

OPSEU Local 653 – General Membership Meeting

College Employment Stability Committee (CESC) Annual Report

Last year the focus of the CESC report was on the college's contract with Pures College. As you likely know, the government issued a directive last fall that forced all colleges to bring an end to such partnerships. As such, Northern will be winding up this partnership within the next two years. While we do not celebrate a reduction in income for the College, we do think ending these partnerships is a positive development for education quality in the College system. It is our belief that diplomas from public colleges should be earned by studying at those colleges and by being taught by faculty who are part of the CAAT-A union. The working conditions of faculty have a tremendous impact on the quality of courses and programs. The granting of public college diplomas from private institutions where faculty have no workload limits or protections would without a doubt erode the value and reputation of these diplomas.

There was one CESC meeting this year, held on February 16th at Management's request. The focus of the meeting was on the impact of Bill 148 – the provincial government's labour legislation that included the \$14/hour minimum wage as well as equal pay for equal work provisions. Management stated that this legislation would cost the College slightly under \$2 million per year in additional expenses. They also expressed concern at the looming loss of revenue from the dissolution of the agreement with Pures College. There was a promise made to continue to hold CESC meetings to engage the union in the process of working through these challenges, but to date no further meetings have been scheduled.

Respectfully Submitted,

Neal McNair
CESC co-Chair
OPSEU Local 653