

November 3, 2017

The Honourable Deb Matthews  
Deputy Premier, Ontario  
Minister, Advanced Education and Skills Development  
[dmatthews.mpp@liberal.ola.org](mailto:dmatthews.mpp@liberal.ola.org)

Dear Minister Matthews,

I am writing to you in support of the 12,000 Ontario college faculty who went on strike on October 16, and to ask that the College Employer Council work with college faculty to negotiate a fair and equitable contract. The University of Toronto Faculty Association (UTFA) represents approximately 3,600 faculty and librarian members at all three University of Toronto campuses. UTFA believes that all post-secondary faculty deserve better job security, and meaningful participation in educational decision-making.

Faculty who have sufficient time and an expectation of continued employment can devote more time to developing curriculum, teaching courses, providing out-of-class advising and support to students, and engage in long term curriculum planning and revision. These are examples of how stable and equitable employment for college faculty contribute to student success.

UTFA and the majority of academics believe that post-secondary education works better when faculty and students have a real voice in making decisions. To make the best decisions, the individuals most affected and impacted by these decisions need to be an active part of the decision-making process. At the University of Toronto, UTFA works closely with the University of Toronto administration on changes that affect our members.

College faculty also need academic freedom to protect the integrity of college programs and pedagogy. Students benefit when subject instructors have the freedom to speak honestly and teach effectively without fear of reprisal.

I know that the bargaining team for the Ontario Public Sector Employees Union is committed to the bargaining process. Please help ensure that the College Employer Council returns to the bargaining table and reach a fair contract soon.

Thank you for helping to ensure that a contract for Ontario college faculty is settled quickly and fairly.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Messenger  
President, University of Toronto Faculty Association

Cc:  
The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario  
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