



REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

72nd Semi-Annual General Meeting | July 26 to 29, 2017

bcs | british columbia
federation of students

DEAR MEMBERS,

Please accept for your consideration the report of the Executive Committee for the 2016-17 membership year.

After years of campaigning for financial assistance and relief from student debt, students in BC finally won a victory from the BC Liberal government. This year, the Squash the Squeeze campaign focused on two asks: to eliminate interest on student loans and to create a provincial grants program. In Budget 2017, the BC Liberals announced the reduction of interest would come into effect August 2017. This win is a step forward in making accessible post-secondary education a reality for BC students.

In the 2017 provincial election, the Federation's Students are Voting campaign successfully engaged with members on the importance of voting. Local representatives gathered nearly 10,000 pledges from members promising to go to the polls in the election. Through our combined on-the-ground and online work, the campaign was active and popular even after winter semester classes finished and members left their respective campuses. The provincial election results affirmed the Federation's belief that the election would be close—several ridings were won and lost by fewer than 200 votes, and less than 2,000 votes separated the provincial vote totals for the two main parties. While the demographic breakdown of voters has yet to be published by Elections BC, this election saw a surge in advanced voting, which increased by nearly 70 percent.

This year, an incredible amount of work was undertaken by member locals to put pressure on the provincial government to restore funding to adult basic education. Member locals continued to secure endorsements from city councils—in total, 23 municipalities have endorsed students' call for the reinstatement of funding, and elimination of tuition fees, for ABE. As a result of our consistent and collective voice on this issue, adult basic education was a prominent issue championed by two political parties in the provincial election.

The Federation's services continue to run smoothly and maintain high-quality results. For the coming year, the handbook production and orientation materials are on track to be completed according to schedule, or earlier. Pooling our resources to provide services to students is a true display of the strength we have by working cooperatively together in British Columbia.

This coming year has many opportunities for positive change for students and young people in BC: the incoming government made promises on ABE, a fair minimum wage, and student loan interest relief. But it is still up to us to make sure these promises become a reality. With some more hard work, we can ensure the government prioritizes students in their first mandate, and that we win key victories for our members.

In solidarity,

The Executive Committee

The background of the image is a stylized landscape featuring several layers of rolling hills or mountains. The colors are various shades of blue, with lighter blues for the distant peaks and darker blues for the closer, more prominent ones. At the bottom of the image, there is a dark blue silhouette of a forest or a line of trees. Overlaid on the middle of the image is a light blue rectangular box with a slightly wavy top edge. Inside this box, the text "CAMPAIGNS AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered horizontally and split across two lines.

CAMPAIGNS AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



SQUASH THE SQUEEZE

The August 2016 general meeting resolved to continue Squash the Squeeze, a campaign focused on pressuring government to reduce student debt. This year, the campaign is focused on two demands: the elimination of interest on BC student loans and the establishment of a provincial needs-based grants program.

CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

Following the Federation's rebranding, a series of new campaign materials, including stickers and posters, were produced and distributed with the new name and logo.

Buttons

Two new buttons were created, calling separately for more funding for colleges, and more funding for universities, to better speak to members at each type of institution. The buttons were redesigned to include the updated Federation branding and to better display campaign messages.

Rave Cards

The Federation developed two new rave cards to replace the original campaign pamphlet. The rave cards focused on eliminating interest on student loans and creating a provincial grants program. The materials were distributed to member locals in mid-September.

Postcards and Online Petition

At the request of member locals, institution-specific Squash the Squeeze postcards were created to localize the campaign. The Federation designed and distributed a total of 14 different cards, for each member local union, with a focus on the call for a comprehensive student grants program.

The first delivery of postcards to the Minister of Advanced Education, sent in February 2015, contained the signatures of more than 6,000 campaign supporters. The Executive



Committee set a secondary goal of gathering a minimum of 4,000 additional signed postcards in order to deliver a total of no fewer than 10,000 signatures. This goal was exceeded with over 5,000 postcards being delivered to the Minister of Advanced Education on February 16.

Along with the postcards, the Federation included a letter that quoted the recommendations of the Report of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. These recommendations included increasing operating grants to post-secondary, establishing a needs-based student grants program, providing incentives for completion, and to conduct a review of the current BC student loan eligibility requirements and interest charged on BC student loans. The letter also noted that the campaign's online petition had garnered an additional 3,500 signatures.

In accordance with the Campaign and Government Relations Plan, work on the Squash the Squeeze campaign was wound down beginning February 2017 in order to direct all efforts on the Students Are Voting campaign.



STUDENTS ARE VOTING

Building on the success of the 2015 federal election campaign, members at the August 2016 general meeting resolved to create a campaign to encourage youth and student engagement in the 2017 British Columbia election. The provincial election campaign, entitled "Students Are Voting," was aimed at members and non-members alike, and used a host of face-to-face and online tools to mobilized the youth vote in 2017.

The campaign was centered around creating a positive, but urgent, message about youth voter engagement. Particularly, that the election would be extremely close and that the student vote could be the deciding factor. As with the federal election campaign, Students Are Voting focused on empowering students by using positive language and avoided the use of shame-based tactics as a means to get students to vote in higher proportions.

BRANDING AND MESSAGING

The key branding element of the campaign was images of students walking on campus; the imagery was meant to convey forward momentum and excitement. The pledges and common campaign posters featured Local 16 members; several other member locals also took advantage of the option to have customized posters created that featured members from their own campuses. The goal of local-specific posters was for members to see their own campus and elected representatives they knew to create a more personal connection with the campaign. This tactic was designed to further the social voting elements of the campaign, with the understanding that people are more likely to vote if they see that their peers are voting as well.

Following the successful messaging from the federal election campaign, the Students Are Voting campaign asserted that the BC election results would be close, and that every vote would make a difference. Information from the

2013 provincial election, which was decided by six ridings and fewer than 500 votes, was included to illustrate the point. This messaging was intended to help create a sense of urgency, and to instill a sense of agency with each potential voter on the basis that their vote could decide the election.

MATERIALS

The primary outreach tool for the campaign was a pledge to vote form. The pledge form had two sections, one for the member to keep and one for the local to keep, and was perforated to allow members to easily separate the two sections. Upon a members signing the pledge, their local would keep the top half that included the member's contact information, which enabled them to create multiple points of contact throughout the campaign. The member would keep the bottom half that had their signature under the "I'm voting" pledge as a reminder of their commitment to vote in the election. The bottom of the pledge also included information about ID requirements, advanced polling dates, the election date, and the campaign website.

Other physical materials included campaign posters and "I'm Voting" buttons that promoted the campaign website address.



TOOLKIT

A campaign toolkit was created to assist in the implementation of the campaign. This toolkit included:

- a campaign guide with examples of tactics to use on campus including events, media, and different methods of engagement;
- a template script that can be used when giving class talks;
- a template media advisory to be used before a campaign launch;
- a template news release for the day of the campaign; and
- draft letters to the editor that could be edited and submitted to local papers.

DIGITAL MEDIA

The Federation worked with CBC political comedian and commentator Rick Mercer and the developers of his VoteNation.ca social media tool to adapt the tool for use in the BC election. The tool, previously used to promote voting in the October 2015 federal election, enabled people to change their profile pictures on social media platforms to say "I'm Voting" or "I Voted." The feature was launched on April 25, and approximately 2,600 people used the tool.

Because the election period fell outside of the normal academic year, email was an important outreach tool over the course of the campaign. In total, 17 emails were sent to campaign supporters, including a reminder of the deadline to register to vote, a message with information on polling stations, information about the #ImVoting tool, and regular campaign updates. The average open rate for emails was 29 percent. Emails were sent from Chairperson Marshall, Secretary-Treasurer Davies, Campaigns Outreach Organizer Keller-MacLeod, and Executive Officer Olson.

The Federation worked with Local 17 to develop an additional layer of email outreach

through a plan to target members in different ridings in the Victoria region. Under the plan, three additional campaign emails were sent to members at Local 17 on request of the local to inform campaign supporters about upcoming all-candidates debates in their ridings. Those emails had an open rate of 40 percent.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DAILYHIVE

During the federal election, the Federation worked with online news and entertainment website the DailyHive, which focuses on Vancouver, to spread campaign messaging. Based on the success of that partnership, the Federation and the DailyHive collaborated on two articles during the provincial election which garnered positive engagement with both members and non-members.

The Federation also worked with the DailyHive to promote Instagram and Facebook posts to extend the reach of both the campaign and the VoteNation tool.

ENDORSEMENTS

The Northern Undergraduate Student Society and the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology Student Society voted to endorse and run the campaign on their campuses. The Federation provided materials and the toolkit to those non-member unions.

VOTER TURNOUT

Elections BC has made preliminary reports that 60 percent of registered voters cast a ballot during the provincial election. That is a three-point increase from the 2013 election. Over 600,000 British Columbians voted in advanced polls, shattering previous records. A breakdown of voters by age and demographic is expected to be available in August.

ELECTION RESULTS

Following a count of the absentee ballots, the final result was a BC Liberal minority government, which held 43 seats; the remaining seats were held by the BC NDP

(41) and the BC Green Party (3). A number of ridings in this election were won by very small margins, the narrowest being the result in Coquitlam-Burke Mountain, which went to the BC Liberal candidate by a margin of just 87 votes. Several other ridings were decided by fewer than 200 votes.

On May 30, the BC NDP and BC Green Party announced that they had reached a “confidence and supply” agreement—effectively announcing that they would seek to replace the BC Liberals with a minority BC NDP government. On June 29, the BC Liberal government lost a confidence vote, ending their 16-year reign. After the confidence motion was defeated, Christy Clark asked the Lieutenant Governor to call another election. The Lieutenant Governor opted instead to offer the BC NDP a chance to form government and prove they had the confidence of the House. The new government was sworn in July 18.

DON'T CLOSE THE DOORS

In response to adult basic education funding cuts, the Federation launched the Don't Close the Doors campaign in April 2015. The campaign seeks to reverse the new fees and funding cuts to ABE programs, and highlight how these changes will affect ABE students. To-date, the online petition and postcards have gathered more than 14,500 signatures, and the campaign continues to be shared by coalition partners and concerned citizens via social media. Since the last Executive Committee report, the Federation received over 1,400 new supporter sign-ups on DontCloseTheDoors.ca, in addition to the new signed postcards detailed below.

MATERIALS

Following the Federation's name change and rebranding, the campaign postcards were redesigned to include the new logo. This redesign allowed for the inclusion of a more widely-used hashtag (#bced). The Federation



also included individual locals' logos on the postcards in order to personalize the campaign on a campus-by-campus basis.

At the request of member locals, stand up banners were developed and distributed to member locals in order to help promote the campaign during tabling and at community events.

In order to make the information from the ABE research document easier for members, local representatives, and politicians to digest, a leaflet was created with infographics to illustrate the stats. The leaflet has also been designed as a factsheet for digital distribution or use in media kits.

A series of campaign buttons was also developed. Each button contains information about English as-a-Second Language (ESL) or ABE with supportive messaging about the campaign.

2017 BC ELECTION

Action on adult basic education was included in two party's platforms during the 2017 BC election. The Green Party platform committed to \$10 million per year for upgrading programs and language training programs. The New

Democratic Party platform committed to eliminating tuition fees on both ABE and ESL programs, as well as pledging \$7 million for both programs.

BC LIBERAL THRONE SPEECH

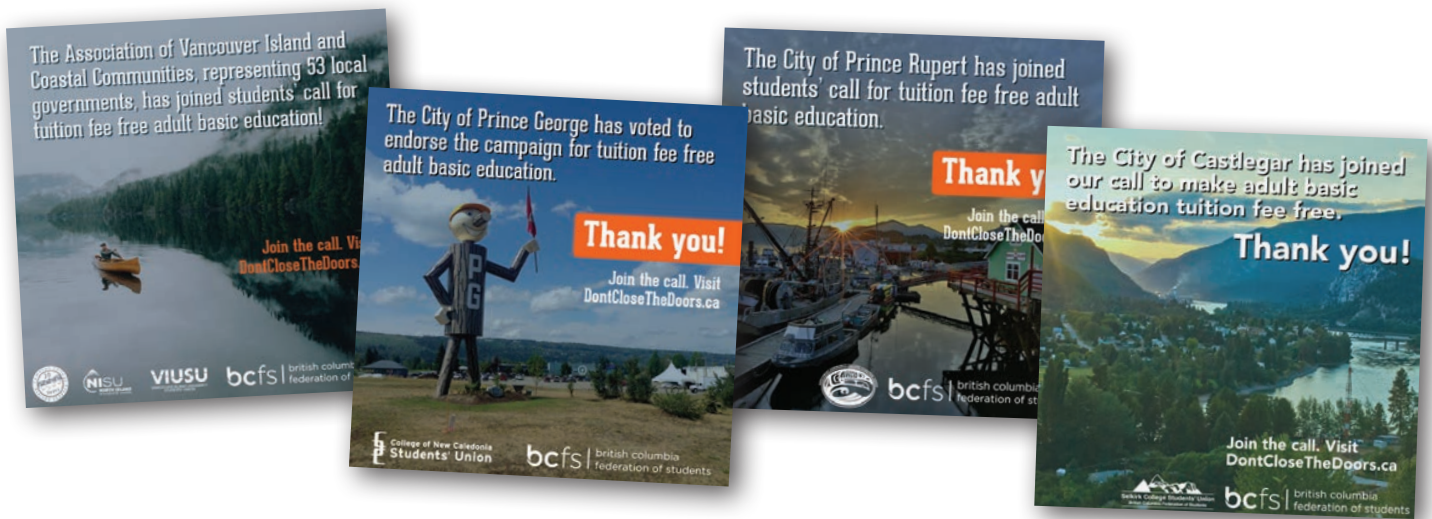
After a narrow win by the BC Liberals in the 2017 BC election, the Legislature was called to order and a Speech from the Throne was introduced on Thursday, June 22. The Speech announced the BC Liberal government would reverse its funding cuts to adult basic education programs. The Federation saw the inclusion of this commitment in the Speech as a victory, and a result of lobbying and campaign work coordinated by students across the province. The Speech from the Throne was ultimately voted down by the Legislature, resulting in the BC Liberals losing confidence of the Legislature.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

On September 6, the Federation issued a back to school media release focused on declining enrolment numbers across the province for ABE programs. The release was picked up by All Points West and the CBC Early Edition. In response, then Minister of Advanced Education Andrew Wilkinson made a statement asserting that enrolment has been declining steadily since 2009, and thus, these enrolment numbers were a part of that trend. The Federation pushed back, asserting that the drastic enrolment decline post-fee implementation significantly outpaced any trend that may have existed before 2015.

RELATIONS WITH MUNICIPALITIES

Member locals in most regions of the province presented on the campaign to municipal councils in their area in an effort to garner widespread support for the campaign goals. Prior to this academic year, the campaign had endorsements from 10 municipal councils; by the time of this report, a total of 22 councils had endorsed the campaign.



On September 19, Chairperson Marshall and Local 2 staff Gabrielle Faludi presented to the Nelson City Council. The presentation was received well by the Council, which voted unanimously in favour of endorsing the campaign.

On November 1, Chairperson Marshall and Local 6 staff Tracy Ho presented to the city council of Port Moody, the Council voted to endorse the campaign.

On November 28, Chairperson Marshall and Local 6 staff Ho presented the campaign to the city council of Port Coquitlam. Federation representatives received more challenging questions than with previous municipalities. The Federation sent a follow up letter to provide supplementary information to the presentation and requested a timeline for the endorsement decision. The Port Coquitlam City Council has yet to endorse the campaign.

On January 16, Chairperson Marshall and Local 6 director Meredith Graham presented to the Coquitlam City Council. The City Councilors were reluctant to offer support to the campaign, repeatedly stating this issue was outside their jurisdiction as a municipality. A follow-up letter was sent by the Federation and Local 6 providing more information and asking for a timeline on when the decision to endorse would be made. The Coquitlam City Council has yet to endorse the campaign.

On February 27 and 28, Chairperson Marshall and Local 14 staff Lenda Girard gave presentations to Terrace and Smithers city councils. Both municipalities have endorsed the campaign.

On March 9, then-Secretary-Treasurer Davies and Local 6 representative Armutlu presented to the Surrey School Board. The School Board sent correspondence in follow-up to the presentation stating the endorsement resolution failed and asserted this issue fell outside their jurisdiction as they are K-12 focused. A response was sent by the Federation and Local 6 reassuring the Board that this campaign also advocated for a return of ABE funding cut from the K-12 system, and asking the Board to reconsider their decision.

On April 10, Chairperson Marshall and representatives from Local 16 presented to the city council of Richmond. The campaign was unanimously endorsed.

On May 8, Chairperson Marshall and Campaigns Coordinator Armutlu gave a presentation to the Surrey City Council. The Council has yet to make a decision on the endorsement. A follow up letter was sent providing more information to questions that were asked about the number of Surrey residents that were Kwantlen students.

On May 15 Chairperson Marshall and representatives from Local 4 presented to the

Prince George City Council. The campaign was subsequently endorsed by the Council.

At its convention on April 9, the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities—representing 53 municipalities and regional districts—voted to endorse the campaign.

A number of other presentations have also been conducted by member locals. To-date, the following 23 municipalities have endorsed the campaign:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Burnaby | Castlegar |
| Courtenay | Cumberland |
| Duncan | Hazelton |
| Ladysmith | Nanaimo |
| Nelson | New Westminster |
| Parksville | Prince George |
| Prince Rupert | Port Alberni |
| Port Moody | Powell River |
| Qualicum Beach | Quesnel |
| Richmond | Smithers |
| Terrace | Trail |
| Victoria | |

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION DAY

The City of Vancouver declared September 12, 2016 “Adult Basic Education Day”. On September 12, Local 16 hosted a media event on campus in the Local students’ union space. Vancouver Community College ABE students were invited to watch the announcement and proclamation given by City Councilor Andrea Reimer. Local 16 member Nicky Tran and Chairperson Marshall provided remarks about the state of adult basic education and the advocacy work that was being undertaken by students. The Federation worked with the City of Vancouver to develop and circulate a media release and social media shareable to promote the proclamation. The media release included a quote from Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson in support of ABE.

The Federation sent an email to the campaign supporter list, asking for supporters to tweet Premier Clark, and wish her a happy Adult Basic

Education Day. Over fifty tweets were sent to the Premier, and the Federation received positive feedback on the email.

In response to the “Adult Basic Education Day”, the BC government issued a news release on adult basic education funding and the Adult Upgrading Grants (AUG) program, which garnered little attention. The news release provides the first glimpse of rationale for cutting funding to ABE and removing the tuition fee-free mandate. The news release stated that delivery costs increased since 2008 making it hard for institutions to maintain tuition-free courses.



UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES

From September 27 to 30, Chairperson Marshall and Local 6 representative Monquie Paulino attended the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention in Victoria. At the convention, staff and councilors from municipalities from across British Columbia were gathered to conduct the business of the organization. A motion had been served to the convention from the Town of Qualicum Beach to call on the Minister of Advanced Education to restore funding to all adult basic education

programming offered through school districts and post-secondary institutions.

