



# Negotiations News

**Bargaining news for OPSEU members in CAAT Academic**

**#15 February 14, 2006**

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## Strike Vote 80.4 per cent

On February 7, by voting 80.4 per cent in favour of a strike mandate, faculty sent an unmistakable message: They are fully prepared to do whatever it takes to achieve a fair and reasonable contract.

What will it take to get a deal? Simple, a contract offer that:

- improves the workload formula and addresses the continuing erosion of quality education
- improves faculty salary within the accepted levels between high schools and universities
- treats partial-load teachers fairly
- addresses issues of staffing, benefits, and job security
- recognizes faculty professionalism, and
- has no concessions

The faculty team is ready to return to bargaining and attempt to achieve a settlement. The provincial mediator has scheduled meetings for February 15 and 16. If agreement is not reached, more meetings will follow. If settlement is not reached by March 7, more than 9,000 teachers, counsellors, and librarians will be on strike.

College local union presidents and strike finance chairs met on February 11 to review strike preparation and operation. Strike administration will be handled at the local college level.

Management encouraged every faculty member to read their offer of settlement. They distributed literature at nearly every college focusing not only on their offer but also on the negative consequences of a strike. Nevertheless, faculty made it abundantly clear that they support their bargaining team in its demands for quality and reject management's stance completely.

There can be no doubt that faculty support their bargaining team. Management must no longer underestimate faculty's commitment to quality. Bob Rae's report and the McGuinty government both support the need for immediate improvement in quality. McGuinty has pledged \$6.2 billion for just that goal. College faculty and students endorse the commitments to quality improvement.

Until now, management has been entrenched in its refusal to negotiate workload improvements. Continuation of this attitude can only mean management prefers a strike to a negotiated settlement.

The union is hopeful that the employer will heed the strike mandate and bargain towards a reasonable and responsible settlement. Regardless, faculty must prepare for a strike in the event an agreement cannot be reached.

Will there be a strike? It's impossible to know at this time. In 2004, settlement was reached the evening before the scheduled start of a strike.

Management knows what it will take to avoid a strike. Faculty hope management will act with reason and settle prior to March 7.

# Results of Feb. 7 vote by college

College	Eligible	Valid Ballots	Strike	No Strike	Turnout	% in favour
Algonquin	595	404	302	101	67.9%	<b>74.8%</b>
Boréal	118	110	104	6	93.2%	<b>94.5%</b>
Cambrian	241	186	168	17	77.2%	<b>90.3%</b>
Canadore	169	138	119	19	81.7%	<b>86.2%</b>
Centennial	533	332	311	20	62.3%	<b>93.7%</b>
Conestoga	363	254	192	61	70.0%	<b>75.6%</b>
Confederation	153	131	111	20	85.6%	<b>84.7%</b>
Durham	294	210	188	22	71.4%	<b>89.5%</b>
Fanshawe	548	396	316	80	72.3%	<b>79.8%</b>
George Brown	636	380	310	69	59.7%	<b>81.6%</b>
Georgian	414	284	227	59	68.6%	<b>79.9%</b>
Humber	830	418	280	127	50.4%	<b>67.0%</b>
La Cité	208	150	128	20	72.1%	<b>85.3%</b>
Lambton	132	98	85	13	74.2%	<b>86.7%</b>
Loyalist	197	136	87	49	69.0%	<b>64.0%</b>
Mohawk	590	380	259	119	64.4%	<b>68.2%</b>
Niagara	273	212	173	39	77.7%	<b>81.6%</b>
Northern	79	75	64	11	94.9%	<b>85.3%</b>
Sault	133	115	106	9	86.5%	<b>92.2%</b>
Seneca	1071	567	473	92	52.9%	<b>83.4%</b>
Sheridan	538	347	269	70	64.5%	<b>77.5%</b>
Sir Sandford	369	208	165	42	56.4%	<b>79.3%</b>
St Clair	321	232	224	8	72.3%	<b>96.6%</b>
St. Lawrence	303	201	136	63	66.3%	<b>67.7%</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9108</b>	<b>5964</b>	<b>4797</b>	<b>1136</b>	<b>65.5%</b>	<b>80.4%</b>

\*colleges have reported valid ballots differently, some counting spoiled & segregated ballots, others not.



**To get in touch with the bargaining team, send a message to:  
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