

Monday, September 19th, 2016

To the Canadian Federation of Students,

We, the undersigned, are members in good standing of the Canadian Federation of Students and we don't believe the Federation is serving our membership in the way that it must.

Collectively we represent almost 200 000 students from coast to coast, across Canada. While we recognize the power of student action and much of the good work done by the CFS, we can no longer accept or support the current governance structure of our organization.

Our collective concerns include but are not limited to the following:

- The fact that the Federation does not take proper minutes at meetings, and does not post the minutes that it does take online
- The dominance of the voices of staff over those of students
- The lack of space for dissent and for constructive criticism
- The extreme difficulty of accessing information, including bylaws, policies, and especially financial information such as audited financial statements
- The overly burdensome process through which locals are able to leave the Federation
- The closed, exclusive nature of general meetings, which can prevent members from speaking in favour of their own motions at the committee stage

In November, we will seek to pass a series of motions at the Federation's Annual General Meeting. We propose these motions in good faith, with the intention of making the Federation more transparent, effective, accountable and--most importantly--focused on our student membership. Our motivation for these reforms comes from a desire to strengthen student organizations in Canada to be truly representative and to further reflect the will of our members.

We are committed to the principles of the Federation, and to the existence of a progressive student movement that advances the interests of all students. We hope that our fellow members will work with us to create a fairer, more open Federation in which all students feel at home.

Sincerely,



Local 01: Carleton University Students' Association
Local 03: University of British Columbia Students' Union-Okanagan
Local 09: University of Regina Students' Union
Local 24: Ryerson Students' Union
Local 25: Ontario College of Art and Design Student Union
Local 26: Kwantlen Student Association
Local 30: Laurentian University Students' General Association
Local 95: Cape Breton University Students' Union
Local 98: University of Toronto Students' Union
Local 111: Laurentian University at Barrie Students' Union