The Federation shared a campaign table in the Trade Show Exhibit with the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators. Federation representatives collected postcard signatures from city councilors and staff, and promoted the motion submitted by the Town of Qualicum Beach. Unfortunately, due to time constraints the motion was not discussed during the resolutions portion of the Convention. As a result, the motion was referred to the UBCM Executive Committee.

Feedback from city councilors and staff about the campaign was positive, and nearly 200 signed postcards were collected.

At the April 2017 meeting of the UBCM Executive Committee, the motion to support ABE was passed.

CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT

A toolkit was developed to assist member locals in giving presentations to city councils seeking endorsements. Included in the toolkit is:

- 5-minute Keynote campaign presentation
- Campaign factsheet
- City Council meeting request guide
- Frequently asked questions during presentations
- Sample delegation request letter
- Sample City Council motion
- Sample City Council letter to the Minister of Advanced Education
- Sample follow-up letter

ONLINE TOOLS

The Federation created an online mobilization tool in the days leading up to the 2017 Budget announcement. The tool allowed campaign supporters to send an email to the Minister of Finance asking that the government heed

the recommendations put forward by the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. Specifically, the email called on the government to restore funding for adult education. Once a supporter sent the email (which was pre-written but editable for ease and customizability), they were asked to share the action page on Twitter.

The tool was promoted through an email to campaign supporters and on the Federation's social media accounts. In total, 1,130 emails were sent to the Minister of Finance in the four days before the budget announcement.

FIGHT FOR \$15 BC

At the January 2015 general meeting, delegates passed a resolution to endorse the BC Federation of Labour's Fight for \$15 BC campaign, which calls on the provincial government to increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. During the 2015/16 year, the Federation circulated co-branded material with the BC Federation of Labour and collected several thousand signatures on the BC Federation of Labour's Fight for \$15 petition.

On September 1, 2016 the minimum wage was increased by 10 cents to \$10.85 per hour. Despite this, the current minimum wage leaves workers thousands of dollars below the poverty line and forces families to make difficult choices between paying rent and buying groceries. Raising minimum wage to \$15 per hour would put workers above the low-income threshold, and move the minimum wage substantially closer to a living wage.

Throughout the year, the Federation worked with the BC Federation of Labour to circulate a survey about students working in low-wage jobs. Upon request, Locals 2, 4, 6, 10, 14, 15, and 17 received surveys to engage members in discussions about minimum wage. These locals participated in a province-wide day of action on November 15, 2016. The BC Federation of Labour will use the data collected from the

surveys to aid in updating campaign materials and speaking points.

On March 15, the BC Federation of Labour delivered over 56,000 signatures from campaign supporters to the Legislature.

In the 2017 BC election, both the New Democrats and the Green Party committed to addressing the minimum wage in BC, with the New Democrats agreeing to adopt the campaign's demand of \$15 per hour. With an NDP government now in power, this campaign's goal appears attainable in the coming months.

LET'S GET CONSENSUAL

At the January 2016 BC general meeting, members passed a resolution to endorse Let's Get Consensual, a campaign led by the Students' Society and the Anti-Violence Project of the University of Victoria. This is an education-based campaign that advocates against rape culture and sexualized violence on campus.



The Federation adapted existing, and created new campaign materials to assist member locals in outreach and education about the campaign issues. The materials include a poster, buttons, coasters, stickers, and pledge to build consent culture on campus. Materials were available to member locals upon request beginning in January 2017.

RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AGENCIES

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE OF FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Each year, the Minister of Finance produces a budget for the government of British Columbia that is presented to the Legislature. The process begins with consultations of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, a bipartisan committee of the Legislature tasked with collecting input on budget priorities from citizens across the province, and putting forward budget recommendations.

Chairperson Marshall and Executive Officer Olson presented to the Select Standing Committee of Finance and Government Services on Thursday, September 22 in Surrey. The Federation's presentation focused on the need for free adult basic education, student debt, and tuition fee waivers for children in care. The Federation also submitted a written report.

On November 17, the Committee released its report on the Budget 2017 consultations, which included several recommendations relating to the Federation's submission, including:

- Reinstate tuition-free English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Basic Education (ABE) and adult special education programs (also recommended in 2014 and 2015)
- Provide stable and predictable multi-year funding for coordinated community literacy programs and services (also recommended in 2014 and 2015)

- Develop a solution to enable post-secondary institutions to finance self-supported capital projects, including student residences and housing (also recommended in 2014 and 2015)
- Increase operating grants to post-secondary institutions to address unfunded cost pressures and move to multi-year allotments for operating grants and deferred maintenance grants to help these institutions with their financial planning (also recommended in 2014 and 2015)
- Establish a needs-based student grant program that addresses student needs and provides incentives for completion and conduct a review of the current B.C. student loan eligibility requirements and interest charged on B.C. student loans (also recommended in 2013, 2014, and 2015)
- Enhance and extend financial, educational, and relational programs and services to support youth transitioning out of foster care up to the age of 25 years old.

In response to the release of the Committee's report, the Federation issued a press release calling on the provincial government to take action on the Committee's recommendations, particularly around adult basic education.

2017 BC BUDGET

Following consideration of the recommendations of the BC Standing Committee on Government Finance and Services, the Minister of Finance in consultation with the Cabinet and Premier, presents a budget to the Legislative Assembly. This budget is reviewed by legislators who analyze the make-up of government's financial expectations for the coming year, then vote on the proposal.

BC Budget 2017 was released on February 21, 2017. Secretary-Treasurer Davies and Executive Officer Olson participated in the budget "lock-up", where media and stakeholders were

provided with an advanced presentation of the budget and were allowed a brief question and answer period. The Federation coordinated its initial response to the Budget with the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC by issuing a joint press release.

Template letters to the editor and a media contact list, broken down by local, were sent over the Executive Committee listserv for directors and members to use to help ensure post-secondary issues would be included in coverage of the budget.

Core Funding

Post-secondary institutions rely on core funding from the provincial government to fund their day-to-day operations. In the past 15 years, core funding has decreased over 20 percent. Budget 2017 continued this trend, offering a meager one percent increase in core funding, which constituted a reduction of funding in real dollars, as the increase does not keep pace with inflation.

Tuition Fees

Budget 2017 continued the pattern of increasing tuition fees at public colleges and universities. Tuition fees have increased for 15 consecutive years under the BC Liberal government, and have more than doubled over that period.

Tuition fee revenue for the 2017/18 year were projected to be \$1.8 billion. According to the government's figures, it was estimated that in three years tuition fees will be the largest contribution to the post-secondary system.

Interest on Loans

For years, the Federation has lobbied the government to eliminate interest on student loans. BC students pay the highest rate of interest on student loans in all of Canada at a range of 2.5 to 5 percent above prime.

Budget 2017 included a reduction in interest on student loans to the prime rate of interest.

The government's documents suggest this change would collectively save students \$17 million a year. The change was set to take effect on August 1, 2017.

RELATIONS WITH THE MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION

LITERACY FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

On November 18, the BC government announced that \$2.4 million dollars would be allocated to community adult literacy programs. The announcement was made despite the massive government cut of \$16 million from adult education—programs that improve fundamental numeracy and literacy skills. The Federation published a news release with the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators linking the literacy program funding and adult education program cuts. This was the second installment of \$2.4 million dollars given to this program.

RELATIONS WITH THE OPPOSITION

Chairperson Marshall and Executive Officer Olson met with BC NDP Critic for Advanced Education Rob Fleming on March 6 to discuss issues pertinent to students in the upcoming election, as well as the provincial budget.

On March 6, Chairperson Marshall and Executive Officer Olson met with Leader of the Green Party Dr. Andrew Weaver. Discussed in the meeting was adult basic education, funding for institutions, student financial aid and tuition fee waivers for children in care. Weaver provided an overview of priorities for students that would be in his Party's platform for the 2017 election.

On March 24, Chairperson Marshall and Coordinator Beasley met with Opposition Leader John Horgan. Federation representatives highlighted issues facing students, including the need for a grants program and restored funding for adult basic education. The meeting also discussed components of the BC NDP's platform for

the 2017 election; Federation representatives stressed the need to include commitments for post-secondary education.

GENERAL RELATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

On April 25, Chairperson Marshall and then-Secretary Treasurer-elect Patigdas participated in a conference call with staff from Nanaimo—Ladysmith Member of Parliament Sheila Malcolmson. Malcolmson is the NDP Status of Women Critic, and the call focused on issues young women face when accessing post-secondary education, including adult basic education. Information from the meeting was being collected for a report on the economic status of women in Canada being published by the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women.

Following the meeting, the Federation submitted a written brief to the Standing Committee on the Status of Women as a contribution to the study. The following recommendations were put forward:

1. Ensure funding exists for provinces and territories to provide adult basic education free of cost for those who have not completed a high school diploma, or who need to upgrade their high school education to continue into post-secondary education or to stay in the job market.
2. Help alleviate the burden of debt on families by increasing the number of non-repayable up-front grants to students available through the Canada Student Grants Program.
3. Include interns in the employment protections of the Canada Labour Code and put an end to unpaid internships.

The background of the image is a stylized landscape featuring several layers of mountain ranges. The mountains are rendered in various shades of blue, with the foreground mountains being a darker blue and the background ones being lighter, creating a sense of depth. The sky is a light, pale blue. At the bottom of the image, there is a dark blue silhouette of a forest or a line of trees. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is positioned in the lower-middle part of the image, containing the text.

COALITION AND SOLIDARITY WORK



The notion of “strength in numbers” extends beyond the membership of the Federation. Working with labour unions, non-profits, and community organizations, the Federation can extend the influence of students into many other conversations and initiatives. Conversely, through these coalitions, the Federation is able to bring ideas and campaigns to members, to help spread the reach of other important causes.

The Federation works with labour unions, policy development organizations, business associations, and non-profits to provide students’ perspective.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATION OF LABOUR

The British Columbia Federation of Labour represents unionized workers throughout British Columbia and has historically been one of the Federation’s strongest allies.

Minimum Wage Working Group

The Minimum Wage Working Group is a BC Federation of Labour committee made up of union representatives and community affiliates. The Working Group meets once a month to plan and strategize for the Fight for \$15 campaign. Chairperson Marshall holds the Federation’s seat in the Group.

This year, the Committee focused on a number of initiatives including campaign outreach at community events, and preparation for the provincial election. As noted earlier in this report, the BC Federation of Labour developed a rave card highlighting the demographics affected by poverty wages in BC. On March 18, the BC Federation of Labour delivered over 56,000 signatures collected through both the online and physical Fight for \$15 petitions.

YOUNG WORKERS’ COMMITTEE

The Federation has participated in the BC Federation of Labour’s Young Workers’ Committee since 1997. The Federation currently has a non-voting seat on the Young Workers’ Committee, which is filled by Chairperson Marshall.

On April 1, Federation representatives participated in the annual Grant’s Law Sit-In, hosted by the Committee. Grant’s Law is legislation that was put in place after a young worker was dragged to

his death working by himself at a gas station. The law enacted pay-before-you-pump rules and also required late-night workers to work in pairs. The law has since been watered down with those regulations removed due to pressure from business. The goal of the sit-in was to bring attention to the plight of late-night workers and have the protections for those working alone be replaced.



LABOUR DAY

Chairperson Marshall and representatives from Local 6 hosted a table highlighting Federation campaigns at the BC Federation of Labour's annual Labour Day picnic in Burnaby. The event was well-attended by working families in the Lower Mainland and featured information booths from labour unions and community organizations. Representatives collected over 100 signatures for the Squash the Squeeze campaign.

57TH CONVENTION OF THE BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR

The 57th Convention of the BC Federation of Labour was held on November 28 to December 2 in Vancouver. Convention is held every other year and brings together over 1000 delegates from multiple unions across BC.

The Young Workers' Forum was hosted by the Young Workers' Committee on November 27. Over 90 delegates from multiple labour unions

were in attendance. Chairperson Marshall spoke on a panel about funding for post-secondary education being an important step in achieving reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Secretary-Treasurer Davies attended a Women's Night on November 28 as part of the Convention. Davies facilitated discussion about the provincial politics and what priorities delegates would like to see to fight gender inequality in British Columbia.

On November 30, Chairperson Marshall and Secretary-Treasurer Davies attended the Convention to watch the campaign launch of the BCFED's political action campaign. The campaign, Together for BC, Better Can Happen Here was an election campaign that encouraged workers and their families to vote in the provincial election.

On December 1, Chairperson Marshall brought greetings to approximately 1,000 delegates from multiple unions across the province. Marshall discussed the importance of student and worker solidarity, student debt, and free adult basic education.

PROVINCIAL ELECTION ORGANIZING

On December 7, the BC Federation of Labour hosted an election organizing meeting to strategize with non-profits in the Lower Mainland. The meeting provided coalition partners with the opportunity to share their strategy and plans for the provincial election.

BRITISH COLUMBIA TEACHERS' FEDERATION

The British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) represents 41,000 public school teachers in BC. All public school teachers are members of the BCTF.

On August 19, Chairperson Marshall and Coordinator Beasley met with BCTF President Glen Hansman, Communications Officer Nancy Knickerbocker, and Executive Director

Moira Mackenzie. Items discussed at the meeting included ways the organizations can work together in the coming year. Federation representatives provided an overview of plans for the provincial election campaign. Also discussed was having a BCTF representative facilitate a workshop during the Indigenous Students' Conference.

Federation representatives tabled the Students Are Voting and Don't Close the Doors campaigns at the BCTF's Advocacy Works conference on February 18. The conference brought together over 300 BCTF and Parent Advisory Council members from across the province to develop skills to better advocate for their schools. Representatives also had the opportunity to participate in workshops and sessions during the conference.

The BCTF held its annual general meeting from March 18 to 20, at which approximately 600 of its members were gathered. The Federation was invited to have an information table throughout the meeting, and Federation representatives staffed the table on March 18 and 19. Feedback from teachers about Don't Close the Doors and Students Are Voting was extremely positive.

FEDERATION OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATORS OF BC

The Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC (FPSE) is the organization that represents academic workers through trade unions at BC's post-secondary institutions. The FPSE has a long history of working with the Federation to further the common initiatives of students and workers.

On February 18, Chairperson Marshall brought greetings to FPSE delegates at the annual spring leadership conference, and spoke about the Federation's work for the upcoming provincial election. Federation representatives participated in workshops throughout the conference.

Throughout the reporting period, a number of FPSE locals hosted Open the Doors campaign events in lead up to the provincial election. Marshall spoke at the Northwest Community College Faculty Association's campaign launch on February 27 about the youth vote and student debt; on March 6 she spoke about the youth vote and adult basic education at the College of New Caledonia Faculty Association's campaign launch.

On March 8, Secretary-Treasurer Davies spoke at an International Women's Day event hosted by the Kwantlen Faculty Association.

On March 30, Chairperson Marshall participated in an education gala organized by the Kwantlen Faculty Association- Local 5 of FPSE. The gala featured multimedia art pieces submitted by Local 9 members that highlighted how education has changed their life.

Chairperson Marshall participated as a panelist in a telephone town hall organized by FPSE on April 5. The panel was focused on post-secondary education and the provincial election. Other participants were President of the Kwantlen Faculty Association Bob Davis and President of FPSE George Davison. At the highest point, there were over 1,200 listeners; several callers were able to ask questions, including a number of students from member and non-member institutions.

On May 17, Chairperson Marshall and Coordinator Beasley attended FPSE's annual general meeting held in Victoria. Marshall brought greetings and spoke about the need to work collaboratively and strategically on government relations and campaigns work.

UNIFOR

UNIFOR is Canada's largest private sector union, with more than 310,000 members across the country, working in every major sector of the Canadian economy.

On November 27, Chairperson Marshall spoke at the UNIFOR BC regional meeting, which had over 200 delegates from across the province. Marshall gave a presentation on youth voter turnout in the federal election, and the Federation's plans for voter engagement in the upcoming provincial election.



UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS 1518

The United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1518 represents over 20,000 workers in a diverse range of industries, including community health, seasonal agriculture, and professional services.

On February 3, Federation representatives attended a workshop on digital campaigning organized by the BC Federation of Labour and the United Food and Commercial Workers 1518. The workshop was facilitated by organizers from the People for Bernie campaign in the United States.

CONFEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY FACULTY ASSOCIATIONS-BC

The Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia (CUFABC) represents approximately 5,400 faculty members, lecturers, and professional librarians at British Columbia's five research universities

On March 3 and 4 Chairperson Marshall and Executive Officer Olson attended CUFABC's conference on university governance. The workshops included fiduciary duties of board members, collective bargaining in collegial governance, and critical analysis of the overall structure of the democratic systems within institutions.

COALITION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

Established in 1995, the Coalition for Public Education was created to provide a venue for stakeholders in the public education sector to collaborate and work together on campaigns to better both K-12 and post-secondary education. In previous years, the Coalition has hosted conferences on public education, shared research, and strategized for provincial elections. The last recorded meeting was in May 2011.

On November 7, members of the Coalition met to revitalize the group. Representatives from the following unions, in addition to the Federation, were present:

- BC Institute of Technology Faculty and Staff Association (BCITFSA)
- BC Teacher's Federation (BCTF)
- Confederation of University Faculty Association BC (CUFABC)
- Canadian Union of Public Employees BC (CUPEBC)
- Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC (FPSE)
- MoveUP
- The Teaching Support Staff Union (TSSU) of Simon Fraser University

At the meeting, Coalition members discussed plans for the provincial election, and agreed to share research on funding for post-secondary education and other relevant data. The meeting also discussed sharing materials for the provincial election.

THE TYEE

The Tyee is an independent online magazine that publishes news, reviews, and commentary not typically covered by mainstream media.

FUTURE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

On November 5, Chairperson Marshall and Secretary-Treasurer Davies attended an event hosted by The Tyee called Future of Public Education. The night featured a number of different speakers, from all sectors of public K-12 Education to discuss the importance of free and public education. Speakers included Jo-Anne Crona from the First Nations Education Steering Committee and Jennifer Stewart from Families Against Cuts to Education.

HOME FOR GOOD

On February 22, The Tyee hosted a panel on housing called Home for Good, for which the Federation was a sponsor. Secretary-Treasurer Davies participated on the panel to provide a student perspective on the challenging rental market in the Lower Mainland. In advance of the panel, Davies and another panel member spoke on CBC Radio and CBC News at 6 to promote the event and discuss the current state of the housing market in the Lower Mainland.

The Federation participated in a follow-up event called Actions for Housing Now. The focus of the invite-only event was for different stakeholders, business partners, and governments to discuss solutions to the housing crisis in the Lower Mainland. Secretary-Treasurer Davies and Federation staff Beasley participated in these discussions.



TENANT RESOURCE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRAC)

The Tenant Resource & Advisory Centre (TRAC) provides legal education and information about residential tenancy matters to tenants and community advocates. TRAC works to enhance legal protections for tenants and support efforts to expand the availability of affordable rental housing in BC. Chairperson Simka Marshall holds the Federation's seat on the Centre's Board of Directors.

