attractions, and more.

New for the 2021 academic year is the ability for the Federation to create customized ordering portals for each member local. Member locals can direct their members to this customized portal to order an ISIC. Member locals will continue to be able to issue the card from the dedicated issuing portal directly to members in addition to the customized portal. Any member local interested in having a customized order portal for ISIC can communicate with the National Office for support.

Additionally, members locals may request a custom co-branded ISIC, which can feature their students' union logo or design, and include additional information, such as student number, health and dental plan ID number, transit pass integration, and more. Member locals who would like to learn more information about this customized ISIC can inquire to the National office for information.

In time for the fall 2022 back-to-school season, the ISIC toolkit was launched with the goal of providing member locals and provincial components with materials to promote the ISIC program on campus and online. Access to the toolkit can be done by contacting the National Office.

Services

The ISIC Toolkit included the following items:

- website banners + accompanying copy,
- fact sheet,
- social media posts + accompanying copy,
- posters,
- postcards,
- guide and video tutorials on how to use the new way of issuing virtual ISIC cards via the Card Issuing System.

Member locals and provincial components can now issue ISIC cards through the Card Issuing System via the Alive Platform. Issuing ISIC cards through this new system ensures an easier issuing process, allows issuers to easily request more stock, and stay updated on all things ISIC with communication from the National Office. Member locals interested in using the Card Issuing System can request access to their member locals' login details by communicating with the National Office.

In August 2022, the ISIC app received a complete refresh. The fresh new design of the ISIC app was created in cooperation with UX specialists to bring a modern and innovative feel to the app. The whole mobile app redesign project began with the analysis of data about the usage of the existing app and took into account feedback received from cardholders and research with students. The redesigned ISIC mobile app brings a new home screen with the status of the card, articles, limited offers, new discounts, and nearby and featured offers. The Discount section has been completely reworked and will allow cardholders to send discount suggestions and there will be a new section with vouchers. The registration and login flow has been improved and the display of digital cards has been modernized. The new design will also support dark mode and will use colour schemes based on the user's card type (ISIC, IYTC, ITIC).

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. By ordering through the Ethical Purchasing Network, member locals' orders are combined, creating large bulk orders of ethically produced products. This drives down the per-item cost and allows more members to participate, even acquiring a larger quantity of products.

Services

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 is a registered promotional products distributor, meaning it can directly partner with Canadian suppliers that produce and manufacture textiles and other products. The pricing for these products is directly from the supplier, which eliminates the entire manufacturer-suggested retail price (MSRP). This ultimately saves participating member locals up to 40% off ethically produced products.

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 2023.

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 2022 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.

New to the UFile program in 2022 was refreshed promotional materials and digital creative for social media. A tax season guide for students was also created with helpful links from the Canada Revenue Agency to help students find the important information they need to know when filing their taxes. The guide can be found on the Federation's website under the Factsheets section.

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.

Internal

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 $4.96 per student per semester.

Staffing Updates

The Federation continues to focus on building and recruiting a talented, professional staffing team that focuses on delivering the mandate set by members. Capacity and skill are continuously being enhanced to better serve all member locals and members.

Since November 2021, the National office has been fortunate to gain Jesse Sutherland, as the National Organizer (Communities), Julius Chester, as the Manitoba Fieldworker, Mary Asekome, as the Membership Development and Education Officer, Rebecca Stuckey, as the Maritimes Organizer, and Amanda White, as the Administrative Health Services Officer. This team joins the existing talented group of staff, including Alex Wicks, Newfoundland and Labrador Organizer, Liz Shearer, Manitoba Organizer, Diana Idibe, Campaigns and Education Officer, Candice Pinto, Communications and Public Relations Officer, Patricia Navidad, Marketing and Services Officer, James Casey, Research and Policy Analyst, Taylan McRae-Yu, Director of Strategy, Raven Davidson, Director of Stakeholder Relations, Lesley Griffiths, Director of Finance, and Corey Grist, Director of Operations and Services.

The National Office is proud to support and work daily with all of the professional staff, whom are unionized with CUPE 1281.

