

**ST. CLAIR COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY**

**MINUTES of the**

**FULL BOARD MEETING of the BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., in the President's Board Room #342, Windsor, ON

**PRESENT:**

Mr. D. Allen, **Chair**  
Mr. K. Beaudoin  
Ms. K. Behune Plunkett  
Ms. T. Bendo  
Ms. M. Corey  
Mr. F. Curtis  
Ms. P. France, **President**  
Ms. N. Jammu-Taylor  
Ms. L. Kempe, **Chair – Elect**  
Ms. R. Khosla  
Mr. P. McMahon  
Mr. C. Topliffe  
Ms. M. Wickham  
Ms. T. Wonsch

**REGRETS:**

Dr. K. Blanchette  
Mr. R. Renaud  
Mr. E. Sovran

**Also Present:**

Ms. K. Adams, Secretary, Board of Governors  
Mr. E.P. Chant, Editor, SAINT, Student Newspaper  
Mr. J. Fairley, Vice President, College Communications and  
Community Relations  
Ms. S. Favaro, Corporate Secretary & Manager,  
President's Office  
Mr. J. Freer, Faculty Observer  
Mr. M. Jones, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. R. Seguin, Vice President, International Relations,  
Training & Campus Development  
Mr. J. Sirianni, Vice President, Human Resources

Having a quorum of Governors in attendance and the Notice of Meeting and the Agenda having been duly sent to all Board members, the meeting was declared regularly constituted. A copy of the Notice of Meeting/Agenda is attached as **Appendix 'A'**.

Mr. Allen chaired the meeting and Ms. Adams was the recording secretary.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair reported on the following items:

- The Board Chair presented the new Board members; K. Beaudoin, K. Behune Plunkett, R. Khosla, P. McMahon, R. Renaud and T. Wonsch with their certificates of Good Governance, issued by the College Centre of Board Excellence (CCBE) from the Higher Education Summit held in November 2017.
- Mr. Allen was in attendance at the OCAA Women's Volleyball Championship hosted by Centennial College in Scarborough, ON, where St. Clair College claimed the Bronze medal (first medal in 21 years).
- Mr. Allen thanked administration for their efforts in the celebration of Black History Month with the raising of the Pan-African flag on campus.
- The Chair recognized the accomplishments of the late Howard McCurdy, who passed on February 20, 2018. He stated that Mr. McCurdy was a member of the College's Board of Governors and he served as the 4<sup>th</sup> Board Chair (1972 - 1974). Mr. Allen noted that the College sent a sympathy tribute on behalf of St. Clair College and the Board of Governors.
- The Chair also provided an update on the recovery of the College's previous Board Chair, Mr. Dan Wilson, who was hospitalized due to a bad fall. A get well tribute was sent to Mr. Wilson on behalf of St. Clair College and the Board of Governors.

## **1.0 Adoption of the Agenda and Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Hearing no declarations of conflict of interest and no changes to the agenda, it was

**RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Governors adopt the Full Board agenda as distributed.

## 2.0 Approval of the Full Board Minutes of the December 5, 2017 Meeting Held in Windsor, ON

Hearing no amendments, errors or omissions to the Minutes, it was

**RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Governors approve the Full Board minutes of the December 5, 2017 meeting.

## 3.0 CONSTITUENT REPORTS

### Student Representative Council

Mr. E.P. Chant reported the following to the Board on behalf of the SRC:

- The March calendar of events will be released at the end of the week.
- The Polar Plunge, in support of Special Olympics Ontario, is scheduled for Friday, March 2, 2018. The SRC has organized fundraising efforts as an office challenge between the SRC Board members, full time staff and the student employees. To date, the office has raised just over \$5,000.
- On Wednesday, March 7, 2018 the SRC is leading the College's campaign for Windsor Regional Hospital's "Hats on for Healthcare". For a \$2 donation, staff and students can wear hats with all donations going to services provided by the hospital. This year, donations are specifically going towards the NICU.
- A Bollywood Night is being held in the Student Life Centre on Thursday, March 15, 2018.
- Tuesday, March 27, 2018 is the annual "Get Swabbed " event for bone marrow and stem cell research to benefit the Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association. St. Clair College also hosted the event in 2017, where there were 555 registrations, the most the organization has ever done in one day, exceeding more in one day than the entire previous year.