TRAC has recently launched an educational program designed to provide training for first time renters in BC. The program, called Renting it Right, consists of two online-courses: a beginner's course and an intermediate course.

The beginner's course provides the learner with everything they need to know when looking for a place to rent. The intermediate course goes into detail about renters' rights. At the end of the training, the learner receives a document certifying their training. The second phase of the course was launched in early 2017. Member locals are encouraged to share information about the online course with members through social media.

At its annual general meeting on June 19, Campaigns Coordinator Armutlu was elected as the Federation's representative on TRAC's board of directors.

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES-BC

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-BC is an independent, non-partisan research institute concerned with issues of social, economic and environmental justice

On February 17, Federation representatives attended a budget preparatory session hosted by the CCPA-BC. At the session, representatives of the CCPA-BC presented on polling data, research projects on housing and education, and what to expect in the upcoming budget.

On February 22, Federation representatives attended an election strategizing session hosted by the CCPA-BC. The event brought together multiple non-profit and labour organizations from across the province. Sessions included using polling data to frame campaign messaging and the importance of targeting swing ridings.

GOOD ECONOMY PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Federation is a financial supporter of the Good Economy Project, and holds a seat on the Advisory Committee. The seat is currently filled by Coordinator Beasley.

The Advisory Committee met on February 8. The meeting reviewed the recent work completed on tax fairness in the province, which revealed that those with the top one percent of household income paid a lower aggregate net tax rate than those in several lower deciles. The meeting reviewed other elements of the CCPA's work on taxation that illustrated the dramatic growth in regressive taxation at the expense of progressive income taxes between 2000 and 2016. It was noted that the top one percent of household incomes began at \$400,000, and that the average household income of the one percent group was approximately \$900,000.

The February 8 meeting considered ways in which the outcome of the Good Economy Project could promote research results in the BC election, specifically recommended areas for job growth investment, the results of the regional job analysis, and the proposal to make property taxes progressive. Members of the Advisory Committee discussed the framing of information about fair taxation in light of recent polling results. The meeting concluded by considering future initiatives that could be undertaken after the May 2017 BC election, and how best to secure funding for future research.

The Advisory Committee met on May 31. Much of the meeting focused on what to expect in the coming months from a minority government, a discussion that took the majority of the meeting time. Though opinions varied, members around the table were optimistic about seeing the items listed in the NDP-Green agreement come to fruition. Concern was expressed about the expected push-back against a progressive agenda, and members recognized the need for organizations represented around the table to mobilize in support of the key, prioritized initiatives. Some meeting participants expressed the opinion that NDP-Green agreement was very ambitious, and was not reflective of the challenges faced in implementing the policies listed therein.

GREATER VANCOUVER BOARD OF TRADE

The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade is the largest business association in western Canada. It exists to provide advocacy and put forward public policy initiatives, facilitate professional development and host community events.

On April 18, Chairperson Marshall spoke about housing and affordability for students on a panel hosted during Housing Forum 2017: The Missing Middle of the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade. The panel was focused on affordable housing and how business leaders and elected

officials can help alleviate the housing crisis. The panel consisted of Port Moody Mayor Mike Clay, CEO of BC Care Providers Association Daniel Fontaine, Abundant Housing Association representative Daniel Olekiusk and was facilitated by CTV reporter Jon Woodward.

UBC PETER WALL INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE

On May 15 and 16, Secretary-Treasurer Patigdas, Researcher Celeste, and Executive Officer Olson participated in a discussion panel of members of the International Research Roundtable about the impact of global university rankings on higher education. The panel had academics from around the world discussing how global rankings are shaping their respective educational systems and the delivery quality of education in their institutions. Participants learned the advantages and disadvantages of global rankings and its implications on funding structures, quality of education, recruitment, and public policy. The information collected provides more context on the accessible post-secondary education that the Federation and member locals advocate for.

The background of the entire page is a stylized landscape. It features several layers of rolling hills or mountains in various shades of blue and teal. The hills in the foreground are darker, while those in the background are lighter, creating a sense of depth. At the very bottom, there is a dark, jagged silhouette that resembles a forest or a rocky shoreline. In the center of the image, there is a semi-transparent white rectangular box.

SERVICES



The Federation operates services to make students' lives and students' union's work easier. By pooling our collective resources, students' unions can make their limited budgets go farther while offering members high-quality, ethically-sourced services.

MEMBERS' HANDBOOK AND DAYPLANNER

The handbook service was created by member locals in British Columbia in the mid-1990s as a means of cost reduction, particularly for small member locals. It was also viewed as a means to improve the overall quality of student dayplanners.

The handbooks consist of a local-specific section, a section about the Federation, and common calendar and time management pages. The quantity produced has allowed for better quality paper and full-colour pages, while achieving savings in writing, editing, design, printing, and binding costs. The savings have enabled some students' unions to greatly reduce advertising in their handbooks. In addition, the books have always been produced using a unionized printer and are produced using recycled paper and vegetable-based inks.

In the mid 2000s, coordination of the handbook service was assumed by the Canadian Federation of Students-Services (CFS-S); however there was growing concern with member locals in the ability of the CFS-S in facilitating the service in 2015. In response to repeated failures on the part of the CFS-S to properly administer various services and related concern about that organization's ability to deliver handbooks by the August deadline, the Federation reassumed responsibility for the primary coordination of the production of handbooks for BC member locals. However, the Federation remained part of the national service by continuing to pool its resources with member locals across Canada through the use of a common provider of printing services.

In the Spring of 2016, without discussion or approval of the National Executive, the CFS-S terminated its long-standing relationship with the handbook printer, Mitchell Press. Further, no notice was provided to the Federation that CFS-S intended to abandon the national service. The Executive Committee resolved to continue working with the printer that has produced the books for at least the previous 18 years and has continually proven to be the lowest cost option. As a result, there are no longer any shared or common handbook services with the CFS-S.

2016-17 PRODUCTION

The Federation coordinated the production of handbooks from 12 member local unions and one non-member students' union, the Northern Undergraduate Students' Society, totalling 48,505 units.

As noted above, Mitchell Press remained as the printing company to produce the 2016-17 BC members' handbooks. Mitchell Press has years of experience with the service, and understands the complexities of producing and shipping so many different versions.

Without the delays commonly experienced when coordinating production with the CFS-S, the handbooks were completed earlier than scheduled. The handbooks were delivered approximately three weeks ahead of schedule to all participating students' unions.

2017-18 PRODUCTION

For the 2017-18 production year, the Executive Committee again secured a contract from Mitchell Press at no price increase over the previous year.

A new designer was hired for this year's project; work on updating the components of the handbook began in March. Due to positive feedback from members, the design of the local section template and the calendar section will be similar to the past two years with minor

updates to font, layout, and colour. Some improvements in this year's calendar section include full-page monthly calendars, and a "priorities for the week" section at the top of each weekly spread.

As in past years, the handbook contains information on current issues in post-secondary education in BC, campaigns, and other important information or members. The Federation's information section has been updated to reduce text and increase images, with a focus on making the content more digestible. A sticker page was offered as an optional add-on, and was used by all participating locals.

Custom versions of the handbook are being printed for twelve member locals. The total number of units printed will be 46,652—a slight decline from the previous year. It is expected that handbooks will be delivered to campus ahead of schedule again this year.

INSURANCE SERVICES

BC STUDENT HEALTH CONSORTIUM

The Federation coordinates the BC Student Health Consortium with the primary purpose of using the collective expertise and combined purchasing power of participating members to secure lower rates and better coverage for individual members.



Historically, some BC member locals participated in the buying consortium of the National Student Health Network for health and dental insurance coordinated by the CFS-S. In 2014-15 the BC member locals made the decision to leave the National Student Health Network due to numerous service failures and in recognition that the majority of the service received by BC member local unions was provided by the BC office.

Consortium Participation

The BC purchasing consortium consists of Locals 1, 2, 4, 10, 13, 15, and 16.

Consortium Meetings

Consortium members met during the August 2016 general meeting. This meeting considered broker services provide to the consortium and provided direction to procure additional advisory services.

Consortium members met on January 15, immediately following the Federation's annual general meeting. Members reviewed developments in the service over the past year, discussed program and service enhancements delivered by the Federation's service providers, and reviewed the Federation's relationship with its service providers. The meeting also received a presentation from an organization that provides online access to general practitioners and nurse practitioners.

Benefit Providers

The Federation continues to work with Green Shield Canada (GSC) for the health, dental, and travel components of member local union plans and does so without the need of a third-party data administrator.

Prior to this year, the Federation and consortium members used the services of Prosum Health Benefits Consulting (Prosum) as their broker for the accidental death and dismemberment component of member local union student plans and for the staff benefit plan. Following the consortium

meeting in January 2017, the Federation expanded its work with Prosum to include general consultation and advisory services. Simultaneously, consortium members appointed Prosum as their agent of record for all health, dental, travel, accidental death and dismemberment and other related insurances services.

Pharmacy Discounts

In August 2016, the Federation partnered with Charter RX to offer a discount for prescriptions and over-the-counter medications filled at Alliance Pharmacy, an online pharmacy and drugstore. The Federation will produce materials to promote the discount in time for the beginning of the fall 2017 semester.

Consortium members will receive a discount of five dollars off their co-pay for prescriptions filled through the online storefront, Alliance Pharmacy. Prescriptions filled through Alliance Pharmacy include free next day shipping, and refill reminders through their mobile app. There is also access to licensed pharmacists for consultations. Prescriptions can be faxed or emailed directly to Alliance Pharmacy at the doctor's office, or sent to them by the member.

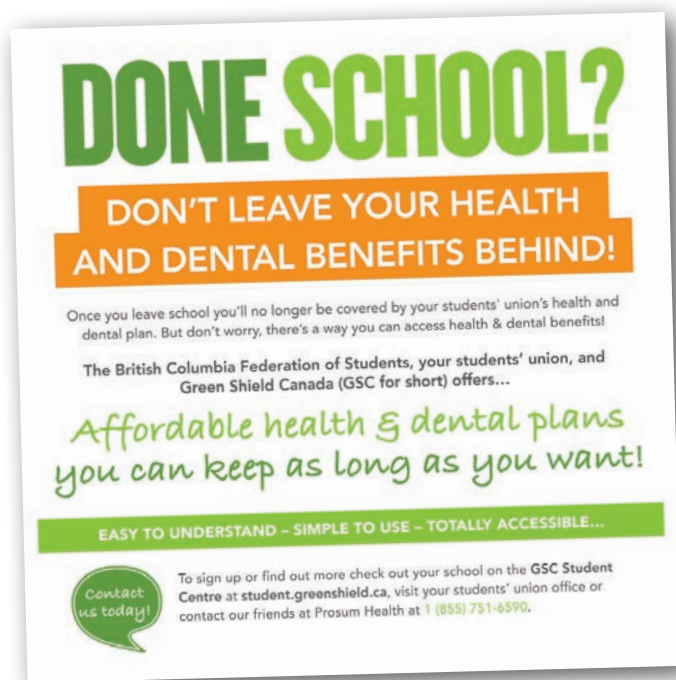
Alliance Pharmacy will also provide an ISIC discount of 10 percent off all over-the-counter medications, as well as other personal wellness products. To access the discount, members must create an account and use the code 'CFSBC10'. For these products, Alliance Pharmacy offers free shipping, and products will be delivered in three days. The Federation is working to have the user code changed to reflect the organization's correct name.

During the reporting period Coordinator Beasley met with Charter RX representatives at their central dispensary in Aurora, Ontario. Following a tour of the facility, Beasley discussed ways to promote the discount and ways to work more closely with the online dispenser to aid in the reduction of drug costs.

Work is underway to develop promotional materials and to have a tile included on the OOH LALA campus applications so members can access the pharmacy on their mobile phones.

Legal Assistance Service

The Federation and its broker Prosum offered a legal assistance service as a trial for the 2016-17 year. The service provides free over-the-phone legal advice to plan members on a wide range of topics. If a plan member requires additional legal representation, the service refers plan members to lawyers who can take on that member as a client with a 25 percent discount off the lawyer's standard rates. The service costs \$0.13 per student per month. All Network members added this service to their plans for the 2016-17 year, and the Federation produced and distributed promotional materials for the service in February 2017. The service was retained for the 2017-18 year, and a review of usage and pricing will be conducted at the end of this coming year.



Property and Casualty Insurance

The Federation continues to undertake work to develop a bulk purchase arrangement for various forms of property, casualty, and liability insurance. To-date, Locals 1, 2, 13, and 15, as well as the BC office, have switched insurance providers to collectively purchase these forms of insurance from a single broker. The broker in question, BFL Canada, was sourced by Coordinator Beasley and CFS-Services National Student Health Network Coordinator Tom Rowles, and is based in Toronto. Work has recently been undertaken to consider a new broker that would have a closer working relationship to the Federation in British Columbia.

STAFF BENEFIT PLAN

The Federation operates a staff benefit plan, which is now in its third year of operation. To-date Locals 2, 4, 10, 13, 15 and 16 have joined the plan, which also includes the Federation staff and full-time elected members the Executive Committee. The Federation has received expressions of interest in joining the staff plan from Local 1 and 6, and is working with its broker to develop affordable options for those locals.

The staff plan was renewed in February following an increase of approximately 7.3%. The small size of the group and newness of the plan has created a challenge in negotiating a stable price; however, following its third year of operations, there should be sufficient claims history to put the plan into the marketplace and seek a more competitive price. Claims data for the 2017 year shows that the cost of claims to-date are within expected limits and should the trend continue, produce a near no-change renewal for 2018.

ONLINE AND DIGITAL SERVICES

The Federation coordinates a suite of online services that help member locals manage their electronic communications. Additionally, the

Federation works with OOHLALA Mobile Inc. to provide a mobile platform as a communications tool and service for individual members.

ONLINE SERVICES

As a result of increasingly inconsistent technical support from CFS-Services, member locals directed the Executive Committee to investigate the coordination of purchasing for domain, website, and email hosting services. The Executive Committee developed an alternative hosting solution for member locals experiencing issues with the national webhosting service.

The webhosting requires three different components: domain registration, domain network settings (DNS), and website hosting.

Domain Registration and Network Settings

In order for a website to be hosted, the domain needs to be registered and the domain network systems (DNS) settings need to be hosted.

Work was ongoing throughout the year to migrate all domains and DNS to a BC-based account in the Federations name. That process was heavily impeded by the refusal of CFS-Services staff to approve the necessary transfers. The Federation asked Hover—the domain registration and DNS hosting company—to facilitate the transfer of domains, which legally belong to the member locals. Work on migration is ongoing, and locals without functional websites were prioritized.

Domains currently purchased centrally through the Federation belong to Locals 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, as well as the BC office.

To-date no list has been provided by CFS-S of the remaining domains hosted on the CFS-S account, despite numerous requests for this information.

Website Hosting

The Federation has engaged Rackspace to create an independently hosted cloud platform. Cloudsites Web provide stable, independent

website hosting that allows member locals to host Wordpress, Drupal, or PHP website that are fully customizable.

The websites of Locals 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and the BC office are currently being collectively hosted through this service. Feedback on the service remains positive and the websites have experienced no downtime since the migration.

Email Hosting

The Federation provides low cost email hosting managed through Rackspace as an alternative to expensive email providers that offer many additional services not needed by all locals. The service currently coordinates email hosting for Locals 10, 14, and 15. Locals 4 and 16 have expressed interest in the service and it is expected that they will be migrated to the hosting platform by Fall 2017.

MOBILE APPLICATION

The Federation has been working with OOHLALA Mobile Inc. since 2011 to develop and operate a mobile phone application for use by individual members and member local unions. The application serves as a communications platform between the Federation, member locals, campus groups, and individual members and extends communication of ISIC discounts beyond print and online advertisements.

Usage

There are active applications on the campuses of Locals 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17 and 20. Usage of the application remains fairly consistent across the province.

The Federation will continue to work with member local unions and OOHLALA to ensure high usage of the applications and integrate Federation campaigns and services into the applications.



Infringements on Local Autonomy

In October 2016, OOHLALA received instruction from CFS Executive Director Toby Whitfield to add a tile for the Federation's national campaign to have a Day of Action on November 2. Whitfield informed OOHLALA that not only did Secretary-Treasurer Davies approve the tile, but added that it was her idea to implement it on all the member local union applications without member local union consent. This lie was easily identified and Secretary-Treasurer Davies, acting on the Executive Committee's behalf, instructed that the tile be removed. Member local unions also emailed OOHLALA directly to ask for the tile to be removed.

The unwanted content was eventually removed, and OOHLALA reminded Whitfield that locals have final say on all additions to their apps under the current service agreement. However, this action raised the concern amongst members of the Executive Committee that unwanted CFS-related content could be added to local apps without consent of the locals in the future.

User Agreement

OOHLALA and CFS-S have an agreement that allows member locals to use the application free of charge. However, based on information contained within the National Executive Report at the summer 2016 National General Meeting, members in BC have grown concerned about the future of the relationship between these two bodies. At the 35th Semi-Annual BC General Meeting, members directed the Executive Committee to enter discussion with OOHLALA Mobile Inc. regarding a BC specific user agreement. Given the number of BC member local unions that have come to rely on access to this online app, it is critical to act to ensure that service levels are maintained.

Since that meeting, the Federation has negotiated and signed a user agreement with OOHLALA. The Executive Committee has recognized that the Federation's budget can't handle the full cost of the user agreement for the province, and as such a cost-sharing agreement with participating member locals is in development.

Upcoming Features

OOHLALA is working on a number of new features to the application. One such update would allow member local unions to send push notifications to participants in an event asking for the event feedback. Users then are asked to provide a one to five-star rating of the event, and a short comment or feedback for the organizers. This data could then be collected and compared throughout the year for the member local union, for not only their events, but like events across the province. OOHLALA is looking for BC member local unions to be the test group of this new feature and provide feedback. It seems to be a powerful tool to create better, more successful, and better-attended events in the future.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT IDENTITY CARD

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) was established more than 50 years ago for the purpose of creating a single, widely-recognised form of student identity card for students when travelling abroad. Since that time, the ISIC also evolved into a domestic student card in many parts of the world.

The Federation, along with its predecessor organizations, has been the Canadian agent for the ISIC since the early 1960s. It has been available as a benefit of membership to members who meet the eligibility criteria. The card is available to non-member students for \$20.00 fee.

The Canadian Federation of Students-Services remains the issuing agent for ISIC Canada. CFS-S is responsible for administering and growing the program in Canada, including ordering cards and supplies and securing benefits. As the governing body of the CFS-S BC Component, the Executive Committee is responsible for the administration of the program in the province.

The discount program is the most tangible, easy to recognise benefit of membership for most members. While it is not always possible to calculate the amount of money members have saved through the lobbying victories achieved by the Federation, it is possible to quantify the potential savings members receive through the discount services.