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	Marie Dolcetti-Koros
Wesam AbdElhamid Mohamed	Deputy Chairperson





Treasurer	Riaz Nandan
Marie Paule Ehoussou	Manitoba Representative
New Brunswick Representative	Phillip Lunga
Gaayathri Sukantha Murugan	Newfoundland and Labrador Representative
Nova Scotia Representative	Kris Reppas

National Executive Team

Sarah Abdillahi	Ontario Representative
Black Students' Caucus Representative	Adaeze Mbalaja
Carlie Kane	Circle Representative
Francophone Students' Representative	Cyrielle Ngeleka
Jessica Kearney	Graduate Students' Representative
International Students' Representative	Bipin Kumar
Shilik Hamad	Racialised Students' Representative
Women's Representative	Alexus Nikkita
Elizabeth Graham	Student Disability Justice Commissioner

National Staff Team

Amanda White	Administrative Health Services Officer
Campaigns Coordinator	Diana Idibe
Candice Pinto	Communications and Public Relations Officer
Director of Finance	Lesley Griffiths
Corey Grist	Director of Operations and Services
Director of Stakeholder Relations	Raven Davidson
Taylan McRae-Yu	Director of Strategy
Maritimes Organizer	Rebecca Stuckey
Mary Asekome-Ojewole	Membership Development and Education Officer

National Staff Team

Laura Cutmore	National Organizer
National Organizer (Communities)	Jesse Sutherland
James Casey	Research and Policy Analyst
Services and Marketing Officer	Patricia Navidad
Sara Camus	Communications Intern
Manitoba Fieldworker	Julius Chester
Elizabeth Shearer	Manitoba Organizer
Newfoundland Organizer	Alex Wicks

Media & Communications

This year, the Federation has been featured in numerous articles, radio broadcasts, podcast episodes, and television programs. We continue to be considered the most reliable voice of the student movement and are consistently called on to share our opinions and provide advice. This has allowed us to push student issues to the forefront, and share with the public and mainstream media the realities of being a student in 2022.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have experienced a significant increase in media features to share our insight on the student experience and the exacerbated challenges students are facing. With the start of the 2022-23 school year taking place predominantly in person once again, after a few years of hybrid or online schooling, members of the At-Large or the National Executive were called on to speak about how students were coping with the return to campuses across the country. Other interviews have called for our student representatives to speak on the rise in cost of living, increasing tuition fees, a decimated job market, and the overall current state of post-secondary education.



National Deputy Chairperson **Wesam AbdElhamid Mohamed** was invited to join the ***Beyond the Headlines*** podcast in December 2021 to offer a basic overview of the Federation's process of lobbying the government and explores the lobbying environment in Canada. Mohamed shared insights and answered questions on how people outside of government seek to influence the policy process and how our civic institutions ensure that this takes place in an ethical manner.

Media & Communications


UA AU University Affairs Affaires universitaires

News

Scarborough Charter signals national effort to deal with anti-Blackness on campus

Universities and colleges across Canada now have a new set of guidelines to address racism and promote Black inclusion at their institutions.

BY TAYO BERO | DEC 02 2021

In November 2021, National Black Caucus Chairperson **Mobólúwajídìde (Bo) Joseph** was interviewed by University Affairs magazine in regards to anti-Blackness on campuses and the newly released Scarborough Charter, signed by over 50 post-secondary institutions without consultations with Black students' unions on the ground. Joseph is quoted as stating that "part of the problem with this is that there is no real way to hold institutions to actually doing work to address the lasting barriers that their Black community members continue to face."


PressProgress

This article is more than 8 months old

NEWS

Government of Canada Collected $169 Million in 'Revenue' From Student Loan Interest Since Start of Pandemic

Hundreds of thousands of Canadians are now in default on student loans

By Mitchell Thompson, Ontario Reporter
January 19, 2022

Press Progress Reporter **Mitchell Thompson** reached out to the **National office** in January 2022 to inquire about newly released federal data that shows the federal government has brought in well over a hundred million dollars in revenue from "interest on Canada student loans" since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020. The Federation provided a comment condemning the collection of interest on federal student loans and a call for a permanent interest fee freeze.

