

Sample Resolution

Canadian Federation of Students' November 2 2016 National Day of Action

Whereas Canada's system of public postsecondary education is under threat, with less than 49% of university operating revenue coming from government funding; and

Whereas an erosion of public funding has led to colleges and universities slashing programming, pursuing more corporate partnerships, increasingly relying on precarious work, and pitting students against workers in response to budget constraints; and

Whereas budget cuts are not necessary, but are political decisions made by institutions' Board of Governors and result from a lack of priorities of the federal government; and

Whereas decades of chronic underfunding combined with a lack of a national post-secondary strategy has resulted in average tuition fees increasing by more than 137 percent in real terms in the past twenty five years; and

Whereas tuition fees are user fees and a form of privatization and loan reliance fosters a cycle of life-long debt; and

Whereas rising tuition fees are indebting a generation of Canada's students, who are faced with an average student debt of \$28,000 upon graduation; and

Whereas 60 per cent of Canada's postsecondary students today come from the two highest income quintiles as the high upfront cost is increasingly a barrier for middle and working class learners; and

Whereas thousands of Indigenous learners are denied support every year due to a funding shortfall of the Post-Secondary Student Support Program and the failure of successive governments in committing adequate funding; and

Whereas when workers stand in solidarity with students, we can help stop the attacks on our public services and protect accessible public postsecondary education; therefore

Be it resolved that xxx will endorse the Canadian Federation of Students' National Day of Action on November 2, 2016 calling high-quality, universally accessible public postsecondary for all students in Canada; and

Be it further resolved that xxx will organize its members to participate in campus/community coalitions and mobilize in communities from coast to coast to coast for the Day of Action; and

Be it further resolved that xxx will promote the Day of Action, its objectives and the issues it highlights to the membership through its communication channels.



August 11, 2016

Dear Mr. Rebeck,

On behalf of the over 650,000 members of the Canadian Federation of Students, with over 44,000 students in Manitoba, I am writing to request your endorsement of our upcoming National Day of Action on Wednesday, November 2, 2016.

The neoliberal agenda of austerity has directly and negatively impacted all public services and post-secondary education is no exception. As you may be aware, students have been mobilizing for years in response to increasing tuition fees, skyrocketing student debt and government funding cuts. In Manitoba, we have fought hard to protect the affordability of post-secondary education, to secure the elimination of interest on student loans, and for increased government funding. However, given the current political reality in Manitoba, our membership believes a National Day of Action is a necessary and proactive approach to ensure post-secondary and student issues remain a priority, while fighting for our ultimate goal of universal access to education across the country. Everyone should have equal opportunity to access higher education and skills training, in turn strengthening our economy, enriching our society, and reducing inequality.

With this in mind, we will be planning a peaceful and visual demonstration on November 2, 2016 to remind government that we are watching, we are listening, and we will fight for post-secondary education. We would like to extend the opportunity for you to endorse our campaign and subsequent action. Students are the future of the labour movement, families are part of the labour movement, and demonstrating solidarity amongst us is of utmost importance at this crucial juncture in Manitoba's history.

By officially endorsing our upcoming Day of Action, you will be aligning yourself with labour partners across the province and Canada to make a statement that we believe in education.

For your convenience, we have attached a sample motion. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our planned action in more detail and highlight the work that is being done across the country. I can be reached at chair@cfsmb.ca or 204-783-0787.

Thank you for your time.

In Solidarity,

Michael Barkman

Chairperson, Canadian Federation of Students - Manitoba