2016-17 ISSUING YEAR

Access to Cards

In anticipation of ambitious plans for ISIC distribution in Fall 2016, then-Secretary-Treasurer Davies contacted ISIC Administrator Laura Rashotte on April 20, 2016 and requested 20,000 ISICs be issued to the Federation for distribution in BC. Rashotte failed to respond to the request and Davies sent two follow-up emails over the summer months.

On August 8, Davies sent an email to Rashotte in which she outlined all the distribution problems BC member locals had experienced as a direct result of the CFS-S' failure to provide an adequate and consistent supply of cards. Rashotte failed to respond to the email and Davies followed up with a series of reminder emails until Rashotte finally responded in late August. Rashotte first stated that CFS-S could not fulfill the request because they had not received their order of ISICs from ISIC Global. Following additional correspondence, Rashotte asserted that CFS-S would not fulfill the order, because she did not believe that the BC office could properly account for the cards (despite years of evidence to the contrary), would not upload the data into the cardholder database (despite BC locals having uploaded the data for the last number of years), and would not promote the program (despite the Federation having engaged in significant and visible promotion of the service for at least the previous ten years).

Ultimately the BC office was provided with 3,000 cards for issuing in the first week of September. Those cards were quickly distributed, and another email was sent to CFS-S stating that the number was insufficient for distribution in BC and that continued stalling on the part of CFS-S in providing an adequate supply would only jeopardise and hamper the service in BC.

In mid-September, Corey Grisct and Nicole Picton were hired by directors in the National

office to administrate the ISIC program. Davies reached out to them, and reiterated the problem with the program BC was having. Grisct and Picton responded by sending cards directly out to the member locals, and worked actively to remove the BC Component's role in the process. This change in process puts unnecessary financial responsibility on member locals—if a batch went missing or was unaccounted for the local would be responsible for the full market value of those cards—and did not allow the Component to properly distribute cards to locals when necessary. A number of locals instructed the CFS-S staff that the long-standing process of ISIC distribution centrally through the BC Component was necessary, and the Executive Committee could not be cut out of this process.

In early October, the BC office received another shipment of 3,000 ISICs for distribution and complete breakdown of what member locals received directly from the national office.

ISIC Printer Issues

It is common from time to time that an issue may arise with an ISIC printer. Historically when this happens, the national office would endeavor to fix the problem as quickly as possible in order to sure members could continue to access the service.

This year, Locals 4 and 6 experienced issues with their printers throughout the entire membership year. Repeated requests for assistance from the national office went unanswered, and the locals are still unable to issue cards from their office.

ISIC Distribution

ISIC issuing in British Columbia is continually hampered by the refusal of Canadian Federation of Students-Services to deal fairly and professionally with the Federation and the continual attempts to deny cards to BC member local unions. To date, BC member locals have issued more than 4,000 cards in

this issuing year, which ends on August 31. Throughout the reporting period, the BC office resourced member locals the best it could when an issue with printing and network arose despite the Federation's limited ability to do so. The issuing of ISIC in BC continues to be hampered due to the refusal of CFS-S to provide cards and to sufficiently assist member locals when there are issues with the program and printer.

In the production of this report, BC member locals have issued more than 4,100 cards in this issuing year, which ends on August 31. Throughout the reporting period, the BC office resourced member locals the best way we could when an issue with printing and network arose despite the Federation's limited ability to do so. The issuing of ISIC in BC continues to be hampered due to the refusal of CFS-S to provide cards and to sufficiently assist member locals when there are issues with the issuing program and printers.

2016-17 BENEFITS

In the past, BC member locals and the Federation took initiative in discount solicitation of businesses in BC and through this method, BC has been successful in acquiring many high quality provincial and national discounts. In fact, our province has the most discounts secured for the program.

The Federation secured over 580 discounts for BC members, which includes 25 percent off flights with Pacific Coastal Airline, 10 percent off at Staples Copy Centres, \$250 dollars off Apple computers at Simply Computing, 15 percent at Pacific Coach Buses, and more. The discounts also expanded over different regions of BC with news businesses signed up from Victoria, Tofino, Squamish, and Whistler.

2017-18 DISCOUNT SOLICITATION

Discount solicitation for the 2017-18 cards began in April and proceeded until the end of July. The Federation worked with member

locals to provide materials, training, and identify areas where central coordination of solicitation was required. Work is now underway to produce the 2017-18 discount guide book. As in past years, the Federation produced materials to aid member local unions in renewing existing discounts and recruiting new, high-quality deals.

In June, member locals in Kelowna, Victoria, and Vancouver reported seeing job postings for discount solicitors in their regions, posted by the CFS-S. These postings were concerning because they had not been discussed at the prior (or any) National Executive meeting, nor had the BC office or member locals been consulted. BC Representative on the National Executive Davies inquired about the job postings with CFS-S staff, and after more than a month was told, astonishingly, that no such postings existed.

Member locals have also reported that CFS-S staff have solicited discounts in their regions without any communication with the member local. In some cases, businesses told discount solicitors that they had already been contacted by ISIC Canada; some businesses reported that the person they had original spoken with had become unresponsive to further communications. This disconnected solicitation is concerning because it makes the member local look disorganized and jeopardizes the relationships that member locals have built with local businesses.

Discount Materials

The Federation updated all materials for the 2017-18 solicitation year, including an ISIC backgrounder, an OOH LALA backgrounder, the discount contract, and a form for businesses with multiple locations. Several requests for window decals were sent to the national office, but went ignored; work is ongoing to ensure that member locals can provide participating businesses with this useful promotional tool.



FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM

Given the past two years of issues with ISIC program delivery by CFS-S, Federation members in BC need to consider the future feasibility of the program. The Federation and its member local unions continue to invest time and resources into building the program in BC, all while the national organization has failed to undertake the most basic tasks necessary to support this service. The failures of the national organization can have only two possible outcomes: the service declines to the point where it is pushed from the marketplace by a better option or the international body which governs the program removes the CFS-S' right to issue the card. In either scenario, the Federation is stripped of an important asset.

The Federation continues to research the feasibility of working directly with ISIC Canada to become the sole issuer in British Columbia as the Federation and member locals see a discount program as an important service for our members. It is the aim to protect the efforts and investments made to the ISIC brand. If the Federation fails to secure the right to issue ISICs in BC, the Executive Committee will discuss the feasibility of developing a BC-based discount program. Considering the assets at the Federation's disposal, the organizational

ability to acquire high quality discounts, and the existence of alternative firms that assist with discount or affinity services, there is a real opportunity to build an improved discount program over which the Federation would have sole authority and control.

At the January 2017 General Meeting, the Organizational and Services Development Committee discussed at length the future of the ISIC program in British Columbia. The Committee agreed that a student discount program is a valuable service for members in British Columbia, with a priority of ensuring that all members would have access to it. It was generally agreed that if CFS-S refuses to properly resource the program in British Columbia, that the Federation should invest in its own development of a student discount program.

BULK PURCHASE PROGRAM

Orientation and welcome week activities are an important opportunity for students' unions to promote services, campaigns, and events to members. By purchasing materials in bulk through the Federation, participating member locals receive significant savings while ensuring that their materials are ethically manufactured, environmentally friendly, and high-quality.

Historically, member local unions have used the Ethical Purchasing Network of the CFS-S to procure these items. However, due to numerous and repeated failures on the part of CFS-S to properly and responsibly manage the national bulk purchasing service, the 68th Semi-Annual BC General Meeting resolved to investigate the launch of a preferred provider network in order to have a BC specific alternative to the CFS-S-run bulk purchase program.

SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

In the summer of 2016 the Federation worked with the Vancouver-based firm Fairware to host a BC-based ethical bulk purchasing service.

Launched in July 2016, the new service offered nearly all the products offered by CFS-S, plus some additional items and the ability to make custom orders. Fairware hosted the BC-based ethical bulk purchasing service as member locals were pleased with the service provided, the prices of the products, and the quality of the items. Feedback about the service was taken in consideration in setting up for the Fall 2017 order.

In addition to the summer 2016 bulk order, a second round of ordering was facilitated in December 2016, a service option promised to CFS-S members for several years but never delivered upon.

SUMMER 2016 ORDER

The materials purchased in the summer order were delivered to member locals on time, with a few minor issues which were resolved quickly.

The only major issue experienced in the first year of this service related to shipping costs, which were substantially over budget due to an error on Fairware's part: the shipping costs had been calculated based on shipping only within the lower mainland. This issue has been resolved for the mid-year order.

MID-YEAR 2017 ORDER

The Federation was able to offer a mid-year bulk order because prices comparable with the larger fall order were secured with the service provider. Accordingly, the Federation's online store with Fairware was opened between November 14 and 18 for deliveries in very early January 2017.

All of the items from the summer order were available for this order, with the exception of sweat shirts, which were out of stock. A number of new items were included, such as metal water bottles, colouring books, pencil crayons, pencil cases, and umbrellas.

Orders were placed by Locals 1, 6, 13, 14, and the Federation; as with the summer order, all items were delivered on schedule.

SUMMER 2017 ORDER

Eleven member local unions participated in the summer 2017 order, and collectively ordered 70,371 items including:

- 21,885 pens
- 15,115 water bottles
- 8,630 highlighters
- 4,758 buttons
- 4,050 smartphone wallets
- 3,115 lanyards
- 2,200 sunglasses
- 2,066 t-shirts
- 2,000 lip balms
- 1,798 notebooks
- 1,000 cutlery sets

Member locals also ordered other items such as pencil pouches, magnets, stickers, toques, caps, and phone chargers.

The items are scheduled to be delivered by the third week of August.

ONLINE STORE

To facilitate the ordering process, the Federation and Fairware used an online store as previously done through the shopify platform. The online store facilitated ordering and the artwork was uploaded through Dropbox. Member locals were given the log-in info when the store was opened on May 15, with the order deadline schedule on June 9. As last year, member locals were able to purchase items not included in the store, such as table cloths and mugs. Locals 6, 13, 17 and BC office took advantage of this value-added option.

LOGISTICS AND DELIVERY

All items are shipped directly from the manufacturer or printer to participating locals in order to reduce costs. The elimination of central warehousing and coordination of shipments helps to limit the additional unnecessary costs and also allows for earlier shipment of many products.



The background of the image is a stylized landscape featuring several layers of mountain ranges. The mountains are rendered in various shades of blue, with the foreground mountains being a darker blue and the background mountains being lighter. The sky is a light blue gradient. At the bottom of the image, there is a dark blue silhouette of a forest or a rocky terrain. In the center of the image, there is a light blue rectangular box with a subtle wavy border. Inside this box, the words "INTERNAL AFFAIRS" are written in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The Executive Committee is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Federation. The following is a list of changes within the composition of the Committee since the August 2016 general meeting:

Aboriginal Students' Representative

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Shayli Robinson | August 11, 2016 to April 30, 2017 |
| Ken Solonas | May 1, 2017 to present |

Campaigns Coordinator

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Morgan Rogers | August 11, 2016 to April 30, 2017 |
| Aran Armutlu | May 1, 2017 to present |

Chairperson

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Simka Marshall | August 11, 2016 to present |
|----------------|----------------------------|

Representative-Local 1 Members

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mico Miede-Moffat | August 11, 2016 to December 10, 2016 |
| Valerie Arsenault | December 10, 2016 to present |

Representative-Local 2 Members

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Abisola Alade | August 11, 2016 to September 24, 2016 |
| Harkanwalpreet Kaur | September 24, 2016 to June 24, 2017 |
| Santanna Hernandez | June 24, 2017 to present |

Representative-Local 4 Members

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Yang Yang | August 11, 2016 to December 10, 2016 |
| Jaspal Singh | December 10, 2016 to June 24, 2017 |
| Mankiran Kaur | June 24, 2017 to present |

Representative-Local 5 Members

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| vacant | August 11, 2016 to June 24, 2017 |
| Cole Hickson | June 24, 2017 to present |

Representative–Local 6 Members

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Iman Abdulla | August 11, 2016 to December 10, 2016 |
| Tanysha Klassen | December 10, 2016 to June 25, 2017 |
| Telka Pesklevits | June 25, 2017 to present |

Representative–Local 9 Members

| | |
|--------|----------------------------|
| vacant | August 11, 2016 to present |
|--------|----------------------------|

Representative–Local 10 Members

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Lemon Reimer | August 11, 2016 to June 24, 2017 |
| Nicole Pleissl | June 24, 2017 to present |

Representative–Local 12 Members

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| vacant | August 11, 2016 to December 10, 2016 |
| Kimberly Rutledge | December 10, 2016 to present |

Representative–Local 13 Members

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Phoebe Lo Patidgas | August 11, 2016 to April 30, 2017 |
| vacant | April 30, 2017 to June 24, 2017 |
| Chantelle Spicer | June 24, 2017 to present |

Representative–Local 14 Members

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dominic Magee | August 11, 2016 to December 10, 2016 |
| Kari Morgan | December 10, 2016 to present |

Representative–Local 15 Members

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Sheldon Falk | August 11, 2016 to present |
|--------------|----------------------------|

Representative–Local 16 Members

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Shaima Jaff | August 11, 2016 to June 24, 2017 |
| Zahra Hashemi | June 24, 2017 to present |

Representative–Local 17 Members

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Rachael Grant | August 11, 2016 to present |
|---------------|----------------------------|

Representative–Local 20 Members

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ananya Bhattacharya | August 11, 2016 to December 10, 2016 |
| Wendel Schwab | December 10, 2016 to present |

Secretary-Treasurer

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jenelle Davies | August 11, 2016 to April 30, 2017 |
| Phoebe Lo Patigdas | May 1, 2017 to present |

Services Coordinator

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Sydney Sullivan | August 11, 2016 to present |
|-----------------|----------------------------|

Women Students' Representative

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Alia Hijaab | August 11, 2016 to April 30, 2017 |
| Morgan Rogers | May 1, 2017 to present |

MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee met on the following dates:

- August 11, 2016;
- September 24 and 25, 2016;
- December 10 and 11, 2016;
- January 12, 2017;
- March 25 and 26, 2017; and
- June 24 and 25, 2017.

70th Semi-Annual General Meeting

The 70th semi-annual general meeting was held Thursday, August 11 to Sunday, August 14 at Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo, BC. Fifty-seven delegates from eleven member local unions participated in the meeting.

The Federation welcomed Terry van Steinburg to bring greetings from the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC, and to speak about how our organizations could work together in the coming year to address issues facing the post-secondary education sector.

The following workshops, briefings, and seminars were held at the meeting:

- Recent History of the Student Movement – an overview of the recent history of the student movement, including the crisis of leadership in the Canadian Federation of Students (Federation staff Michael Olson and Secretary-Treasurer Jenelle Davies)
- Building Consent Culture – a workshop to provide delegates with the education, skills, and opportunity to understand and practice consent in a supportive space (University of Victoria Anti-Violence Project)
- Renting it Right – an introduction to an online educational resource developed by the Tenant Rights & Advisory Centre (TRAC) that provides users with information on rights and responsibilities of tenants (TRAC Executive Director Andrew Sakamoto)

- Progressive Organizing in BC – an overview of common mistakes and opportunities in developing advocacy campaigns, particularly around provincial elections, with a focus on planning for the upcoming BC election (Canadian Labour Congress representative Chantel O'Neil)

Much of the meeting focused on preparations for the upcoming provincial election including the development of a campaign strategy that would promote students' issues throughout the first semester of the academic year, and then transition into a youth voter engagement campaign in the second semester and throughout the election period.

Former Federation activist and current Member Services Officer for the Association of Administrative and Professional Staff at UBC Ashkon Hashemi chaired the plenary sessions.



Indigenous Students' Conference

At the August 2016 meeting, delegates resolved to hold a 2-day conference for Indigenous students to come together and talk about issues they face in the post-secondary system. The Indigenous Students' Conference was held Friday, November 20 to Sunday, November 20, 2016 at the Harbour Towers Hotel & Suites in Victoria. There were 38 participants registered from 11 member locals.

The Federation welcomed Grand Chief Stuart Phillip of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs to bring greeting to the Conference, the Grand Chief also spoke of the work of his organization and the importance of education for Indigenous communities.

The following workshops and seminars were held at the Conference:

- Reconciliation through education – an overview of the work being done in the K-12 system to ensure the legacy of residential schools is being taught and the efforts undertaken to indigenize curricula (Gail Stormquist, British Columbia Teachers' Federation).
- Indigenous Post-Secondary Education – an overview of the Post-Secondary Student Support Program in BC, and the unique barriers Indigenous students face when accessing college or university programs (Deborah Jeffrey, First Nations Education Steering Committee)
- Intro to Adult Basic Education – an introduction to adult basic education and how the funding cuts and policy changes have affected BC students, including Indigenous students (Chairperson Simka Marshall)
- Indigenous activism – an overview of various groundbreaking legal cases in BC that have set precedent and given rights to Indigenous women and discussion advocacy work to end violence against Indigenous women (Sharon McIvor)
- Traditional crafting – an introduction to traditional crafting of corn-husk dolls (Lindsay Katsitsakatste Delaronde)
- World Café: Indigenous students – break out groups were held to discuss the following topics: Indigenous student services, Indigenous rights, Indigenous student issues, general student issues

Discussion throughout the Conference focused on the accessibility and affordability of post-secondary education for Indigenous students and what solutions participants could bring back to their campuses. Participants were keen to learn more about the student movement and the campaigns and advocacy work being undertaken by member locals across the province.

Following the Conference, member locals were encouraged to maintain communication with those who had attended from their local in an effort to better engage Indigenous members in their students' unions.

35TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 35th annual general meeting was held Thursday, January 11 to Sunday, January 14, 2017 at the Coast Tsawwassen Hotel in Delta, BC. Sixty-nine delegates from thirteen students' unions.

The Federation welcomed Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC President George Davison to deliver messages of solidarity his organization.

The following workshops, seminars, and panels were held at the meeting:

- Progressive Taxes, Progressive Jobs – an overview on the inadequacy of the BC Jobs Plan, the regressive current provincial tax system and the effective progressive jobs agenda that addresses social and environmental issues together (CCPA- BC Executive Director Seth Klein)
- Pundits and Pollsters – an overview of the current political landscape in British Columbia leading to the provincial election in May 2017 (Insights West Vice-President Public Affairs Mario Canseco; FleishmanHillard Vice-President Jeffery Ferrier; Tyee journalist Katie Hyslop)
- Campaign Organizing – an overview of the key steps to organizing and implementing a

successful campaign, including identifying goals and building a timeline to tactics to pursue them (BC Federation of Labour Director of Organizing Anita Zaenker, Chairperson Simka Marshall)

- Student Advocacy – a review of common breaches of students’ rights, and best practices in representing students as they proceed through systems of academic and general appeals at our institutions (Local 6 staff Tracy Ho and Local 13 staff James Bowen)
- Media Skills – an introduction to communicating with the media on behalf of the member local, including developing and implementing a message box; the session also provided delegates an opportunity to practice (MG Strategies Principal Michael Gardiner)

In accordance with a resolution passed at the 70th Semi-Annual General Meeting, the meeting had a particular focus on skills development sessions. A “Skills Boot Camp” was held directly preceding registration for the meeting; this session contained workshops directors’ rights and responsibilities, working with staff, and students’ union finances for directors who have not attended a skills development weekend.