### Faculty

Mr. Freer reported the following on behalf of the Faculty:

- March is Engineering Month and St. Clair College is hosting two events:

- Innovation Station, Engineer Your Life (ISEYL 2018) is being held Saturday, March 3, 2018 in the Student Life Centre and is organized by the local chapter of the Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO) and the Ontario Association of Certified Engineers and Technologists (OACETT). This event is to introduce children to engineering and will feature a bridge building competition and will offer tours of the engineering labs.
- The Annual Windsor Regional Science Fair is being held Saturday, March 24 and Sunday March 25, 2018. Set-up of exhibits and judging will take place on Saturday with awards ceremonies taking place on Sunday.
- The Entertainment Technology program will be producing a live professional wrestling event by Border City Wrestling in the classic gym on Saturday, March 3, 2018. The students will be setting up all of the rigging, sound, lighting and video and will be operating all of the equipment for the show.
- The Vanier Business Case Competition was held in Montreal, QC, February 8 – 11, 2018. Three of St. Clair College's third year Business Administration - Marketing students competed in the event and gained valuable experience.
- For the first time, three students in the Media Convergence program were offered Internships with CBC; two in Toronto and one in Windsor.
- Fashion Design students are designing and creating hospital gowns for the Windsor Regional Hospital's MRI department. Some of the students from the program are also volunteering with the backstage operations for the Windsor Symphony Fashion Show in April.
- Students in the Music Theatre Performance program performed with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, February 24 and Sunday, February 25, 2018 at the Capitol Theatre in their production of the Wild Wild West.

#### **4.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President highlighted the following key points from her report:

- On February 9, 2018 the Ministry announced \$125 million in funding to support the college system in delivering quality programming that support excellent outcomes for students while ensuring fair working conditions for staff.

- On February 12, 2018, Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development announced that a fact finding exercise will take place to review the overall bargaining process.
- The Ministry has granted a one-year extension of the Public Private Partnership, making the final intake of students September 2019.
- On February 12, 2018, Colleges Ontario issued a Press Release praising the provincial government's investment into a comprehensive strategy to reduce carbon emissions throughout the college system.
- Ms. France also congratulated the St. Clair College Women's Varsity Volleyball team for winning the bronze medal in the OCAA Women's Volleyball Championship.
- Ms. S. Kennedy has surpassed the OCAA Women's Basketball All-Time Career Record for points scored.
- Premier Wynne and Minister Mitzie Hunter visited the St. Clair College Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre on February 15, 2018.
- The President reported that over the past several weeks the College's Update and Strategic Directions has been communicated to various constituent groups and stakeholders.

The President's full report is attached as Item #4.0.

## **5.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

- 5.1 Demonstrate Academic Excellence - Integration of Work Integrated Learning into new and existing academic programs.
- 5.2 Support Student Success - Determine the requirements for the Writing and Math Labs.
- 5.3 Enhance Student Life - Document an inventory of current events and expand outreach by adding 3 new events per year.
- 5.4 Enhance Student Life - Development of a business plan for a Windsor Sports Park.
- 5.5 Increase Community Engagement - Strengthen the connection between the College and the community to reinforce College brand/image through volunteerism by students and staff

- 5.6 Development of Human Resources with a Focus on Academic Quality and Student Success Human Resources – Staff Development.
- 5.7 Maximize/Align Human Resources Identify opportunities to continuously improve our operations by creating efficient and effective processes to drive increased value to our students.

**RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Governors receive and approve the contents of the Consent Agenda as presented.

## **6.0 MONITORING REPORTS**

### **6.1 Financial Quarterly Update**

Mr. Jones highlighted the following key points from the Financial Monitoring Report as of January 31, 2018:

- The net surplus at January 31, 2018 is at \$21.7 million, which is approximately \$10 million higher than the 2017 comparative period. This variance is primarily due to the following:
  - Increase in International tuition revenue, Acumen and Divisional Income.
- As forecasted at the mid-year review, we are trending towards a surplus of approximately \$5 million as the cost implications from the work stoppage are currently lower than estimated.

