

FÉDÉRATION NATIONALE DES ENSEIGNANTES ET DES
ENSEIGNANTS DU QUÉBEC [National Federation of Teachers of Quebec]

January 7, 2010

By email: wthomas@opseu.org

Mr. Warren Thomas
President, OPSEU
NUPGE National Vice-President (Ontario)
100 Lesmill Road
Toronto ON M3B 3P8

Dear Mr. Thomas,

I am writing in order to share with you the fullest support and solidarity of the Fédération nationale des enseignantes et des enseignants du Québec, which represents more than 27,000 teachers, in the fight to renew the collective agreement in Ontario's colleges.

In terms of your negotiations, we are particularly aware of the teaching situation, the conditions of which have been deteriorating in the colleges while they should actually be improving significantly, given the rapid developments in the need for postsecondary education.

In Ontario, the issues are the same as they are in Quebec: the respect for professional independence and academic freedom and ensuring that teaching conditions are obtained that allow us to provide high-quality instruction. In Ontario and in Quebec we are both facing concerted offensives, not only against collective agreements, which should in fact be revised upwards, but also against the union movement itself.

The seriousness of such attacks cannot be underestimated, given the importance of education in modern society. In this respect, we hope that the strike vote to be taken on January 13 will be a clear union response that shows your resistance and political determination, just as we are planning to do during our own bargaining in Quebec's CÉGEPs.

In solidarity,

[signature]
Jean Trudelle
President
FNEEQ – CNS

cc: Daniel Bouchard, Ontario Community Colleges Negotiating Committee