

February 12, 2020

President
Brother Harvey Bischof
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
60 Mobile Drive
Toronto, ON M3B 3P8

Dear Brother Harvey Bischof,

The Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIA W-ICREF) is a women's organization that has conducted and published intersectional feminist research for over 40 years. Our work on women's economic, political and social situations is frequently used by teachers, students and unions alike to advocate for social justice.

We are grateful for the support we received from you over the years, especially when we were targeted by the Harper Government and lost our funding. I'm writing to you to let you know that we support you and stand in solidarity with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF). We firmly support the right of workers to organize.

Throughout our 5-year research project on Changing Public Services, we learned first hand how austerity measures have a significant impact on women as workers in the public sector. The Ford government's cuts to the Ontario education system is pushing teachers and support staff into increasingly precarious situations and hinders access to quality education and services for students and parents. The cuts made by the Ontario government are disproportionately affecting women, and especially the women who work in education. These workers are undervalued and underpaid and increasingly subjected to precarious working conditions, working long hours caring for many children without proper support. These realities are exacerbated due to the cuts in funding and the proposed increase in class sizes. CRIA W-ICREF supports you in negotiating a strong settlement on behalf of the workers.

To achieve women's equality, we must ensure that all women have access to a fair wage, job security and the right to organize in their unions. We join you in denouncing the Ford government's proposed measures.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jackie Neapole". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jacqueline Neapole
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