



**FÉDÉRATION NATIONALE
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ET DES ENSEIGNANTS
DU QUÉBEC**

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Montréal, March 13th, 2015

BY EMAIL

The *Fédération nationale des enseignantes et des enseignants du Québec* (FNEEQ)—the Quebec Provincial Federation of Teachers—wishes to express its full support and solidarity to the student and contract academic workers of York and Toronto universities. We support your campaign for recognition and better working conditions. As a representative of student teaching assistants and virtually all of Quebec's contract faculties, the FNEEQ is very well attuned to the harsh reality with which you are confronted.

We are all the more sensitive to this situation given the merciless austerity measures that are being imposed on Quebec as a whole and threatening our public services across the board, including, of course, in higher education. More than \$200 million has already been slashed from Quebec universities. These cuts are having a very real and negative impact on student services and the quality of teaching and support and are directly affecting contract teachers, salaried students and course lecturers.

In Ontario as in Quebec, not only job contracts but labour rights themselves have been under concerted assault. Now, perhaps more than ever before, union is the key to making a difference, to building force!

In view of the critical importance of education to modern society, these assaults cannot be taken lightly. Our respective fights and demands are aligned and serve to defend not only our working conditions and rights, but also the preservation of a free, accessible and democratic university system.

The *Fédération nationale des enseignantes et des enseignants du Québec* (FNEEQ-CSN) represents 95 unions and nearly 33,000 members in 46 Quebec CEGEPs (general and vocational colleges), 38 private educational institutions and 10 universities. These include 10 course lecturer unions, among them the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill, the *Télé-Université* tutors' union and the *École de technologie supérieure* course lecturers' association. By virtue of its composition, the Federation covers all levels of education shared by the public and private sectors and is the most representative labour organization in higher education.

Jean Murdock
Secrétaire general et trésorier
FNEEQ-CSN