



Press Release

November 8, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sheridan Student Union Calls on Provincial Government to Demand a Resolution and Help Students Return to Class

Sheridan Student Union (SSU) wishes to express deep disappointment and frustration on behalf of all Sheridan College students with regards to the current state of negotiations in the College faculty labour dispute.

While the SSU Board has maintained a neutral position during this negotiation, our patience and good-faith that these negotiations will meet a swift and constructive conclusion has faded in light of recent announcements of failed negotiations.

We believe Sheridan College students should be in the classroom, and despite a scheduled vote next week, this dispute has continued on for an increasingly dangerous amount of time. Any barriers to students being in Ontario College classrooms should be addressed immediately. Since we have been reassured that no Ontario College student has ever lost their semester to a strike action, we call on Premier Kathleen Wynne to ensure that this goal is met.

Despite these assurances, we are deeply concerned about the risks this has placed on Ontario students. Now in its fourth week, the college labour impasse puts students' academic pursuits at risk, negatively impacts their student experience and brings forward many concerns for the health and well-being of our students. It is imperative that students have access to counsellors to support their well-being, and to their faculty so that they may continue to pursue their learning outcomes.

Along with several other student unions, SSU sent a joint-letter to the Premier of Ontario on October 20th requesting a swift resolution of this labour impasse. On October 26th our President, Enrique Ponce, met with Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, Deborah Matthews, as well as members of the College Employer Council and Ontario Public Service Employees Union negotiating



parties. During these meetings, we were assured the needs of students were being taken seriously. Between October 23-26, SSU jointly hosted open forums with Sheridan College to address questions from students related to the impacts of the strike, and to facilitate the effective dissemination of information from Sheridan College to our students during this difficult time.

To continue advocating for our students, we hope to share another side of the story: the impact this has had on students. We encourage all Sheridan students to raise their voices and share the direct impact this strike is having on our academic plans, and our personal and fiscal health and we are giving students a platform to do just that.

Sheridan Students are encouraged to visit www.hearoutside.ca to share the impact this strike has had on them and to join a collective call to all parties encouraging them to come to a prompt resolution.

“Students must share their stories and just how deeply the strike has affected them. This is a call to action for students to demand that negotiations happen immediately, and Premier Kathleen Wynne must intervene if the strike continues. Letters, rallies, and calls for government intervention have gone unheard, and we hope these stories will paint a picture of the realities our students face - from hopeful graduates to first year and international students. Student voices matter and their side of the story must be heard.” - Sheridan Student Union President, Enrique Ponce

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Sheridan Student Union (SSU) is an organized body that represents the full-time and part-time students of Sheridan College. “Our mission is to be a student led community enhancing the experience of our fellow students.” www.thessu.ca

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