#### **Revenue at January 31, 2018**

- Ministry grants are largely consistent.
- Contract Income has decreased over the 2017 comparative period by \$1.3 million or 12.1%, which can be attributed to programs such as:
  - Second Career
  - School College Work Initiative
  - Apprenticeship training
  - Canada Ontario Jobs Grant

- Total tuition revenue is \$6.1 million above the 2017 comparative period primarily due to the following:
  - International tuition revenue has increased \$8.3 million over the 2017 comparative period due to higher student enrolments.
  - A decrease in domestic post-secondary tuition revenue of \$1.9 million or 6.9% over the comparative period primarily due to withdrawals and dismissals resulting from the work stoppage.
- Total “Other” Income has increased over the 2017 comparative period by \$5.7 million or 32.2%. This variance is primarily due to the following:
  - Acumen enrolment has increased over the prior year.
  - Incremental revenue from the Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre.
  - International application and insurance fees.

#### Revenues – Actual to Budget

- Ministry Operating Grants are currently under budget, which can be attributed to timing of grants such as the Collaborative Nursing and other hold back grants which are released in March.
- Contract Income is under budget at 72%. It is anticipated that budget projections will be met, with any shortfalls mostly offset by a decrease in expenditures.
- Tuition revenue is on target with budget projections.
- Total “Other” Income is trending higher than budget, primarily due to:
  - Increased enrolment and revenue from Acumen.
  - International application and insurance fees.

#### Expenditures at January 31, 2018

- Expenditures as compared year over year are largely consistent.

- Total Salaries and Benefits have increased over the 2017 comparative period by \$89,556, primarily due to the additional part-time support staffing requirements with the acquisition of the Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre.
- Non-Salary expenditures have increased over the 2017 comparative period by \$486,390 or 1.4%. This increase can mostly be attributed to expenditures related to the Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre.

#### Expenditures – Actual to Budget

- Total Salaries and Benefits are slightly below target of the original budget projection at 75%. This variance is primarily due to the following:
  - Lower full-time Faculty costs due to the work stoppage.
  - These expenditures are expected to increase with the implementation of Bill 148 on January 1, 2018. The ramifications of this will not only be for wages, but also the cost increases in vacation and holiday pay.
- Total Non – Salary expenditure are trending lower than mid – year budget projections at 77%. This is primarily due to the following:
  - Expenditures are cyclical and follow the timing of the academic year.
  - A freeze was placed on purchasing effective in January, resulting in lower discretionary purchasing.

Overall, expenditures are in a good position at this point in the fiscal year.

#### Ancillary Operations at January 31, 2018

- Ancillary revenues have decreased by \$605,150 over the comparative period which can be attributed to:
- Decrease in parking operations surplus due to refunds associated with the work stoppage.
- The Residence has an increased surplus due to increased hotel usage as well as lower operating expenditures.



- The St. Clair College Centre for the Arts surplus is down from 2017 due to a decrease in revenue from banquet and Waterfront Hotel operations.
- Varsity deficit is higher than the 2017 due to increased expenditures.

#### Capital Update at January 31, 2018

- At mid - year review, the Board approved a total capital budget of \$12.8 million; \$7.2 million from capital grants and \$5.6 million from operating funds.
- At January 31, 2018, \$5.6 million has been spent from capital grants and \$2.6 million from operating funds. The variance is due to the following:
  - The capital grant variance of \$1.4 million can largely be attributed to the CERF capital grant which is to fund academic equipment and the AEF capital grant that will fund Apprenticeship equipment. The balance of the equipment to be purchased by the funds available from these capital grants has been ordered and it is expected that these funds will be nearly depleted by March 31, 2018.
  - The operating fund variance of \$2.9 million, \$2.5 million of which represents the College's contribution toward the SIF projects; facilities and Powerline. It is expected that both of the SIF projects will be completed as scheduled, therefore the majority of the \$2.9 million will be utilized by March 31, 2018.

#### Strike Implications

- At mid - year review, it was estimated that the net impact would be \$4.6 million dollars. At January 31, 2018 the actual net impact is just over \$1 million. The largest unknown item affecting this is the Student Strike Relief fund. At this time there have not been significant applications and only \$215,000 in bursaries have been awarded from this fund.

After a question and answer period, it was,

**RESOLVED THAT** the Board  
Of Governors receive the  
January 31, 2018 Financial  
Monitoring Report for information.

The Financial Monitoring Report as of January 31, 2018 is attached as Item #6.1.

