



August 6, 2010

The Honourable Dwight Duncan
Minister of Finance
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Frost Building South, 7th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A1Y7

RE: PUBLIC SECTOR COMPENSATION

Dear Minister Duncan:

I write to you on behalf of over 300,000 college and university students represented by the Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario. We have learned that the government has announced its intentions to impose public sector wage constraints and that it will be holding several consultation sessions with representatives of public sector employees to discuss compensation and benefits. Students share the concern of post-secondary academic and non-academic staff that sessions held on a cross-sectoral basis will lack meaningful discussion.

To the extent that the government is in consultation with post-secondary education workers, we believe that all academic and non-academic staff must be represented in the same round of consultations in order to ensure that there can be a comprehensive and representative discussion about post-secondary education quality, affordability, fairness and sustainability. The Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario supports the call of the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL), the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) and workers across the sector to include all stakeholders in any compensation consultations.

We are also concerned that these consultation sessions seek to circumvent the bargaining process and institutional autonomy of post-secondary institutions. As students will ultimately bear the consequences of unfair negotiation procedures, we urge the government to respect workers' rights and the bargaining process in all compensation discussions.

Finally, if the government is looking for a sustainable solution to the fiscal situation, please bear in mind that well-funded public services are the path through which social and economic recovery is made possible.

Sincerely,

Sandra Hudson
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Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario

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