Media & Communications

ON THE RECORD

Demand for lower tuition continues despite return to in-person classes

written by Fiona O'Flynn | January 27, 2022

Ontario Representative **Kayla Weiler** spoke with On The Record regarding the demand for lower tuition continuing as students return to in-person classes. "'Back to normal' shouldn't necessarily be a standard, because the issues that existed before the pandemic, and the issues that the pandemic caused, are all amounting to a mountain of issues that haven't been addressed," said Weiler.





International Students' Representative **Bipin Kumar** spoke with the PIE News in March 2022 regarding the Federation's call for the Federal government to waive the 20-hour work limit for international students as inflation in the country reaches a 30-year high. "They have to pay more tuition by working fewer hours," said Kumar.

In March 2022, National Black Caucus Chairperson **Mobólúwajídìde (Bo) Joseph** led Senators from the African Canadian Senate Group in a panel-style webinar, with topics of conversation including anti-Black racism on campuses and in our communities, anti-racist allyship and solidarity practices, and the Black student post-secondary experience in Canada.

Media & Communications

Delays at Manitoba Student Aid leave learners high and dry



By: **Maggie Macintosh**
Posted: **2:00 AM CST Thursday, Mar. 3, 2022**
Last Modified: 10:02 AM CST Thursday, Mar. 3, 2022

Manitoba Chairperson **Alexandra Koslock** spoke with the Winnipeg free press regarding the post-secondary students who were scrambling to find alternative sources of income to cover Winter 2022 expenses due to delays at Manitoba Student Aid. While Koslock indicated technical problems happen, she said it is "completely unacceptable" for them to be ongoing for weeks and in turn, impacting funding for thousands of students.

POLITICS

'Missed opportunity': Budget 2022 gets lukewarm reviews from student groups



In April 2022, former National Chairperson **Alannah Mckay** spoke with CTVNews.ca in regard to the release of the 2022 Federal Budget. Mckay noted that while the Federation applauded the $5.3 billion in funding commitments made in the budget towards a national dental care program, we were disappointed to find a lack of student-specific measures, such as on-campus mental health supports.

Media & Communications



National Chairperson **Marie Dolcetti-Koros** spoke with The Tyee in June 2022 about the Community Solidarity Project, a tool developed with the Council of Canadians for communities in response to the convoy that gathered in Ottawa this February. "Years of underfunding our social safety net has left millions of Canadians feeling unheard, unsupported and forgotten. You're not alone. Together we can demand economic justice. #TogetherWeCan."

Titled "Together We Can" the campaign is meant as a resource and easily adaptable tool for folks organizing in their communities – digital and printable versions of posters are available at coomunitysolidarity.ca, along with social media sharables and other templates.



In August 2022, Nova Scotia Chairperson **Kris Reppas** connected CTV News Atlantic with students on the ground in Halifax who were struggling with the lack of affordable and accessible housing for students.