Throughout much of the meeting, delegates were focused on preparation for the provincial election campaign. Aspects of campaign planning were connected with various workshops on skills development focused on media training and campaign implementation; an official “campaign launch” was also held during the meeting.

Former Federation activist and current Member Services Officer for the Association of Administrative and Professional Staff at UBC Ashkon Hashemi chaired the plenary sessions.

36TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 36th annual general meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held Thursday, January 11 to Sunday, January 14, 2018 at the Civic Hotel in Surrey, BC.

FEDERATION STAFFING

In September 2016 Internal Coordinator Michael Olson began working full-time; at its September 2016 meeting, the Executive Committee assigned him the role of Executive Officer.

At its September 2016 meeting, the Executive Committee assigned Steven Beasley the role of Coordinator. Beasley works in a part-time capacity, primarily to support the BC Student Health Consortium.

To assist with work associated with the Students Are Voting campaign, the Executive Committee hired Madeline Keller-MacLeod as a Campaigns Outreach Coordinator. Keller-MacLeod was hired on a 6-month contract.

At its March 2017 meeting, the Executive Committee hired Laura Celeste as a Researcher on a six-month contract. At its June 2017 meeting, the Executive Committee extended the contract to the end of August 2018.

OFFICE SPACE

The Federation owns its headquarters in a strata-run office building at 1055 West Broadway, Vancouver. The headquarters have been at this location since 2010. Over the past six years, the cost of living—specifically, the cost of housing—in the immediate and surrounding area has increased dramatically, making it difficult for the full-time elected officers and staff to afford to live within a reasonable distance of the office. At its October 2015 meeting, the Executive Committee began to have preliminary conversations regarding relocating the office to a less expensive region of the lower mainland.

Throughout the 2016-17 year, the Executive Committee explored the feasibility of new office space, and several potential locations were scouted. After an extensive search, a location that met the Federation's most important criteria was identified at 245 East Columbia Street in New Westminster.

The office unit is made up of two connected legal units with approximately 2,052 square feet of space for five enclosed offices, open workstations, copy area, an enclosed storage space, kitchenette, and a mid-size meeting space. The building and unit are fully accessible, with an elevator and accessible washroom.

The property is on a primary transit corridor, being located just one block from a skytrain station. It is also near highways leading to the interior, the Horseshoe Bay Ferry Terminal, the Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal, and Vancouver International Airport. This location allows many options for staff and full-time elected directors to seek affordable housing within a reasonable commute. Further, the space is located in an area of New Westminster experiencing development and change, and this will likely translate into the space producing a positive return on investment in the long-term.

At its March 2017 meeting, the Executive Committee resolved to approve the purchase of the unit pending final review of the building's strata minutes and other internal documents. On March 27, 2017 the seller was informed that the conditions of the contract of purchase and sale had been met, and on May 1, 2017 the Federation took possession of the unit.

The office space requires significant renovation to accommodate the Federation's requirements, which was reflected in the price of the unit and anticipated at the time of purchase. The space was previously used as a doctor's office, and as such has rooms

and offices that don't suit the needs of the Federation. The Federation has engaged Terra Housing to undertake a review of the space, develop a plan for optimum use, and oversee the renovation. Based on the timeline, the renovation is expected to be completed by December 2017.



MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

33RD ANNUAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM

Since 1985, the Federation has held an annual skills-building symposium for member local representatives in BC. The Skills Development Symposium consists of workshops and seminars that provide elected representatives and local staff with a broad range of skills required to effectively operate a students' union. The Symposium also provides participants with an opportunity to exchange information and develop relationships in an informal setting. The Symposium is fully subsidized by the Federation for one participant from each member local union, and partially subsidized for the next eleven participants.

The 2017 Skills Development Weekend was held Tuesday, May 23 to Thursday, May 25 at Sun Peaks Resort near Kamloops. More than 80 elected representatives, volunteers, and students' union staff from 13 member local unions participated. The following sessions were facilitated:

- Intro to Post-Secondary Education in BC
- Director's Rights & Responsibilities
- Students' Union Finances
- Contracts 101
- Membership Outreach
- Working Collectively
- Public Speaking
- Media Relations for the Individual Director
- Effective Meeting Participation/Facilitation
- Planning Successful Events
- Using Social Media to Engage Members
- Strategic Planning

Workshop facilitators included Federation staff and directors, local staff, and experts recruited from among coalition partners. Participants had the opportunity to complete evaluation forms to rate and provide comment on each workshop and on the Symposium overall. The forms provide useful comments for the planning of next year's Skills Development Symposium to further improve the workshops. Only approximately one-third of participants completed the form, and the Executive Committee has discussed ways to increase the number of forms submitted.

FINANCES

2016-17 BUDGET MANAGEMENT

The Federation's budget serves as a set of revenue and expense projections adopted annually by the voting members. The Executive Committee manages the Federation's spending throughout the year in accordance with these projections.

Notwithstanding fee collection issues described in item 6. d) revenue is in line with budget projections, and spending has been kept under budget across the majority of expense categories.

MEMBERS' EQUITY

The members' equity currently exceeds \$4.5 million, approximately one-half of which is invested in the Federation's spaces—the currently-occupied space and the newly-

purchased location—and other capital assets. The remainder is composed of cash (approximately \$190,000), short-term investments (approximately \$1,200,000), and long-term investments (approximately \$800,000).

The Capital Fund, established in the 2000 fiscal year for the purchase or upgrade of property for the Federation's operations, stood at \$500,000 at the commencement of the fiscal year.

The Disabled Access Fund, established to enhance the accessibility of the Federation for people with disabilities and/or special needs, stood at \$311,451 at the commencement of the current fiscal year.

IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERATION FEE ADJUSTMENT

In January 1994, the Federation's membership fee was set at \$3.00 per semester, pro-rated for part-time students in accordance with the practice of member local unions regarding the pro-rating of local union fees. At the same meeting, a bylaw was adopted stipulating that, beginning in 1996-97, the Federation fee would be adjusted annually by the rate of change in the Canadian Consumer Price Index during the previous calendar year. Based on the provisions of the bylaw, the fee has increased to \$4.49 per semester for the 2016-17 membership year, from \$4.43 in 2015-16.

At the January 2016 general meeting, a resolution was passed amending the Federation's membership fee to be \$8.76, adjusted annually by the rate of change in the Canadian Consumer Price Index during the previous calendar year. The existing fee structure remains in effect until such a time as the new fee is implemented at each member local, which must be done no later than December 31, 2019.

ONGOING MEMBERSHIP FEE ISSUES

Membership Fee Collection

Prior to the 2008 membership year, and for vast majority of the organization's history, all fees were paid to the BC Federation of Students, who retained the provincial fee and corresponding national allocation, and forwarded the remainder, representing 5/12 of the total fees, to the national office of CFS and CFS-Services.

The practice whereby all fees were paid to the BC office changed in the 2008 membership year due to personnel changes and a lack of resources in the BC office. Following this date, the majority of BC member local unions directed Federation membership fees, including those of BC Federation of Students, Canadian Federation of Students, and Canadian Federation of Student-Services, to the national office. Once received by the national organization, the portion of fees owed to the BC organization, along with the corresponding national allocation, were forwarded to the BC office.

Beginning of October 2014, all disbursements to the BC office ceased. Realizing that fees were not being disbursed appropriately, the majority of BC member local unions acted swiftly to direct fees to the BC office rather than the national office. Despite the responsiveness of BC member local unions, membership fees for several locals had already been issued to the national organization. To-date, the Federation is still not in receipt of any fees from Locals 9 and 10 for the 2014-15 year, nor some fees for Locals 13, 15, and 16, nor its national allocation disbursements for the 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17 years.

For the 2016-17 year, all member locals except Locals 3, 6, 9, and 17 remitted all membership dues to the Federation's office. Of these, only Locals 3 and 9 have not remitted any fees to the BC office.

Local 9 Membership Fees

For more than a decade, until summer 2009, Federation membership dues paid by individual members at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (formerly Kwantlen University-College) were remitted directly to the Federation through the institution. In summer 2009, the Kwantlen Student Association (KSA) apparently instructed the institution to cease this practice and to instead transfer the Federation's fees to the Association.

Between August 2009 and February 2010, the Federation continued to receive its membership dues on a monthly basis through cheques issued by the Association; however, since remitting the February 2010 dues, the Association ceased remitting Federation membership dues. Furthermore, the Local did not inform the institution of the CPI adjustment for a number of years. The amount collected on behalf of the Federation is estimated to be \$3.60 per semester, the fee level from 2003.

In January 2013, CFS representatives met with Local 26 representatives to discuss the issue of outstanding membership fees. At the meeting, the Local representatives acknowledged that the Federation fees currently held by the Local must be remitted; furthermore, they acknowledged that the fee being collected since 2003 was an incorrect amount. It was also acknowledged that the difference between the amount remitted and the correct amount based on assessment of the correct fee remains outstanding and is owed by the Local. Accordingly, when fees are received, the Federation applies each fee remittance against the oldest amount owing.

The leadership of the KSA continues to refuse to acknowledge its obligation to pay for past debts. In 2015, while in engaged with a legal dispute regarding their membership in the Canadian Federation of Students, the Local ceased remitting membership fees for the CFS, CFS-S, and the BCFS. The KSA lost that suit, and has reported that it has remitted those

outstanding fees to the CFS. However, the CFS at no time has verified those fees have been remitted, despite being asked multiple times.

On November 22, 2016, Secretary-Treasurer Davies emailed the Local to request that BCFS fees be remitted to the Vancouver office but no response was received.

On February 20, 2017, the KSA's legal counsel contacted the CFS and BCFS legal counsels stating that the local was given conflicted direction on where to remit fees for the organisations. The CFS's legal counsel responded by directing the KSA to continue to remit all fees, including the BCFS fees, to the national organization.

As a way to bring resolution to the outstanding fee issue, which is being used for legal posturing by both the CFS and KSA, the Federation suggested the parties set up a joint trust account. The trust account would be used to house all the CFS, CFS-S, and BCFS fees until such time as the "confusion" over fee remittance is resolved. All parties agreed, and the trust fund was set up in June; all future fees, as well as those currently being withheld by KPU at the direction of the KSA, will be deposited into the trust fund by KPU, and an accounting of the monies will be provided to the Federation and the CFS.

ANNUAL AUDITS

The audited 2015-16 financial statements were distributed to, and approved by, members at the January 2017 general meeting.

Preparations for the audit of the 2016-17 financial statements will begin upon the close of the fiscal year, with the goal of commencing the formal audit in November.

STUDENTS' RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

BACKGROUND

Until 1994, no legislation existed in BC that provided for the right of college and institute students' unions to have their membership

dues collected. Prior to 1994, students' unions were continually under threat, as institutions could cease to collect their dues solely at the whim of the administration.

SECURING AMENDMENTS

As a result of significant membership organizing and a consistent lobbying strategy, the Federation was able to achieve legislated protection of the right of students to organize as an outcome of a BC government review of governance within the college and institute system in 1992.

From the outset of the BC government's 1992 review, then-Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology Tom Perry stated that all principles established during the review would apply to any future legislative change concerning universities in British Columbia. In early 1993, the Committee undertaking the review submitted its report. Included in the report's "General Principles" was the following recommendation: "The relationship between student associations and the institutions should be legislatively clarified outlining students' rights to organize under the provincial Society Act; the obligation of the institution to collect associations' fees on their behalf; and the accountability of student organizations."

In early 1994, the College and Institute Act was amended, in part, to increase the rights of students to organize. Unfortunately, the new provisions included clauses allowing a college or institutional board to cease collecting students' union dues if the union failed to comply with the Society Act of BC, if the union failed to submit audited financial statements to the board, or if, in the opinion of the board, the union was managing its finances in an unsound manner. Despite the Federation's last-minute efforts, the Federation was only able to get one offending clause deleted—a clause which would have allowed an institutional board of governors to conduct union de-certification votes. The Federation has maintained its

position that the union is accountable to its members, not to the institution's board of governors, and that such clauses permit an institution to undermine the union if it disagrees with the union's political or advocacy aims.

In December 1998, the Federation submitted a proposal for minor amendments to each of the relevant acts to provide adequate provisions for fee collection. The Federation and its legal counsel prepared the proposal in consultation with Ministry officials and legislative counsel for the Ministry. In January 1999, the Federation met with then-Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology Andrew Petter to discuss the proposal. Petter raised a number of minor concerns with the Federation's proposals; despite these concerns, he said that the legislation should proceed during the spring legislative session. During the last two weeks of June that year, the Ministry met with college and university administrators and governing board members to advise them of the amendments. As the Federation had anticipated, administrators reacted poorly to the legislation. Further discussions with the Ministry led to minor changes to the draft legislation that addressed the most significant concerns of administrators while maintaining the effect of the legislation. On July 8, 1999, Bill 97-Miscellaneous Statutes Amendments Act (No. 3) was introduced. The Act amended the University Act and the College and Institute Act to include the same provisions for students' right to organize and collect fees in each act.

The Amended University Act and College and Institute Act

The 1999 amendments to the University Act and the College and Institute Act, legislated in Bill 97-Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, specify that increases in membership fees must be approved in a referendum vote, and specify the circumstances in which a board of governors can cease collecting the students'

union membership fees. The amended Acts also specify that a board of governors must collect fees on behalf of a local, provincial, or national students' union. The Acts require each students' union to provide the institution's board of governors with annual notice that includes:

- the amount of the membership fee to be collected;
- indication that the financial statements have been made available to the membership; and
- assurance that the union remains in good standing with the Registrar of Societies.

Provided that these requirements are fulfilled, an institution's board of governors is obligated to collect and remit the membership fee to the students' union. The amended Acts define the limited reasons that a board of governors may cease to collect or remit membership fees. Prior to the amendments, the college or university was empowered, but not required, to collect fees on behalf of the students' union. The amended Acts specify that a board of governors may cease to collect or remit fees only if the students' union fails to:

- make available to its members annual audited financial statements and a report on those financial statements;
- inform the board in writing that the requirements set out in subparagraph (i) have been met; or
- if the students' union is struck off the register in accordance with section 71 of the Society Act.

In the two years following the implementation of the legislation, a number of institutions attempted to contravene the provisions of the relevant Act. In each case, with the involvement of the Federation's legal counsel, the institutions ultimately agreed to follow the Act.

THREATS TO STUDENTS' RIGHT TO ORGANISE

On October 21, 2015, Bill 41—a miscellaneous bill that changes the legislative protection and definition of students' societies fees—was tabled. The Bill sought to make amendments to the College and Institute Act and University Act that would define which students' society fees would be mandatory, and which could be opted-out of if a member was to resign their membership. After consultation with member locals and legal counsel, the Federation sent a letter to Minister of Advanced Education Andrew Wilkinson outlining concerns with the proposed legislation.

In response to students' societies concerns, government tabled amendments to Bill 41 that made language in the original Bill more clear in regards to fee collection. Despite this, the protections for local, provincial, and national fees were to be based on regulations established by government, specifically by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

The Ministry of Advanced Education held a conference call on November 2, 2015 to provide students' union representatives an opportunity to discuss proposed amendments in Bill 41. Representatives from a number of member locals, non-member students' unions, Chairperson Marshall and Secretary-Treasurer Davies participated in the call. During the call, the Minister assured the student representatives that the regulations would protect all students' society fees, not just the "program and services fees" that was explicitly listed in the proposed legislation. Throughout the call, the Minister and his staff asserted that consultation would occur between the students' unions and government before enacting the changes.

After the teleconference, the Federation, along with a number of member local unions, sent letters to Minister Wilkinson to emphasize the importance of protected fees and democratic processes used to manage the rate and

collection of fees. The Federation also noted an eagerness to continue working in partnership with government on this issue. The Ministry sent out a request via email to many students' unions for a breakdown of membership fees, programs, and services, as a part of a consultation process. Member local unions provided this information to the Ministry. Bill 41 with the subsequent amendments were passed in the Legislature in November 2015.

On June 22, 2016 the law firm Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP published an article about the impacts of Bill 41. The opinion stated that fees designated in a student society's bylaws as a capital or program and service fees would be protected under the new law, but fees related to membership, administration, or operations of the organization would not be protected. This opinion, shared widely throughout the BC post-secondary sector, reignited the concerns of member local unions that the new law would effectively make students' union dues optional.

Following the publication of the legal opinion, the Federation undertook additional advocacy work with Ministry staff to dispel the incorrect information in the opinion piece, and to confirm that the interpretation listed therein was not in line with the Minister's intention, as stated on the teleconference meeting of November 2015. Through these communications, the Ministry re-confirmed its intention to create a regulation to accompany the relevant legislation that would clarify the dues collection rights of students' unions.

In December 2016, the Ministry put forward regulations on students' union dues collection that further expanded the "program or service fees" definition to include "cultural, educational, political, recreational, and social activities and events" and "advocacy activities". Per the regulations, these fees fall into the category that are required to be collected and remitted, regardless of a

member's resignation of their membership in a student society.

Though the December 2016 regulatory decision was a positive development in the protection of student societies' ability to collect mandatory fees, it does leave student organizations in a more precarious position than in 2015, prior to the passage of Bill 41. Changes to the statutes governing student society fees in 2015 and 2016 replaced legislative protection for dues collection with regulatory protection, where regulatory rules can be changed at the whim of Cabinet rather than requiring an act of the Legislature. This is a significant downgrade in the security of due collection rights for students in BC, and one that the Federation should plan to address in the years to come.

CRISIS OF LEADERSHIP IN THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS(-SERVICES)

The Canadian Federation of Students was founded in 1981. As the organisation has evolved, many conflicts, internal and external, have impacted the group. Over the years, various segments of the membership have sought political control, dominated the National Executive, or engaged in efforts to destabilize students' democracy. As a part of the organisation coming into maturity, a coalition of students' unions from British Columbia, Ontario, and other provinces successfully rooted out broadly liberal, individualist tendencies from the leadership of the National Executive in the early 1990s.

This coalition of progressive students' unions continued to guide the leadership of the student movement in English Canada for over twenty years. Through this collaboration, the organisation maintained steadfast support for organised labour, a collective model of office work, and most importantly a focus on fighting for accessible post-secondary education.

This informal coalition was dissolved without discussion or due notice by representatives of students from outside British Columbia at the October 2014 general meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students. Since that time, the national organisation has radically altered its orientation towards student unity, campaign work, and services. A chronology of these events is outlined in Appendix II.

