

November 24, 2017

An open letter to Fanshawe College President Peter Devlin, and Ontario Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development Deb Matthews

Dear President Devlin and Minister Matthews

I write you today to share the collective voice of the Fanshawe Student Union.

The Province of Ontario's Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development released statement on November 10, 2017 regarding a dedicated Student Support Fund with all the savings from the Strike. The idea that students already affected by the strike will now have to apply and prove their level of hardship they have endured is not acceptable.

It is our position that all Full Time Students should receive a fixed amount from this Strike Savings Fund, with an application process available for students who feel they have endured excessive hardship. Students have been adversely affected by the strike and will continue to be impacted in various ways. An application process cannot take into consideration the vastly unique impact the strike has had on students.

We are hearing from Fanshawe students every day who have been impacted with issues such as, but clearly not limited to, childcare, lost work opportunities, food security and housing concerns. The modified semester impacts their ability to work in the summer and over breaks thus limiting their ability to save for future studies. Every student is unique and has unique circumstances surrounding the strike. As such, every student should be entitled to a fixed amount of funding with no application process.

I implore you to reconsider your current position, and do what is right for Fanshawe students and provide them the maximum amount without having to endure further duress of an application process. After five long weeks, they are entitled to be treated fairly and equitably.

Sincerely,



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President

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