## 7.0 **NEW BUSINESS**

### 7.1 **Recruitment Committee 2018**

- At the completion of the 2017 – 2018 Board term, there will be one retiring Board member.
- The discussion centered around the most effective and efficient method of recruitment for one vacancy.
- To fill the vacancy, it was decided to return to the applications that were submitted for the 2017 – 2018 term, as these applications are current. The Chair and Chair – Elect are in the process of reviewing these applications and Ms. Jammu-Taylor has also joined the committee. Once the applications have been reviewed, the committee will bring a recommendation to the Board.

After a brief discussion, it was,

**RESOLVED THAT** the Board Recruitment Committee proceed with the recruitment process and bring recommendations to the Board of Governors for consideration.

### 7.2 **2018 CICan Conference**

The Board Chair addressed this item:

- There have been a number of individuals who have expressed interest in attending the 2018 CICan Conference being held April 29, 2018 – May 2, 2018 in Victoria, BC.
- The applicants meet the Board policy for national conference criteria and should therefore contact the Board secretary for information and travel arrangements.

### 7.3 Retreat Self Evaluation

The Board Chair addressed this item:

- The evaluations submitted regarding the Board Retreat were mostly positive.
- A few items for consideration for the next Board Retreat are:
  - Location and size of the room.
  - More opportunity for break – out sessions.

### 7.4 Black History Month

The Chair of the Board recognized the fact that the flag representing Black History Month is being flown on the St. Clair College Campus.

He then shared with the Board information on a number of individuals of African descent who had distinguished themselves as “firsts” in Canada in their chosen fields (e.g. Police Detective, M.P.s, City Solicitor, female Master Electrician, to name a few). As a descendent of escaped slaves coming to Maidstone Township from the United States, the Board Chair went on to relating his family - commencing with his Great, Great Grandparents who arrived in 1850 – up to present day.

Mr. Allen also shared a video with the group “Only The Black Keys”.

## 8.0 POLICY/BY LAW REVIEW

### 8.1 By Laws 38 & 39 – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

After a brief discussion, it was,

**RESOLVED THAT** the Board  
of Governors approve the 1<sup>st</sup>  
reading of By Laws 38 & 39  
as presented.

## 9.0 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

9.1 The next Full Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 2018.

**Meeting of the Board of Governors**  
**Full Board February 27, 2018**

**1. Supporting Quality Programs and Student Outcomes**

On February 9, 2018 the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development announced the government's intention to support colleges in delivering quality programming that support excellent outcomes for students while ensuring fair working conditions for staff. This included extending funding support to colleges in the amount of \$125 million in 2018-2019. Technical briefings and consultations are currently underway with all colleges (financial health of the college/development of 2018-2019 budget, mitigation strategies, etc.) to assist with determining the individual institutional allocation of the \$125M investment. Memo dated February 9, 2018 attached for information.

**2. Recent Round of Bargaining - Fact Finding Exercise**

A memo was received from the Honourable Mitzie Hunter on February 12, 2018 announcing that a fact finding exercise will take place to provide an opportunity to reflect on what transpired and on the bargaining process overall. The memo is attached for information.

**3. Response to the request for a one-year extension of the final intake for colleges engaged in partnerships with private providers**

The Honourable Mitzie Hunter communicated the Ministry's decision to grant a one-year extension to the date of the final intake for students enrolled in programs delivered through private/public partnerships. The final intake of students is now September 2019. The memo dated February 16, 2018 clarifies the principles underlying the decision to wind down (sent via email).

**4. Colleges Ontario Press Release**

On February 12, 2018 Colleges Ontario formally praises the provincial government's investment into a comprehensive strategy to reduce carbon emissions throughout the college system. Total government investment is up \$200 million in 2017-2018 and they are also making available (up to \$300 million) interest-free loans to retrofit college and university facilities. St. Clair College's share includes approximately \$6M (\$2.8M in Retrofits Grant Fund for Cap and Trade and \$3.3M in Innovation Grant Fund).

## **5. Bronze Medal for Women's Volleyball**

Congratulations is in order for the St. Clair College Women's Volleyball Team for winning a bronze medal (first medal in 21 years).

