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September 20, 2013

Dear Members,

The Canadian Union of Public Employees-Ontario has long worked side by side with students across the province through their provincial union, the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario. Recently, it has come to our attention that some individuals are pushing for students' unions to decertify from their provincial union, CFS-Ontario. To be clear, this petition is not about having a discussion about how students' organize; it is a petition to initiate the decertification process.

CUPE-Ontario denounces these actions, which will only serve to make it more difficult for workers and students to defend public, post-secondary education in the face of rising tuition fees, attacks on wages and benefits, and threats to the quality of services and teaching at Ontario colleges and universities.

CUPE-Ontario opposes all forms of union-busting, including this most recent attempt to damage the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario. Workers know that the push for decertification votes, whether for labour or students' unions, are not driven by an interest in democracy, but by a commitment to weaken the collective voice of union members.

I encourage you to oppose any attempts to decertify students' unions on your campus from the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario and to work with like-minded students and workers to defend students' provincial union in the face of these attacks.

In Solidarity

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Hahn".

Fred Hahn
President
CUPE Ontario

Cc: O UWCC Committee

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sh/President/2013-CFS

Fred Hahn
President

ONE STRONG VOICE

Candace Rennick
Secretary-Treasurer