The background of the page is a stylized landscape. It features several layers of rolling hills or mountains in various shades of blue and teal. The hills in the foreground are darker, while those in the background are lighter, creating a sense of depth. At the very bottom, there is a dark, jagged silhouette that resembles a forest or a rocky shoreline. In the center of the image, there is a light blue rectangular box with a subtle wavy pattern, which serves as a backdrop for the title.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: MEDIA SUMMARY

EARNED MEDIA

The following list outlines the media earned during the reporting period.

| DATE | OUTLET | SUBJECT |
|------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2016/08/30 | The Other Press* | Write the Future campaign |
| 2016/09/08 | CBC Early Edition | Adult basic education enrolment |
| 2016/09/09 | CBC All Points West | Adult basic education enrolment |
| 2016/09/12 | Breakfast Television | Adult Basic Education Day |
| 2016/09/16 | The Other Press* | Minimum wage |
| 2016/09/16 | Nation Talk | Adult basic education funding |
| 2016/09/21 | The Nexus* | Adult basic education |
| 2016/10/04 | The Omega* | State of the National Organization |
| 2016/11/29 | Edmonton Journal | Adult basic education funding |
| 2016/11/30 | The Nexus* | Adult basic education funding |
| 2016/11/30 | The Voice | Kinder Morgan Pipeline |
| 2017/2/21 | CNW | Budget 2017 |
| 2017/2/22 | Yahoo Finance | Budget 2017 |
| 2017/2/22 | CBC | Budget 2017 |
| 2017/2/22 | The Surrey Now | Budget 2017 |
| 2017/2/22 | 24 Hours | Budget 2017 |
| 2017/2/22 | East Kootenay Now | Budget 2017 |
| 2017/2/22 | The Vancouver Sun | Budget 2017 |
| 2017/2/22 | 24hrs Vancouver | Budget 2017 |

EARNED MEDIA (CONTINUED)

| DATE | OUTLET | SUBJECT |
|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2017/02/22 | CBC News | Budget 2017 |
| 2017/2/23 | The Province | Budget 2017 |
| 2017/2/23 | CBC Radio | Affordable housing |
| 2017/2/23 | CBC | Affordable housing |
| 2017/2/27 | MyBulkeyLakesNow | Adult basic education |
| 2017/2/28 | CFTK TV | Student debt and youth voting |
| 2017/2/28 | EZ Rock 590 | Youth voting |
| 2017/2/28 | CFNR Network | Adult basic education |
| 2017/3/07 | PG Citizen | Student debt and youth voting |
| 2017/3/07 | 250 News | Student debt and youth voting |
| 2017/03/16 | The Vancouver Sun | Students Are Voting |
| 2017/03/16 | Fair Child TV | Students Are Voting |
| 2017/03/16 | Lake Country Calendar | Students Are Voting |
| 2017/03/16 | Daily Courier | Students Are Voting |
| 2017/03/17 | Daily Hive | Students Are Voting |
| 2017/03/14 | The Navigator* | Students Are Voting |
| 2017/03/22 | TriCity Record | Students Are Voting |
| 2017/03/22 | Caledonia Courier | Students Are Voting |
| 2017/04/05 | The Navigator* | Post-secondary issues in BC |
| 2017/04/05 | Vernon Star | Students Are Voting |
| 2017/04/05 | Salmon Arm Observer | Students Are Voting |
| 2017/04/11 | Peninsula News Review | Students Are Voting |
| 2017/04/12 | Nexus* | CFS leadership crisis |
| 2017/04/13 | Global News | Interest-free student loans |
| 2017/04/18 | Globe and Mail | Students Are Voting |
| 2017/04/21 | CBC Radio On the Coast | Housing affordability |
| 2017/04/21 | CBC Radio All Points West | Housing affordability |
| 2017/04/22 | Tri City News | Students Are Voting |
| 2017/04/26 | DailyHive | VoteNation Tool |
| 2017/04/28 | DailyHive | Youth voting |
| 2017/05/02 | DailyHive | Students Are Voting |
| 2017/05/08 | BCIT News* | Students Are Voting |

EARNED MEDIA (CONTINUED)

| DATE | OUTLET | SUBJECT |
|------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 2017/05/08 | PoliBuzz | Students Are Voting |
| 2017/05/21 | MyPGNow | Adult basic education |
| 2017/06/23 | PGCitizen | Adult basic education |

* denotes student media

NEWS RELEASES AND MEDIA ADVISORIES

The Following list describes news releases issued during the reporting period.

| DATE | TITLE |
|------------|--|
| 2016/09/06 | New fees on basic education hurting BC families |
| 2016/09/12 | City proclaims "Adult Basic Education Day" as tuition skyrockets |
| 2016/11/17 | Standing Committee on Finance again recommends improvements to post-secondary affordability but will government act? |
| 2016/11/29 | Literacy funding inadequate in addressing basic education needs |
| 2017/02/21 | BC Budget fails students and families – FPSE, BCFS |
| 2017/02/22 | BC Budget takes steps to ease burden of student debt |
| 2017/03/16 | Students launch massive "Get Out the Vote" campaign for provincial election |
| 2017/06/22 | Throne Speech reverses BC Liberal funding cuts to adult basic education |

APPENDIX II

SECTION A: CRISIS OF LEADERSHIP IN THE CFS

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia is a legal entity that was incorporated in 1975 as the British Columbia Student Federation (BCSF). At the time, the students of Canada were eager to build a united student organization to serve students the country over. As leaders in this process, student activists from British Columbia advanced the notion of a single democratic organization for Canada's students with provincial component organizations to serve similar purposes working in tandem.

In 1981 the Canadian Federation of Students was founded. As the organization has evolved, many conflicts, internal and external, have impacted the group. Over the years, various segments of the membership have sought political control, dominated the National Executive, or engaged in efforts to destabilize students' democracy. As a part of the organization coming into maturity, a coalition of students' unions from British Columbia, Ontario, and other provinces successfully rooted out broadly liberal, individualist tendencies from the leadership of the National Executive in the early 1990s.

This coalition of progressive students' unions continued to guide the leadership of the student movement in English Canada for over twenty years. Through this collaboration, the organization maintained steadfast support for organized labour, a collective model of office work, and most importantly a focus on fighting for accessible post-secondary education.

CFS-ONTARIO TAKES OVER: 33rd ANNUAL NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING

The 33rd Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students was held October 14 to 17 in Ottawa, Ontario. Unlike previous general meetings at which election of the at-large members occurred, representatives of Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario did not participate in collective discussions among provincial components about leadership options, but rather put forward their own slate of candidates in cooperation with the Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia provincial components. Because Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario representatives were not open and honest about their intentions, the only candidates for election, except for one independent, were those hand picked by Canadian Federation of Students-

Ontario leadership and staff people. British Columbia member local unions unanimously voted against this group of candidates.

It remains unclear to members of the Executive Committee why individuals from the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario's employ and those representing students elsewhere decided they were no longer interested in collaborating with students from British Columbia.

BC REPRESENTATIVES EXCLUDED: OCTOBER 2014 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING

The day following the 33rd Annual National General Meeting a meeting was held of the National Executive. Without notice to the members of the National Executive from British Columbia, the meeting of the National Executive was pushed back by three hours to allow for meetings to occur between members of the National Executive from Ontario, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, and newly elected at-large members of the National Executive. Once the meeting commenced, then-National Chairperson Jessica McCormick was appointed staff relations officer.

HIRED SECURITY GUARDS AND AGGRESSIVE TACTICS: 2014 NATIONAL LOBBY WEEK

For over a decade the Canadian Federation of Students has organized a National Lobby Week to engage with federal decision makers about issues in post-secondary education. This year the National Lobby Week was held from November 17 to 25. Unlike in previous years when staff from the National Office organized the Week, most of this work was executed by staff of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario and private for-profit media firm MediaStyle, including communicating with news outlets.

British Columbia participants in National Lobby Week reported that during the week they were prevented from freely accessing the national

office by unmarked, private security guards watching the doors of the national office. Upon seeking entry to the office for a commonplace visit, participants were approached and interrogated by the private security officers. Participants were asked if they were, "with Jessica," (presumably Jessica McCormick, then-National Chairperson) and asked for photo identification.

According to returning participants, the tenor of the organisers for the National Lobby Week was significantly different, leading to students' voice being reflected differently to decision makers than in previous years. While the focus was traditionally to engage in a positive dialogue with all legislators about the need for accessible education, leading to such victories as the implementation of the Canada Student Grant Program by the federal Conservative government, this year's the 2014 Lobby Week was more antagonistic. Participants were encouraged to boast about chiding Conservative Party lawmakers, especially when they sensed a difference of opinion regarding the politics of individual identity. A video prepared by MediaStyle and released following the Lobby Week showed participants complaining about lawmakers in a manner deemed by many former participants from British Columbia to be unprofessional.

CONTRACTING OUT OF UNION WORK TO MEDIASTYLE

MediaStyle is a for-profit Ottawa based media and public relations firm. The firm describes itself as follows:

"We're passionate storytellers. We're innovators in interactive and social media and we're shaping the digital landscape. Our team uses a digital-first approach to craft strategy, create content, build communities of action both online and off to deliver measurable results."
– MediaStyle website

In addition to preparing a number of campaign materials for the Federation, MediaStyle has

been used by the at-large members of the National Executive in place of the Federation's unionized workers. This scab labour includes the creation and execution of the Federation's current "Its No Secret" campaign.

FEBRUARY 12 ANONYMOUS LETTER LEVELS SERIOUS ACCUSATIONS

On February 12, 2015, a letter was sent from an anonymous source to many member local students' unions of the Canadian Federation of Students across the country. The letter accurately described aspects of what members of the Executive Committee knew to be true of the state of the national organization, including serious allegations regarding breaches of the bylaws and of the collective agreement.

Many member local unions from British Columbia sent direct messages to full-time members of the National Executive about the anonymous message, receiving no serious response for over one month. During this time, the Executive Committee deliberated on the contents of the message, but remained generally hopeful that the normal democratic process of the Canadian Federation of Students would resolve the strife described therein.

MARCH 2015 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING TELECONFERENCE: MILLION-DOLLAR DECISIONS MADE OVER HOUR-LONG CALL

The National Executive met via teleconference on March 9, 2015. The meeting deliberated on the impending settlement with the Concordia Students' Union and Concordia Graduate Students' Association. The two local students' unions had engaged in a long-term legal battle to terminate their membership in the Canadian Federation of Students after holding bogus plebiscites that failed to follow the bylaws.

During the teleconference, representatives from British Columbia voiced concerns that the settlement equated to Concordia University students buying out their membership in the

Canadian Federation of Students with money that didn't belong to them. Despite these concerns, the National Executive voted to accept a settlement that awarded over one million dollars of Canadian students' money to the students of Concordia.

DENIAL OF REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL AND OTHER INFORMATION

Concerned by informal discussions about the rapid souring of the relationship between management and the employees of the Canadian Federation of Students, BC Representative on the National Executive Jenelle Davies began to request financial information about the operation of the organization, as is her right as a member of the National Executive. These requests were either not responded to or unreasonably delayed. Upholding her responsibility to fulfill a fiduciary duty to the Canadian Federation of Students, Davies pressed the issue with the three full-time members of the National Executive and they agreed to limited provision of information, in person in the Ottawa office, and under the supervision of other individuals.

Despite requesting full records of the financial transactions, Davies was provided with only a small and incomplete portion of the records. National Treasurer Anna Dubinski suggested that the financial records of the Canadian Federation of Students were significantly out of date and that there had been no work to rectify the issue for months, despite it being Dubinski's responsibility. Dubinski claimed that former National Treasurer Gabriel Hoogers had failed to maintain the financial records of the national organization, but upon investigation Hoogers provided proof that he had both kept the records up-to-date, and personally trained Dubinski to undertake financial management work.

SIGNALLING A NEW POLITICAL DIRECTION: CONSENT CULTURE FORUM

BACKGROUND

Since 1992 the Federation has been producing No Means No campaign materials for distribution on campuses and in communities. Campaign posters, coasters, buttons, and stickers warn against the use of date rape drugs, encourage men to confront and end male violence against women, and empower women to refuse unwanted sexual attention.

At its January 2015 meeting, the National Executive of the Canadian Federation of Students, upon insistence of the three at-large National Executive members, resolved to undertake an event for students to discuss sexualized violence on campus.

At the January 2015 meeting, BC Representative on the National Executive Jenelle Davies and National Aboriginal Caucus representative on the National Executive Simka Marshall raised concerns about the proposal. The representatives' concerns included a lack of professional experience on the part of the organisers, a lack of focus and understanding on issues facing Indigenous women, the cost of the event, and the lack of direction for such an event from members at a national general meeting. Davies and Marshall asserted that such an event should be organized cooperatively with organizations that were considered experts in the field of sexualized violence, and that the Federation's activism could not replace expertise and experience when dealing with such issues.

The Forum was announced via Twitter just over a week before member locals received information packages about the event. Registration forms were mailed to most, but not all, member locals. The following text was included in the registration packages:

"Space at the forum is limited, with preference given to encourage the participation of women identified

people, with special consideration for participants from traditionally marginalized communities, such as racialized, indigenous, trans women and women with disabilities. Please submit completed registration forms and fees as soon as possible in order to help guarantee participants from your local."

This condition marked a significant departure from traditional practice. When the national organization holds a national general meeting the participation of marginalized people is promoted by discounting the participation cost of delegates, not the active selection of participants by a few members of the National Executive. In changing this practice, the three at-large members of the National Executive engaged in a greater degree of interference in member local union autonomy than was practice for any previous meeting.

SESSIONS

Opening remarks were provided by then-National Deputy Chairperson Bilan Arte and then-Women Students' Representative Yolen Bollo-Kamara. Bollo-Kamara's remarks specifically referenced the interplay between the class based approach to social campaigns reflected in the Federation's work historically, and suggested that focusing on access to education was negative. The opening remarks set out that the individual issues of students from marginalized groups should be a particular focus of member local unions and the cross-Canada organization as a whole.

A session entitled "Anti-Oppression Workshop" began the main programming for the Forum, and this was provided by Lena Peters, an amateur video blogger. Peters' presentation was a brief breakdown of definitions of several forms of oppression and marginalization. Peters admitted that definitions were selected directly from websites such as Wikipedia and Urban Dictionary, and that most of the images used were pulled directly from Tumblr, a social media website. Peters suggested that she failed to complete a post-secondary credential, and had

derived her relevant education from “Tumblr Academia”.

Two sections of the Forum’s agenda were reserved for “Open Space Organising”. These segments were available for participants to run their own sessions, regardless of professional experience or whether the topic of discussion was germane to the Forum, or the Federation’s goals. Despite the serious nature of the content and the potential safety risk of having amateurs engaging in workshop facilitation about consent and issues related to sexual assault, these sessions were held on a number of topics.

Overall, participants from British Columbia reported that the sessions for the Forum illustrate that the national organization is out of its depth in engaging in a cross-Canada discussion on broad social issues. There are other organizations that employ experts to address issues of sexualized violence, and by attempting to displace these groups as an expert organization, delegates suggested the national organization is doing a disservice to its members and those established, professional organizations seeking help with a number of sensitive issues related to sexualized violence, child abuse, residential school abuse and other, connected issues.

STAFF RELATIONS

Staff of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario played a significant role in running the Forum, including engaging in bargaining unit work of the Canadian Federation of Students. Logistics tables, social media work, and otherwise facilitating the meeting was taken on by staff of CFS-Ontario.

MediaStyle was on hand for the duration of the event. Several employees of MediaStyle staffed the sessions of the Forum to film participants, engage in social media work, and otherwise record the meeting. All of the work that MediaStyle engaged in would traditionally

be undertaken by the Federation’s unionised staffpeople. MediaStyle did not request the consent of participants prior to filming the Forum.

ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

The Forum illustrated a new organizational perspective of the National Executive within the organization. Through the informational materials, speeches, and acknowledgements, it was clear to participants that the Forum was first and foremost the work of National Deputy Chairperson Bilan Arte.

Traditionally, printed welcome letters for national general meetings are addressed to delegates from the National Executive as a whole – as the meeting represents the leadership work of the whole body. The printed welcome letter from the Forum was not only in the name of only National Chairperson Jessica McCormick, National Deputy Chairperson Bilan Arte, and National Treasurer Anna Dubinski, but a picture of the three was printed alongside the document. This elevation of the three at-large members above the National Executive was a startling example of the hierarchy being created among members of the National Executive and is indicative of the way in which these three individuals are acting in place of the broader, representative National Executive.

At national general meetings of the Federation, usually the night prior to the commencement of the meeting, a meeting of the National Executive is held to establish a task list. These tasks are democratically agreed upon by the National Executive at a regular meeting. At midnight the night before the commencement of the Forum, National Deputy Chairperson Arte emailed a tasklist to members of the National Executive. The tasks included facilitating sessions on issues which the assignees had no prior experience, and engaging in bargaining unit work of Federation staff in violation of the collective agreement.

PARTICIPANTS' CONCLUSIONS

Participants from British Columbia reported that the experience did not provide them with new skills or advance their understanding of consent culture in a significant way. No participant from BC indicated that the Fourm would impact their work as a director of a students' union, as they already engage in the implementation of the No Means No campaign.

"All in all, I feel that this forum was poorly organized, disrespectful, offensive, and a huge waste of members' fees. Disappointment and anger does not even begin to cover what I feel towards this event's organizers. I look forward to seeing the costs of this event, and pray that the upcoming [National Aboriginal Caucus Annual General Meeting] and following General Meeting are not as overwhelmingly terrible." – Shayli Robinson, National Forum participant from the Camosun College Student Society

ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE ISSUES REJECTED: APRIL 2015 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING

The National Executive met in April 2015 in Ottawa, Ontario. The meeting was attended by BC Representative on the National Executive Jenelle Davies; then-Campaign Coordinator Simka Marshall, who was at that time a member of the National Executive; then-Researcher Amanda Aziz; Internal Coordinator Steven Beasley, Bookkeeper Michael Olson, and then-Chairperson Zachary Crispin.

At the meeting participants from British Columbia made several attempts to engage directly in a dialogue about the state of the Canadian Federation of Students. It was reported by these participants that there seemed to be no openness on the part of those present from other provinces to discuss any of the concerns that had been raised to that point, nor any interest in resolution.

Then-National Chairperson Jessica McCormick, serving as the staff relations officer at a time of heightened scrutiny on the national organization's labour relations, refused to attend the meeting. While McCormick would later suggest this was due to issues of mental health, informal reports indicate that she was actively engaged in negotiations with staff and the Canadian Union of Public Employees about staff relations during the entire course of the meeting, attempting to prevent any union representatives from presenting to the National Executive.

ONGOING QUERIES FROM MEMBER LOCAL UNIONS REMAIN UNANSWERED

After the advent of the crisis, member local unions continuously requested financial and labour management information from the National Executive to no avail. Despite suggesting that information was available to any member seeking answers, those working in the national office made little if any effort to respond to the concerns of the students of British Columbia. Member locals 4, 13, 33, 53, 61, 66, 72, 73, and 75 all sent formal requests for information that went unanswered by the at-large members of the National Executive, including questions about information that the national organization is compelled to provide per its bylaws.