## **6. Ms. Shannon Kennedy wins the OCAA All-Time Career Record for points scored.**

Ms. Shannon Kennedy surpassed the OCAA All –Time Career Record for points scored. The previous record of 1,343 points was held by Ms. Jesseca Brown from Redeemer University College. Kennedy is averaging better than 15 points per game and now has the remainder of the regular season to add to that all-time record total.

## **7. Premier Wynne and Minister Mitzie Hunter Visit the St. Clair College Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre**

Premier Kathleen Wynne, along with Mitzie Hunter, the newly appointed Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development visited the St. Clair College Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre on Thursday, February 15, 2018 as part of a four-day tour of Ontario postsecondary institutions. The Premier and the Minister had an opportunity to tour the facility and engage with students and share their ideas about how we can create a fairer and better province with more opportunity for everyone.

## **8. College Update Presentations**

Over the past several weeks the President has communicated to various constituent groups (skyped to all campuses) and stakeholders on the College's Update and Strategic Directions. The groups and dates are outlined below.

- Faculty Union Executive (Jan.31, 2018).
- Mayor's and CAO's of Windsor-Essex (Feb. 5, 2018).
- School of Business and Information Technology (Feb. 5, 2018).
- Coordinators Meeting (Feb. 6, 2018).
- Support Staff Union Executive (Feb. 12, 2018).
- All Faculty Meeting (Feb. 22, 2018).
- Support Staff Town Hall (Feb. 23, 2018).
- Student Leaders Meeting (Feb. 9, 2018 – cancelled due to weather – to be rescheduled).
- Joint meeting with Alumni and Foundation Board's (To be scheduled in March).
- Randy Hope Meeting (Feb. 28, 2018).

**Ministry of Advanced  
Education and Skills  
Development**

Office of the Minister

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Télééc. : 416 326-1656



**Memorandum To:** Chairs - Board of Governors, Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology

**Copies To:** Presidents, Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology  
Linda Franklin, President and CEO, Colleges Ontario

**From:** The Honourable Mitzie Hunter  
Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development

**Date:** February 9, 2018

**Subject:** Supporting Quality Programs and Student Outcomes

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I am writing today to express my appreciation for the partnership and engagement that the college sector has extended to us over the past months.

This memo is to inform you of the government's intention to support colleges in delivering quality programming that supports excellent outcomes for students while ensuring fair working conditions for staff. The government will be extending funding support to colleges of \$125 million in 2018-19.

This is part of our commitment to continued discussions that will support the ministry in making decisions around institution-specific allocations and reporting requirements in the coming months provided that colleges finalize their Strategic Mandate Agreements. It will be important for the ministry to meet with colleges and for the sector to understand that funding will be allocated in a manner that acknowledges where the greatest need lies in support of the objectives described above.

To discuss in further detail, the ministry would like to invite you to a technical briefing next week to address next steps and answer your questions. My Deputy Minister's office will be reaching out to Colleges Ontario in the coming days to make the necessary arrangements and to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate.

I trust that this memo is coming at a time when this information is helpful context as you work to finalize your own budgets. The government's decision is informed both by the unique challenges that colleges are facing and by the open and transparent sharing of information over the past months.

I look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH' with a stylized flourish.

Mitzie Hunter, MBA  
Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development

c: Greg Orencsak, Deputy Minister  
Paris Semansky, Chief of Staff  
Kelly Shields, Assistant Deputy Minister (A), Postsecondary Education Division  
Lindsey Harrold, Director (A), Postsecondary Finance and Information  
Management Branch  
Don Sinclair, CEO, College Employer Council

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**Memorandum To:** College Employer Council  
College Student Alliance (CSA)  
Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU)  
Presidents, Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology

**From:** The Honourable Mitzie Hunter  
Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development

**Date:** February 12, 2018

**Subject:** Letter from the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills  
Development announcing a fact-finding exercise

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I am writing today to inform you of the establishment of a fact-finding exercise that will allow parties involved in the most recent round of bargaining this past fall an opportunity to provide a factual reflection on the effectiveness of bargaining under the *Colleges Collective Bargaining Act, 2008* (the Act).

This exercise will be an important step in allowing parties to share their observations, and for the government to understand the key elements of what worked and did not work in the most recent round of bargaining this past fall. While I appreciate that the events of fall 2017 were challenging for everyone involved, I believe this exercise will provide an opportunity for everyone to reflect on what transpired and on the bargaining process overall.