Media & Communications



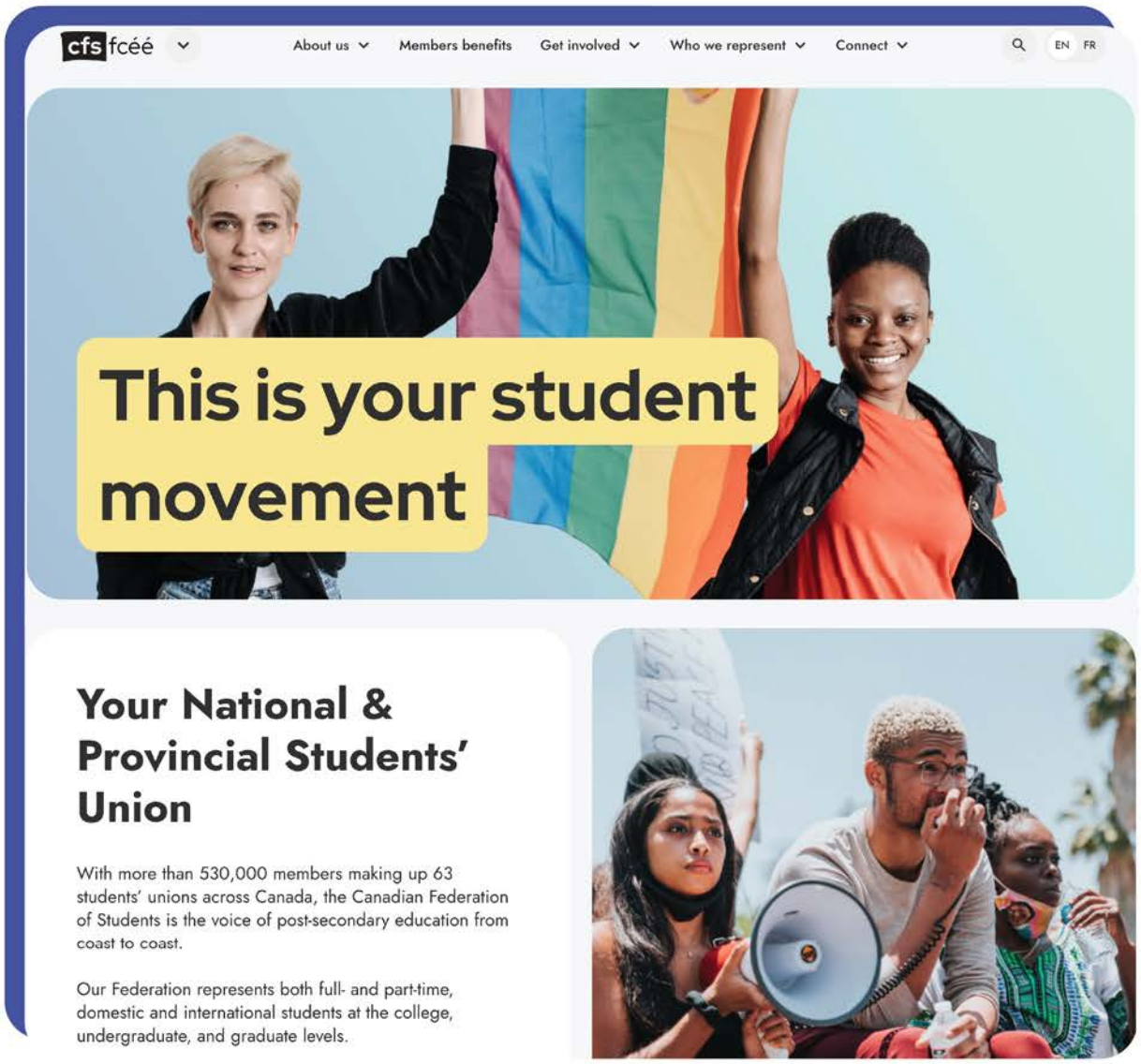
Newfoundland and Labrador Chairperson **Gaayathri Sukantha Murugan** partnered with the Workers' Action Network of Newfoundland and Labrador in September 2022 to inform students about their workplace rights, and to encourage student workers to come together in solidarity with all workers. "An educated worker is an empowered worker. A worker aware of their rights is more likely to stand up to an employer who violates those rights".



In September 2022, Ontario Chairperson **Mitra Yakubi** joined Steve Paikan live on-air on The Agenda to discuss the return back to in-person classes for many post-secondary students across the country for the first time in a few years.

Media & Communications

On February 18, 2022, the Canadian Federation of Students successfully launched a renewed website at www.cfs-fcee.ca. The updated website look and feel represents a new era of the Federation with a new colour scheme and brand guide. The provincial offices will also receive updated websites to align with National's look and feel.



Media & Communications

In July 2022, the Federation launched a newsletter to be deployed bi-monthly to all Federation Staff, National Executive members, and member locals.

Each bi-monthly newsletter will feature a variety of new and revolving content and include section updates from specific components/portfolios of the federation, some of which include:

- Campaigns Corner, which will provide an update to the various Federation campaigns, or campaign-adjacent work;
- Save With Services, a round-up of the best deals and discounts available to ISIC holders;
- Learn and Engage, links to interesting news stories or articles regarding the Federation or the post-secondary landscape as a whole;
- What's New With Us, a feature story or blog (varies monthly) which will highlight a different challenge currently facing students and address how the Federation's advocacy work can help support students on campuses.