BC MEMBER LOCAL VOTES DENIED AT JUNE 2015 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL CAUCUS GENERAL MEETING

The National Aboriginal Caucus meets three times each year: once at the general meeting held usually held in November, once at the general meeting usually held in May, and once separately from a full general meeting. In 2015, the National Aboriginal Caucus General Meeting was held in the days preceding the 67th semi-annual national general meeting. British Columbia students were represented

by seven delegations holding four additional proxies at the Caucus meeting.

For the entire decades-long history of the National Aboriginal Caucus proxy votes have been permitted to allow members present to vote on behalf of affiliates without delegates able to attend the meeting. This process is an important structure in ensuring that member local unions who cannot attend can still participate in the Federation's democracy. Within the democracy of many First Nations within British Columbia, a structure reminiscent of proxy voting exists to ensure the voice of those not present for decisions does not go unheard.

The proxy votes of several member local unions from British Columbia were acknowledged by the chairperson when the National Aboriginal Caucus General Meeting was called to order. There was some discussion at the beginning of the meeting about the validity of the proxy process, but the result was a ruling by the chairperson that the proxies were valid.

Days later, and immediately prior to the election of the Caucus' dedicated position on the Federation's National Executive, a vote was held at the behest of the Chief Electoral Officer's daughter, who happened to be a delegate at the meeting, to overturn the chairperson's earlier decision to acknowledge proxy votes. When voting on the acknowledgement of proxies, delegates were disallowed from exercising proxy votes that had already been recognized. Because the four proxies from British Columbia member local unions represented the balance of votes, the resolution to disallow the proxies was successful. The subsequent election resulted in the incumbent, Simka Marshall, receiving a plurality of votes, which triggered a second ballot.

Before a second ballot could be conducted, one of the three candidates standing for election pre-emptively stepped aside, and

publicly declared his support for the remaining candidate other than Marshall – despite there being no structural break in the voting process, nor any opportunity for Marshall to respond.

A second vote was held which resulted in a tie between Marshall and her opponent. Upon the announcement of the tie, Canadian Federation of Students-Services employee David Etherington entered the Caucus meeting room and removed a delegate representing a member local union in Nova Scotia. Delegates from British Columbia witnessed Etherington pressuring the Caucus delegate from Nova Scotia to vote for Marshall's opponent. When the delegate from Nova Scotia returned, an additional vote was held with the result that Marshall was defeated by a single vote.

CONCLUSIONS OF BC DELEGATES

BC member local unions have been traditionally well-represented in the National Aboriginal Caucus because there exists a broad culture of Indigenous student representation in BC students' unions, which is not present elsewhere in Canada. Upon reflection, BC delegates to the National Aboriginal Caucus concluded that the reversal of the previously adopted proxy votes represented a strategy to undermine the ability of BC Indigenous students to seek representation through the Caucus structure. This conclusion is supported by the overly clumsy way the management of proxy votes was handled, and the very obvious way regional Federation staff from Nova Scotia and Ontario and then-National Deputy Chairperson Bilan Are were interacting with the electoral process.

After the meeting, locals 33 and 53 sent letters to the National Executive expressing the anger and frustration felt by their Indigenous members over the denial of their voting rights. Neither local received a response.

BULLYING IN PLACE OF ANSWERS: 67th SEMI-ANNUAL NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING

The 67th semi-annual national general meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students was held from June 4 to 7, 2015 in Gatineau, Quebec.

RESOLUTIONS

Member local unions from British Columbia submitted several motions to the 67th Semi-Annual General Meeting intended to resolve some of the outstanding issues with the political direction of the national organization. While a small number of these resolutions were adopted, a majority were not.

The following resolution, served by the Selkirk College Students' Union, intended to force then-National Chairperson Jessica McCormick, then-National Deputy Chairperson Bilan Arte, and Treasurer Anna Dubinski to fulfill their responsibility to communicate with other members of the National Executive. Despite the fact that the resolution calls for action to be taken that should otherwise be taken as matter of course (and as per the bylaws and governing legislation), the resolution was defeated in closing plenary. The resolution read as follows:

Whereas the Canada Corporations Act provides that directors of a federally incorporated society be provided financial documents, and other documents, upon request; and,

Whereas the National Executive Code of Ethics expresses the desire "that members of the National Executive conduct themselves with integrity that is beyond reproach and in a manner that adheres to good disclosure practices, in accordance with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements"; and,

Whereas Standing Resolution 20, article 3.b. "Communications" notes that the at-large representatives shall "endeavour to keep all other National Executive members informed of external and internal issues arising nationally within the Federation; and

Whereas National Chairperson Jessica McCormick, National Deputy Chairperson Bilan Arte, and Treasurer Anna Dubinski have failed to uphold this section of the Standing Resolutions; and

Whereas National Chairperson Jessica McCormick, National Deputy Chairperson Bilan Arte, and Treasurer Anna Dubinski have failed to uphold both the legally standard and democratic standard noted above in regards to the questions of BC Representative on the National Executive Jenelle Davies, and possibly others; and

Whereas there is no hierarchical structure that exists on the National Executive, with each member being equal to one another; therefore,

Be it resolved that at-large members of the National Executive refrain from withholding information from other members of the National Executive; and,

Be it further resolved that every email the BC Representative on the National Executive has sent to National Chairperson Jessica McCormick, National Deputy Chairperson Bilan Arte, and Treasurer Anna Dubinski since September 2014 be answered with a full and complete answer to each question, including any requested documents; and

Be it further resolved that follow-up questions by the BC Representative on the National Executive be answered in a full and complete manner.

INTERPERSONAL INTERACTIONS

Delegates reported nearly universal frustration with the organization of the general meeting, social interactions with delegates from other provinces, and the demeanour of those meant to protect participants from personal attacks.

It was suggested by several participants that Lena Peters, the anti-harassment officer appointed by opening plenary, exercised the power of the position with exceptional bias and lack of due process. Peters was reported to have told those with complaints of harassment that they should change their actions, rather than pursue remediation with those accused. British Columbia delegates also complained that Peters' conveyed personal opinions about

complaints, rather than conducting non-biased investigation of complaints and generating fact-based analysis.

Delegates from British Columbia were repeatedly referred to as racists, both directly and indirectly. It was suggested by many delegates from other provinces that disagreement with the actions of the National Executive constituted harassment and abuse, despite the general meeting being the structural forum to discuss such a disagreement. Further, no reports suggesting delegates from British Columbia engaged in any behaviour resembling an attempt to silence, disempower, or otherwise limit the participation of racialized delegates.

“It was clear that I did not have enough intersecting identities in my tool kit to warrant any voice in this forum.” – Jessica Sandy, North Island Students’ Union delegate to the 67th Semi-Annual National General Meeting

During National Chairperson Jessica McCormick’s opening remarks it was suggested by McCormick that the psychological impact of executing her role in the preceding months had been significant for her. McCormick suggested that her personal psychological distress prevented her from executing her duties as the National Chairperson and affected her actions as staff relations officer. McCormick never suggested that she requested to be relieved of her duties during her physical absence, nor ceased undertaking her work as staff relations officer. When a delegate from British Columbia requested that McCormick provide information about her actions as the National Chairperson and staff relations officer, the delegate was shouted down by delegates from other provinces without any intervention by the plenary speaker or anti-harassment officer.

This is only one example of a pattern of behaviour experienced by British Columbia delegates throughout the meeting. Hiding behind personal issues or political sensitivities,

at-large members of the National Executive avoided serious and important questions throughout the general meeting and side-stepped accountability for improperly exercising the administrative and management authority that only the National Executive wholly assembled has the authority to execute. BC delegates were left to conclude that this tactic was an obvious attempt to avoid accountability for decisions made without authority.

ELECTIONS

Elections were held at the meeting for representatives of constituencies and caucuses on the National Executive.

After two votes to secure a clear majority for the position, the Women’s Caucus voted to submit for ratification by plenary Local 75 delegate Shayli Robinson for the position of Women’s Representative on the National Executive.

The National Aboriginal Caucus met many times over the course of the general meeting. At each meeting, delegates from British Columbia demanded a re-vote for the Caucus’ representative to the National Executive with the recognition of proxy votes, which was initially agreed to. However, during the last meeting of the Caucus, delegates from other provinces asserted that no re-vote would take place. National Deputy Chairperson Bilan Arte was ejected from the Caucus meetings after several delegates voiced that she was making them uncomfortable and unable to participate. Despite suggesting that she was willing to exit the meeting if her presence caused discomfort for Indigenous delegates, Arte returned to participate in the Caucus’ last session to assist efforts to undermine the electoral process.

CLOSING PLENARY

During closing plenary a document entitled “Report of the National Executive” was presented to delegates for adoption. BC

Representative on the National Executive Davies arose in deliberation and noted that the document was both never considered by the National Executive and not accurate. Despite this, the at-large members of the National Executive insisted that plenary consider the document. The document included negative and inaccurate characterisations of the Executive Committee's actions. Delegates from British Columbia questioned the National Executive about the content of the document, regularly receiving a vocal negative response from delegates from other provinces.

Despite the agenda for the general meeting having been adopted by opening plenary, the plenary speaker entertained a resolution to recess closing plenary and hold an impromptu meeting of the Women's Caucus. During the meeting of the Caucus, delegates from outside of British Columbia, mostly from Ontario member locals, berated those from British Columbia for perceived slights, asking questions of the National Executive, and for the content of the resolutions submitted.

"The preferential treatment by the national executive toward Ontario delegates was blatantly and offensively obvious throughout this emotionally charged meeting. At one point a "triggering" word was used by a BC delegate (a word, I might add, that had been used many times in the meeting until that point) and the entire right side of the room erupted with verbal and even physical aggression toward the speaker. One Ontario delegate lunged at the speaker, spitting expletives and threats at her. Her conduct was not deemed out of order, and despite being physically aggressive she was not reprimanded by the chair for her behaviour or asked to leave the room in the interest of maintaining a safe environment." – Chelsea Grisch, Okanagan College Students' Union delegate to the 67th Semi-Annual National General Meeting and participant in the impromptu Women's Caucus meeting

After the bullying and unwarranted attacks on British Columbia's delegates participating

in the impromptu Women's Caucus meeting, delegates expressed that they felt the meeting to be an unsafe space. After consulting with representatives of each delegation present, members of the Executive Committee agreed that no one should be asked to continue to participate in the general meeting. Consequently, delegates from each British Columbia member local union walked out of the general meeting, and reconvened elsewhere as a provincial component to discuss what had transpired. This was the only time in the near 35-year history of the Canadian Federation of Students that delegates from British Columbia universally left a meeting.

DELEGATES' CONCLUSIONS

From the outset of the general meeting, delegates from British Columbia member local unions were particularly keen to exercise their democratic role to inquire about the work of the Federation and set the organization's agenda. This approach was based on the assumption that the Federation operated with several principles of democracy:

- established democratic infrastructure including separation of the authority to decide, execute, and scrutinise actions;
- universal participation and ability to vote, including active participation;
- protection of minority rights including the freedom to a voice within the democracy, protection from oppressive decisions of the majority, and liberty to express perspectives that are irrelevant to the democracy's proceedings without concern that those perspectives will impact deliberation; and,
- due process including the ability to appeal democratic decisions on the basis that they violate other democratic decisions, established internal rules, or law.

A vast majority of British Columbia delegates reported that the assumption that protection of minority rights and due process were in effect was mistaken. During the meeting, the Federation's leadership failed to answer basic questions about the operations of the organization, there were substantiated reports of election fraud, and the established rules of order were ignored.

"To put it simply: every delegate from British Columbia was subjected to at least some extent of slander and verbal abuse during the course of the weekend. Those who were not of a typically marginalized demographic were dismissed as speaking from positions of privilege regardless of the validity of their statements, and those who were faced hostile personal attacks in constituency group meetings normally respected as safe spaces for discussion of matters affecting individuals marginalized by race, gender, and orientation. The abusive actions condoned by Arte and McCormick were blunders in judgement of the worst kind I have encountered in my time working with the CFS and need to be addressed whether with or without input at the national level."

– Reilly Walker, Northwest Community College Students' Union delegate to the 67th Semi-Annual National General Meeting

Many member locals' delegates recommend that participation in general meetings of the Canadian Federation of Students be considered with exceptional caution in the future.

JULY 2015 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING

The National Executive met in July 2015 in Ottawa, Ontario. The meeting was attended by BC Representative on the National Executive Jenelle Davies and then-Researcher Amanda Aziz.

Much of the deliberation of the National Executive at this meeting was in-camera thus no record is available to British Columbia members. The Executive Committee has not been contacted by the National Executive

to address the questions being raised by members in British Columbia, or the behaviour of delegates at the most recent general meeting.

Despite nearly a year of questions about finances and the announcement of an undisclosed bank account at the most recent general meeting, no financial report was provided to the National Executive at the meeting.

BC Representative on the National Executive Jenelle Davies left early, suggesting that the meeting degenerated into ad hominem attacks against herself.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESPONSE

From the outset of the crisis of leadership in the Canadian Federation of Students, the Executive Committee has deliberated on the issue at each meeting. During much of this time members of the BC office collective urged caution and the provision of the benefit of the doubt regarding interactions with the National Executive. This approach was intended to allow the National Executive to resolve its failings in regular democratic fashion and limit public discussion of issues internal to the student movement so that there be a reduced impact to political campaigns and service delivery on which individual members rely.

After the extreme changes to the Canadian Federation of Students evident at the April 2015 National Executive meeting and the 67th Semi-Annual National General Meeting, the Executive Committee began to deliberate on a formal organizational response. This response seeks to address not only the misdeeds and breaches by the National Executive, but also the apparent departure from the organization's long-standing progressive politics evident in the behaviour of both members of the National Executive and delegates to the national general meeting from outside of British Columbia. The Executive Committee's deliberations led to the

submission of several resolutions to this general meeting for consideration by the students of British Columbia, including an affirmation of commitment to the founding principles of the Canadian Federation of Students and the censure of those most radically undermining the same.

It is important to note that none of the at-large members of the National Executive have contacted the Executive Committee about the outstanding issues and concerns expressed by British Columbia member local unions. No BC member local union has been contacted by any of the three at-large members of the National Executive about their decision to walk out of the 67th semi-annual national general meeting. Further, no member local, nor the Executive Committee, has been contacted by any of the at-large members of the National Executive about the motions served with notice to the 68th semi-annual general meeting.

Regardless of the outcome of British Columbia students' struggle to maintain democracy in the Canadian Federation of Students, the Executive Committee is resolute that the focus of the student movement must continue to be the ultimate goal of a universally accessible system of public post-secondary education.

"The focus of CFS-BC continues to be the representation of students on issues like reducing tuition fees and making education more accessible, and on the provision of high-quality services." – Chairperson Simka Marshall, in response to media inquiry about the Executive Committee's recommendations

APPENDIX II

SECTION B: NO ANSWERS AND NO DEMOCRACY

NATIONAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Due to the overwhelmingly negative experiences at the June 2015 national general meeting, most BC member locals were unwilling to send delegates to national general meetings throughout the 2015-16 year. In total, 11 delegates from six BC member locals attended the Fall 2015 general meeting. Several other locals assigned those in attendance to vote on their behalf via a proxy designation. Member locals served motions yet again in an attempt to find a resolution to the ongoing democratic and structural problems plaguing the organization. Seemingly as a result of these motions, those BC delegates in attendance were the subject of ongoing harassment and intimidation throughout the meeting. The motions served were soundly defeated with little or no discussion.

Even fewer BC delegates attended the June 2016 general meeting. A total of 7 delegates representing five BC locals were in attendance.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

In place of continuing the struggle at national general meetings, several BC member locals have focused their attention this past year on continuing to demand, primarily through email, the financial and related information that the CFS/CFSS management had been refusing to provide.

This effort has been led by Secretary-Treasurer Davies, who also had the opportunity to repeat the demands in-person at quarterly board meetings and during shorter teleconference meetings. She was joined in this effort between November 2015 and June 2016 by Chairperson Marshall, who was elected as the College and Institutes Caucus Representative on the National Executive for second half of the 2015-16 membership year.

At the August 2015 BC general meeting, a motion was adopted that directed a letter be sent to the joint CFS/CFSS National Executive detailing the common concerns of the BC member unions. This letter was sent in early October, 2015. The letter was first discussed by the National Executive at its October 2015 meeting. At the conclusion of the discussion National Chairperson Bilan Arte was directed to write a response. In January, when Davies reported that the BC member unions had still yet received a response, Arte committed once again to issuing a response to the BC locals at her

first opportunity. At the April National Executive meeting, Davies again raised the matter that BC member unions had still not received a reply. As of the start of the August 2016 BC general meeting, BC member locals have still not received the courtesy of a response.

Formal response or not, it has been clear to Davies, Marshall, and BCFS staff who have been at the National Executive meetings that Arte and the rest of the National Executive have no intention of acknowledging the validity of the BC member unions' concerns. Every time Davies has raised the issue of BC members concerns, the reaction from the majority of the National Executive has ranged from scorn for the members "ignorance" to accusations that Davies is simply representing her own view rather than the views of the BC member unions.

In fact, the notion that the BCFS elected leadership is unrepresentative of its membership has been a regular theme at National Executive meetings. It has been used throughout the past year by the three at-large National Executive members and their supporters on the board to try to discredit Davies in her role as "messenger" for the BC member unions. Whether they actually believe it or whether it is a tactic, is irrelevant. It has the effect of shifting the focus of the discussion so the actual concerns being raised by the BC unions, through their representative(s), are never addressed. With the topic successfully avoided and the meeting adjourned, the at-large National Executive members return to running the national organization without any scrutiny or accountability.

Generally speaking, the dysfunction within the National Executive has gone from bad to worse since first reported on a year ago. Not only does BC Representative Davies continue to have all her requests for information denied, she is also now being denied the right to submit written reports to the board explaining BC members concerns. Meeting after meeting,

Davies' written reports—the submission of which are a requirement of the position—are presented, and meeting after meeting the vote to approve the report is tabled to the subsequent meeting. In each instance, one or more of the full-time executive members object to the criticisms being leveled by BC member unions (as directed by provincial general meeting or Executive Committee meeting). Once the objection is made, the reports have been immediately tabled without debate as if these full-time members have final authority to decide what is true and what is not, what is fair criticism and what is not, and what is reasonable to discuss and what is not.

For the most part, the undemocratic and destructive way in which the full-time National Executive members are now operating has been accepted by the other members of the National Executive. Because of the purge of veteran employees and the turnover in most positions on the National Executive, most institutional memory has been lost. The new National Executive members are not aware that this is contrary to the way in which the National Executive should function and has functioned historically. The understanding that the at-large members manage CFS/CFSS on a day-to-day, week-to-week basis at the direction of the rest of the National Executive has been lost. The current members of the National Executive, with the exception of the BC Representative, appear to have fully accepted the centralization of power amongst the full-time members in the Ottawa office and the dilution of the National Executive's role to little more than a consultative body.