I am pleased to announce that Reg Pearson will lead this exercise as Fact Finder. Mr. Pearson is currently the Associate Deputy Minister for the Centre for Public Sector Labour Relations and Compensation at the Ontario Treasury Board Secretariat. His experience in the mediation of multiple major agreements in the public sector and his experience in the college sector brings a unique set of experience and skill in his leadership of this exercise.



Mr. Pearson will be supported in this exercise by Michael Uhlmann, who has extensive experience in senior labour relations, operational, corporate and project leadership roles. Mr. Uhlmann, who worked with Advisor Kevin Whitaker on the 2008 review and reform of the Act, currently works with Mr. Pearson on a series of initiatives to enhance collective bargaining models in certain sectors in the Broader Public Sector.

I have asked Mr. Pearson and Mr. Uhlmann to commence this consultation with you as soon as possible. They will meet with parties involved in bargaining under the Act, as well with all college presidents, representatives of part-time support staff and part-time academic staff, and students. I've asked that Mr. Pearson and Mr. Uhlmann report back to me in March 2018. They will be fully supported by the ministry in this work. Should you have any questions, you may direct them to Paddy Buckley, Director (A), Postsecondary Accountability Branch at [Paddy.Buckley@ontario.ca](mailto:Paddy.Buckley@ontario.ca).

I look forward to the outcome of Mr. Pearson and Mr. Uhlmann's work and would request your full cooperation and engagement in this process.

Sincerely,



Mitzie Hunter, MBA  
Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development

cc: Board Chairs, Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology  
Greg Orencsak, Deputy Minister  
Paris Semansky, Chief of Staff  
Linda Franklin, President and CEO, Colleges Ontario  
Reg Pearson, Associate Deputy Minister, Treasury Board Secretariat  
Michael Uhlmann, Director, Treasury Board Secretariat  
Kelly Shields, ADM (A), Postsecondary Education Division  
Paddy Buckley, Director (A), Postsecondary Accountability Branch



For immediate release

### **Ontario colleges praise new funding to cut carbon emissions**

(TORONTO, Feb. 12, 2018) – Ontario’s colleges are praising the provincial government’s investment into a comprehensive strategy to reduce carbon emissions throughout the college system.

“Our colleges will be global leaders in the fight to reverse climate change,” said Linda Franklin, the president and CEO of Colleges Ontario. “This strategy will transform an entire public-sector system through sweeping reforms that promote greater efficiency and dramatically reduce carbon emissions.”

The government announced today it is investing up to \$200 million in 2017-18 and making available up to \$300 million in interest-free loans to retrofit college and university facilities.

The investments will support a range of measures from capital construction and transportation projects to leading-edge research and the development of new programs to produce more graduates for careers specific to the clean economy.

The multi-year strategy will make a significant contribution to the government’s overall target for emissions reductions in Ontario and support the creation of a vibrant clean-technology sector. The strategy includes:

- Undertaking major building renovations and retrofits on Ontario’s campuses that move the college system toward “net zero” efficiency, where the energy used is no greater than the energy produced.
- Developing and delivering new programs to produce more graduates with the professional and technical skills for careers in a low-carbon economy.
- Developing leading-edge research in partnership with industries and municipalities that fosters innovation and the commercialization of new low-carbon technologies.

This new strategy includes more workplace-learning experiences for post-secondary students. It also establishes colleges as demonstration centres that will guide industry and public-sector efforts to reduce emissions in communities throughout the province.

“Ontario’s colleges are firmly committed to significant reductions in carbon emissions,” Franklin said. “The ambitious strategy announced today is achievable and measurable and will produce real results.”

