



STANDING WITH COMMUNITY COLLEGE WORKERS

Ontario's community colleges were established fifty years ago to play a crucial role in supporting economic growth and educating students for the jobs of tomorrow. The people who deliver the education and services at our community colleges deserve to be respected for the vital work they do. Whether they are full-time or part-time – college workers should be treated fairly and have a strong, effective voice at work.

That is why the Labour Council has supported college workers in their contract struggles in past years; has supported the recent organizing drives of part-time workers so they can have a union; and supports the just demands of striking faculty today.

Years of government under-funding have created a situation where Ontario's public colleges now receive the least per-student funding of any province. The numbers over the last decade tell a disturbing story. As the number of students continues to climb, the share of full-time faculty has fallen while the number of part time staff and administrators has skyrocketed.

No union can stand by as good stable jobs hemorrhage out of the system. Part-time, partial-load, and sessional faculty now outnumber full-time faculty nearly three to one, without accounting for the large number teaching in continuing education, online and part-time studies. This is intolerable. Ontario's colleges must commit to creating good jobs for its workforce, not a "low-road" approach that expands precarity and insecurity.

Our colleges are meant to provide the next generation with the tools they need to prosper in Ontario's economy. They should make sure their own workers have a fair share of that prosperity as well. Labour Council calls on all unions to stand with community college workers in their struggle for justice!

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