THE RISE OF THE "EXECUTIVE AT-LARGE"

In fact, the three full-time members have now branded themselves as the "Executive At-large", regularly using the term in meetings and reports and on the joint CFS/CFSS website as if this structure exists, even though no

such term appears anywhere in the Bylaws, operational policies, or standing resolutions of the organizations. Nevertheless, most of the other members on the National Executive have adopted, as part of their uncritical obedience to the at-large members, that final authority must rest with the "Executive At-Large".

In most cases, by its failure to assert its constitutional authority the National Executive is leaving a void that allows the full-time members to fill by virtue of their roles as the day-to-day managers of the national organization. However, there are some responsibilities that the National Executive is contractually bound to fulfill, including its responsibility as the Employer as defined by the collective agreement with the unionized employees. Despite this explicit contractual responsibility, none of the hirings, discipline and dismissal, or grievance decisions has been brought to the National Executive approval. When this violation was raised by the BC Representative Davies at the most recent National Executive meeting, the solution was not to correct the practice. Instead, the National Executive adopted a motion "never" to ratify employee hiring in the future. It is noteworthy that the motion should have been ruled out-of-order not only because it violated an existing contract with an external organization and, therefore could not be acted upon, but also because negative motions are not permitted under Robert's Rules of Order because they are nonsensical.

The National Executive structure, consisting of at-large directors and representatives of the provincial federations, was designed with intention to ensure that each province's members had direct input on all matters, including operational ones. The new centralized power of the "Executive At-large" means that one provincial federation, who has the largest membership and thus control of elections at general meetings, effectively runs

the organization without input or consideration other than from those whom they choose to consult. As a founding federation of CFS/CFSS, the BC Federation of Students would never have agreed to this structure as a condition of membership.

SURPRISE CHANGES TO STAFFING AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

As with local board structures, the National Executive is the body that is technically the Employer; it appoints a Staff Relations Officer and the three full-time members who work in the Ottawa office oversee the day-to-day management of the staff.

In mid-June 2016, Secretary-Treasurer Davies was alerted to a job posting by the CFS for the position of Executive Director. This posting came as a surprise not only because the position has never existed in the staffing/management structure of the organization, but also because the National Executive had not once had a discussion about the position.

At its July 2016 meeting, the National Executive ratified the hiring of Toby Whitfield. BC Representative Davies raised concerns about the complete lack of consultation of the Employer in the decision to create and post for the position.

At this same meeting, it was revealed that some of the "interns" that had been hired over the course of the previous 18 months had been converted to permanent staff. This had apparently happened as long as 12 months prior to the meeting with no report to, or approval of, the National Executive. The rationale continued to focus on the newly-asserted powers of the "Executive At-Large".

QUESTIONING THE BCFS STATUS AS PROVINCIAL COMPONENT

Throughout the history of the CFS/CFSS, staff of provincial components have participated fully in National Executive meetings, including having speaking rights and being invited to participate in in-camera sessions.

However, at the July 2016 National Executive meeting, National Chairperson Arte asserted that BCFS employee (and former member of the National Executive) Michael Olson would not be allowed to speak at the meeting nor would he be allowed in the in-camera sessions. The reason provided by Arte was that Olson works for an “external organization”. When pressed for further explanation, Arte asserted that the BCFS is no longer the provincial component of the CFS/CFSS. She said that members’ decision at the January 2016 BC general meeting to change the name of the provincial organization meant that the BCFS could not be the component. Additionally, she said that the addition of a member local union that was not a member of the national organizations (that being the NBC GSS), and the resulting incongruence of membership, excluded the BCFS as a provincial component.

It was not explained why this arbitrary decision conflicted with historical situations in which incongruence between provincial and national federations has existed. Arte did not explain why employees of the Ontario Federation of Students, a non-congruent provincial organization, were able to attend every meeting and in-camera session without restriction between 1981 and 1992 (at which point its membership became congruent). Nor did she explain how, over the years, CFS/CFSS had various provincial components with names such as Students’ Union of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Students.

This assertion by Arte had not been precipitated by any discussion of the National Executive or general meeting, nor was there any further discussion after the restriction on participation by BCFS staff.

MEMBERSHIP DUES AND PROVINCIAL FUNDING

A central effort during the past year was on getting information with which to determine precisely how monies were being spent by CFS/CFSS. The information would help determine if, amongst other things, the national organization was favouring CFS-Ontario, and, conversely, acting in a prejudicial manner against CFS-BC/BCFS. Circumstantial evidence indicates that CFS and CFS-Services had been providing extraordinary funding to CFS-Manitoba, CFS-Newfoundland, and CFS-Nova Scotia, in addition to the extraordinary funding already being provided to CFS-Ontario.

At the same time, CFS and CFSS has yet to transfer to BCFS a penny of the provincial allocation owed it by CFS/CFSS’ statutes or even answer enquiries concerning whether there is any allocation that remains owing to BCFS from the 2013-14 membership year. In all cases, even requests for a basic accounting of funds owing has been denied. Additionally, although most if not all members locals are no longer remitting fees to the CFS/CFSS, at least until information requests are properly answered, several locals submitted combined to CFS/CFSS and BCFS fees to CFS during the 2014-15 membership year. Despite requests by the Federation and by Davies for the BCFS fees—or at the very least, an account of those fees—none has been provided.

CONCLUSIONS

As someone once said, there can be no democracy without the information needed to form judgments and cast informed votes. Without it, ignorance prevails.

Within the CFS, ignorance is now prevailing. Those who have the information share it only with those who share their goals. Those who want it—BCFS and its member unions—are denied it. Most other member locals either don't understand what they are missing or content to accept the current state of the CFS

The fiscal year ending June 30, 2013 is the last year for which CFS and CFSS have had their financial statements audited. In other words, it has now been close to one-third of a decade since a fiscal year of the CFS and CFSS has been audited. Among the members of the National Executive, only BC Representative Jenelle Davies has expressed deep concern.

Should BCFS and its member locals simply walk away from CFS/CFSS, it would leave CFS-Ontario with the benefits of the BCFS' contributions over more than three decades? Certainly a more equitable solution would be for the BCFS to demand an unwinding of the original partnership with a proportionate share of the more than \$10 million that it helped to accumulate through membership and services fees during the past 35 years.

The current irreparable state of the relationship was not BCFS' doing. It was the reckless and self-interested actions of CFS-Ontario that have led to this state. CFS-Ontario should not profit at the expense of BCFS for driving BCFS from the CFS through its oppressive actions. The dissolution of the partnership with fair distribution of a proportion of assets back to BCFS as a founding provincial federation may be the most fair outcome.

APPENDIX II

SECTION C:

NORMALIZING

OPPRESSION AND

BANNING DISSENT

INTRODUCTION

The 2016-17 year saw a continuation of the same theme from the previous years; namely, the centralization of power, contempt for BC representatives and member locals, and the further deterioration of services and campaigns. While speaking about unity and attempts and reconciliation, the actions of Chairperson Arte, Deputy-Chairperson Roy, and Treasurer Veitch continued to undermine member locals' autonomy and subvert the role of the BC component and National Executive.

NATIONAL GENERAL MEETINGS

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Member locals continued to be uninterested in subjecting their representatives to the experience of a national general meeting during the 2016-17 year. In total, eleven delegates attended the Fall 2016 general meeting from nine member locals; a further two locals assigned those in attendance to vote on their behalf via a proxy designation.

The plenary and sub-committees of the general meeting were facilitated poorly (and incorrectly), which resulted in hours of wasted time. The Organizational and Services Development Committee was only able to discuss 25 percent of the motions referred to it by plenary, despite the facilitators skipping the presentation and discussion of services. The remainder of the motions went back to plenary without recommendations from the Committee.

In the Budget Committee, Treasurer Veitch attempted to have two audited financial statements, one of them including a summary of a forensic review, approved with a single motion. After an uprising from the Committee members, Veitch relented and allowed the business to be considered separately. Ultimately, due to a high amount of discussion and debate, delegates were only able to review both audits by having the Committee convene for a third unscheduled meeting.

Despite assertions from previous elected officials such as former Chairperson Jessica McCormick and former Treasurer Anna Dubinski that a written report of the forensic review of the so-called "secret bank account" would be provided to members, Treasurer Veitch told the Committee that no such report would be provided. Understandably, this caused confusion and many delegates voiced

serious concerns about what appeared to be an obviously attempt to suppress information. In the end, the Budget Committee served a motion to the closing plenary that the National Executive provide a full written report on the forensic review to members prior to the next general meeting. This motion was approved at the closing plenary.

As a result of egregious mismanagement of time in Closing Plenary a series of motions that had been served for discussion at the meeting were not discussed or voted on—they were tabled to the next general meeting.

2017 SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

For the June 2017 general meeting, several member locals chose to send a larger delegation than they had for the previous few meetings. In total, 27 delegates attended from 10 member locals.

Even before the meeting began, member locals experienced serious setbacks regarding their democratic rights and rights to participate in the meeting. Three member locals from BC submitted motions with proper notice for consideration at the meeting. All three locals received a confirmation of receipt of their motions from Treasurer Veitch. However, when the second notice package was delivered with the draft plenary agenda containing motions submitted, the motions from these locals were absent. No communication had been received prior to this time regarding the motions, and it wasn't until local representatives contacted the national office that they were acknowledged. Several days after the second notice package was received in BC, each of these three locals received letters from the CFS' legal counsel Todd Burke, claiming that the motions were "out of order", "inappropriate", and in some cases "defamatory". This action taken by the full-time directors, to direct legal counsel in this way, is a direct violation of the bylaws and member locals' rights. Regardless of Mr. Burke's opinion, the only way a motion can

be ruled out of order is by members at the general meeting. Further, some of the motions referenced the inappropriate actions of the full-time elected members of the National Executive, and one called Mr. Burke's own actions into question regarding his recent attempts to assist the CFS in illegally collecting BCFS membership fees. Though Mr. Burke refused to disclose on whose behalf he was operating, surely those providing him direction were in a conflict of interest, as he may also have been.

Several member locals provided detailed feedback about the general meeting. Low points of the meeting included the following examples of oppression tactics used against BC member local unions:

- The National Chairperson Bilan Arte's use of her opening remarks as a bully pulpit to encourage delegates to shame those from BC member local unions over efforts to bring accountability to the organization, a clear attempt to make the general meeting an unsafe space for BC member local association representatives;
- The manipulation of plenary to limit questions for the National Executive, and the obvious intentional omission from the reports of the national executives on internal, financial, legal and membership issues;
- The misrepresentation of the use of funds from the 'secret bank account' as non-core activities of the Federation, and attempts to characterize the use of those funds as illegal while simultaneously refusing to investigate the supposedly illegal activities;
- The refusal to acknowledge and report on the end recipients of the funds from the 'secret bank account' when the information is readily available and a number of those individuals remain

employed or elected within the CFS/
CFS-Services;

- The manipulation of the elections at the National Aboriginal Caucus meeting in May at which the rules of election were broken to favour a candidate chosen outside the Circle of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students (this is the second such occurrence of electoral fraud within this Caucus in two years);
- The manipulation of the elections of the Students' with Disability Constituency Group through the recruitment of delegates who do not participate in the Constituency Group to attend the final meeting of the Group to simply block a delegate of Local 98, the University of Toronto Students' Union, from being elected to the National Executive;
- Attempts by the Chief Returning Officer to interfere with the ability of scrutineers from doing their job of taking notes about potential discrepancies, errors or process violations during the vote count;
- The continual allowance by the Plenary Speaker and sub-committee meeting chairs of dilatory and improper amendments to motions as a means to thwart the progress of the meeting to delay consideration of resolutions by BC member locals unions seeking to deal with the internal operations of the organization;
- The allowance by Organizational and Services Development Sub-Committee Chair Gayle McFadden of improper motions to re-order the agendas adopted by Plenary to avoid discussion of Federation services, and to set a priority for the consideration of resolutions before the committee out of the first-served, first considered protocol on which the CFS's democracy is based; and

- The overt and obvious use of identity politics as a means to subvert attempts to hold the CFS accountable for the corruption and inaction that characterizes the last quarter decade of the organization's existence.
- The exclusion of Colleges and Institutes Caucus Representative Bridgette Cameron from the National Meeting. This included no at-large executive member or CFS staff following up with her regarding registration, her removal from the national email list-serv before her term concluded, and Chairperson Arte not responding to her queries about meeting.

A Local 6 (CFS Local 18) delegate, Aran Armutlu, was elected as the College and Institutes Representative on the National Executive.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

In 2016-17, the trend of disempowering the National Executive continued. The majority of the National Executive continues to support the thwarting of their authority and responsibility by the three full-time directors, which is a clear example of oppression against those directors representing a minority view point.

One tactic used by the full-time directors and their supporters is to simply fail to call meetings. Between July 2016 and January 2017, the National Executive only met once, and that was by teleconference. The meeting lasted less than one hour.

In 2016-17 National Executive met in-person in January, April and July. At each of these meetings the sections on the agenda dealing with internal affairs were organized to occur either after the participants from British Columbia arrived, or after the BC participants were required to leave in order to catch scheduled flights. At the January 2017 meeting of the National Executive, representatives from

British Columbia attempted to reconcile the fees in dispute and the National Executive set date of February 24 as time by which the National Treasurer was to have reached out to the Federation in BC to initiate the process. This deadline was missed by two months, as Treasurer Veitch only contacted the Federation days prior to the April meeting of the National Executive, virtually ensuring no progress on the issue could be made in time for that meeting. This was one of a number of failed attempts in reconciling the accounts, as the National Executive is not interested in solving the dispute in good faith.

The National Executive met on April 19 to 21. At this meeting National Executive Representative Davies was forced to continually defend herself against baseless attacks that she was acting in bad faith in representing BC member locals unions. Continually throughout the meeting the full-time directors and their supporters on the National Executive attacked Davies, and accused her of failing to fulfill her role, and misrepresenting BC member locals to the National Executive. Each time Davies attempted to have a substantial discussion about the internal affairs issues at the heart of BC member locals' grievances, other members of the National Executive refused to entertain consideration of those issues.

The National Executive met on July 24 and 25, and the meeting closely resembled the patterns outlined above at the April 2017 meeting. Again Davies was forced to respond to rounds of unfounded and harassing accusations regarding the way in which she was executing her position of BC National Executive Representative. As in April, the internal affairs section of the meeting was scheduled at a time when the meeting organizers were aware that the representatives from BC could not attend (in fact the whole meeting was scheduled at a time to limit participation from BC representatives). In

response to further unfounded attacks on her character and job performance, Davies attempted to open a discussion on the many issues BC member local unions have raised over the past quarter of a decade. A motion from the Women's Representative to amend the agenda to enable members from BC to participate in the discussion of internal affairs was defeated by a simple majority of the National Executive, a further example of the culture of oppression that exists at meetings of the National Executive.

ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE FEDERATION AND MEMBER LOCAL AUTONOMY

ECONOMIC OPPRESSION

As reported in the Internal Affairs section of this Report, BC member local unions began voluntarily remitting their full membership fees to the Federation in the late fall of 2014 and early spring of 2015. At the time of this change, the national organizations owed the Federation more than \$700,000 in unremitted fees and national allocations, at it seemed apparent that the illegitimate withholding of fees from the Federation was in direct retaliation to BC member local unions' actions at the October 2014 national general meeting.

Beginning in the winter of 2015, the Federation issued a letter to each member local union seeking that Federation fees be paid directly to the Federation, and not sent to the CFS/CFS-Services. Simultaneously, a letter was issued by CFS/CFS-Service issued a letter to BC member locals demanding that funds collected on behalf of the BC Federation of Students be paid to the national organizations. Both the unjustified withholding of monies owed to the Federation, and attempts to steal the Federation's fees are clear examples of the CFS/CFS-Service's attempts to economically oppress the Federation.

Further evidence of the economic oppression of the BC Component, the CFS/CFS-Services has specifically sought to intercede in the ongoing legal dispute between the Federation and Local 9, the Kwantlen Students' Association. Consistent with the information above, the Federation sent a letter to the president of Local 9 requesting that BCFS fees be remitted to the BC office instead of being remitted to the CFS and they were being up until that time. In response, Local 9's legal counsel contacted the CFS to seek clarification of the remittance of membership fees—particularly in light of the July 2016 announcement by Chairperson Arte that the BCFS was not the provincial component of the CFS. Instead of acknowledging the BCFS's sole and legitimate right to its fees, CFS' legal counsel laid claim to those fees (and also reaffirmed the BCFS' status as the provincial component).

The CFS relied on its bylaw that asserts that any "applicable provincial fee" shall be remitted to the national organization; however, as their legal counsel is or should be aware, this could not apply to separately incorporated provincial components such as the BCFS and CFS-Ontario. The BCFS is not governed by the CFS bylaws any more than the CFS is governed by the BCFS bylaws.

The Federation's legal counsel then also responded, asserting again that all BCFS fees should be remitted to the Federation's office in Vancouver.

In response to the conflicting direction from the CFS and BCFS, the KSA's legal counsel demanded that the two organizations come to an agreement or else they would take legal action. In early 2017 the KSA's legal counsel filed interpleader proceedings in order to compel the CFS and BCFS to litigate the fee dispute. Instead, at the BCFS' suggestion, the parties agreed to open a joint trust account into which Kwantlen Polytechnic University

would remit membership dues. The trust account was opened in early June 2017, but by the time of this report, no accounting for dues had been received.

UNDERHANDED ORGANIZING

On January 30, CFS National Deputy Chairperson Anne-Marie Roy and National Treasurer Peyton Veitch arrived at the Castlegar campus of Selkirk College, with no prior communication with the Local. The two proceeded to the cafeteria and without identifying themselves began to have conversations with members about the member local. The conversations included asking members to sign petitions supporting free education, telling members about the Canadian Federation of Students, and directly attacking the Local's leadership. Members reported that the Veitch and Roy told them that the Local's leadership "didn't care" about reducing tuition fees, an objectively false statement, in a clear attempt to undermine the democratically elected leadership of the Students' Union.

After being confronted by elected students at the Castlegar Campus, Veitch and Roy traveled to several regional campuses of Selkirk College, and then continued their defamation tour in Kelowna, where they visited Okanagan College. They again did not inform the member local union that they were coming, nor did they advise the Local upon arriving. It was only after local representatives confronted them directly that they agreed to engage with the Local. In a meeting with Local representatives, Veitch and Roy heard directly from elected students at Okanagan College that students in the Okanagan stood behind the representation provided by BC Representative on the National Executive, and they reiterated, on behalf of their members directly, Davies' demands for financial accountability, a return to the democratic structures of the bylaws, and the

immediate end to oppressive tactics being used against BC member local unions.

The National Executive failed to report on any of these member local interactions in their report to members at the 2017 Semi-Annual General Meeting.

MEMBER LOCAL PETITION PROCESS

As of the publication of this report, the following member locals have submitted petitions seeking a referendum on membership:

- Camosun College Student Society;
- Douglas Students' Union;
- College of New Caledonia Students' Union;
- North Island Students' Union;
- Northwest Community College Students' Union;
- Okanagan College Students' Union;
- Selkirk College Students' Union; and,
- Vancouver Island University Students' Union.

This section is provided for information.