**For more information:**

**Kim Race**

**Senior Communications Advisor**

**Colleges Ontario**

**(647) 258-7688**

**[race@collegesontario.org](mailto:race@collegesontario.org)**

# St. Clair College

## Financial Monitoring Report

### January 31, 2018

Presentation to the Board of Governors  
February 27, 2018

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- ▶ Recommendation

# Summary of Revenues and Expenditures

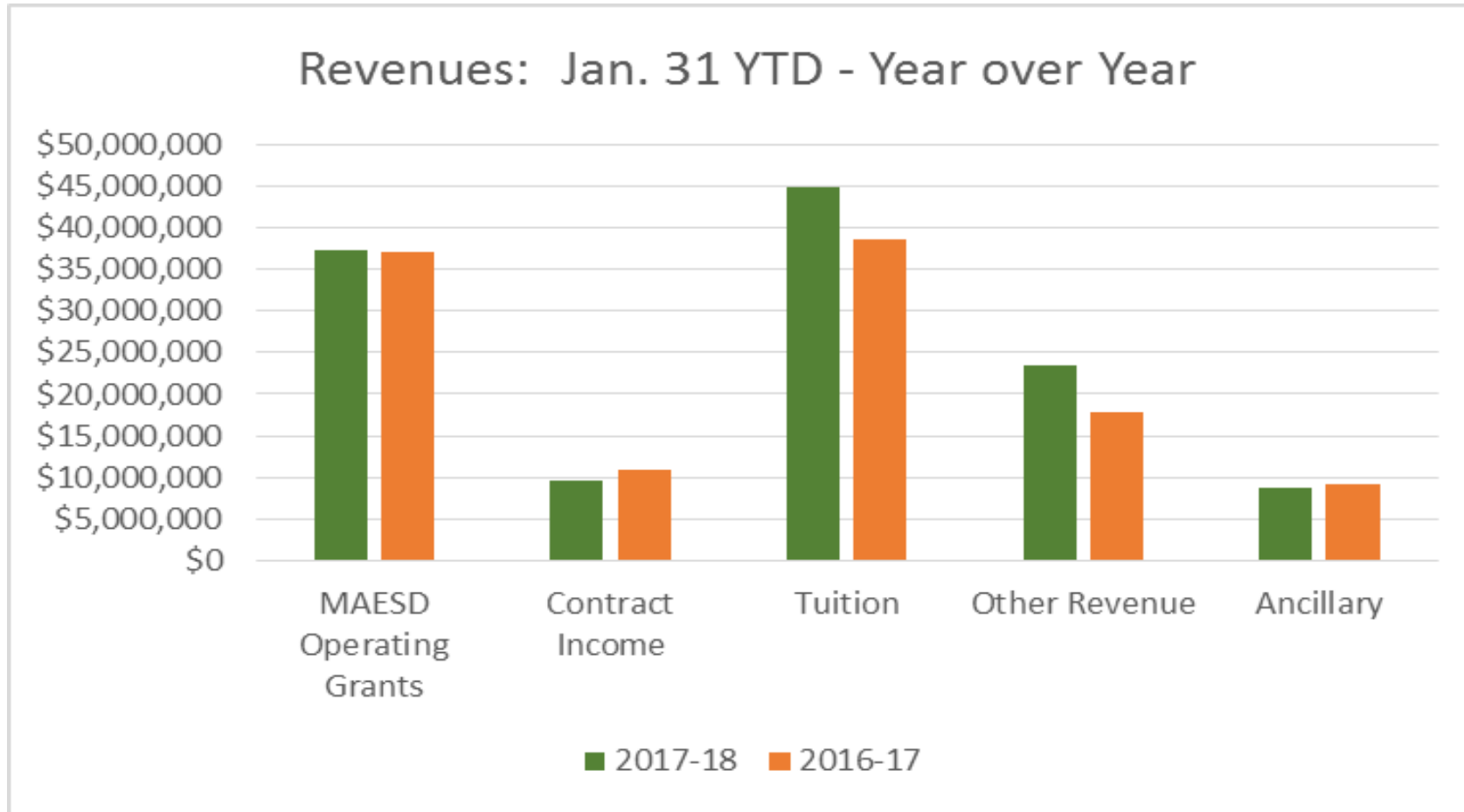
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Schedule I (in 000s)			
Line Item	Approved MYR Budget	Jan. 2018 Actual Income Statement	Jan. 2017 Actual Income Statement
Revenue	\$139,236	\$123,898	\$113,652
Expenditures	\$134,042	\$102,142	\$101,850
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$5,194	\$21,756	\$11,802

Note: At this time, we are trending towards a surplus as forecasted at Mid-Year Review, as the cost implications from the strike are currently lower than estimated.

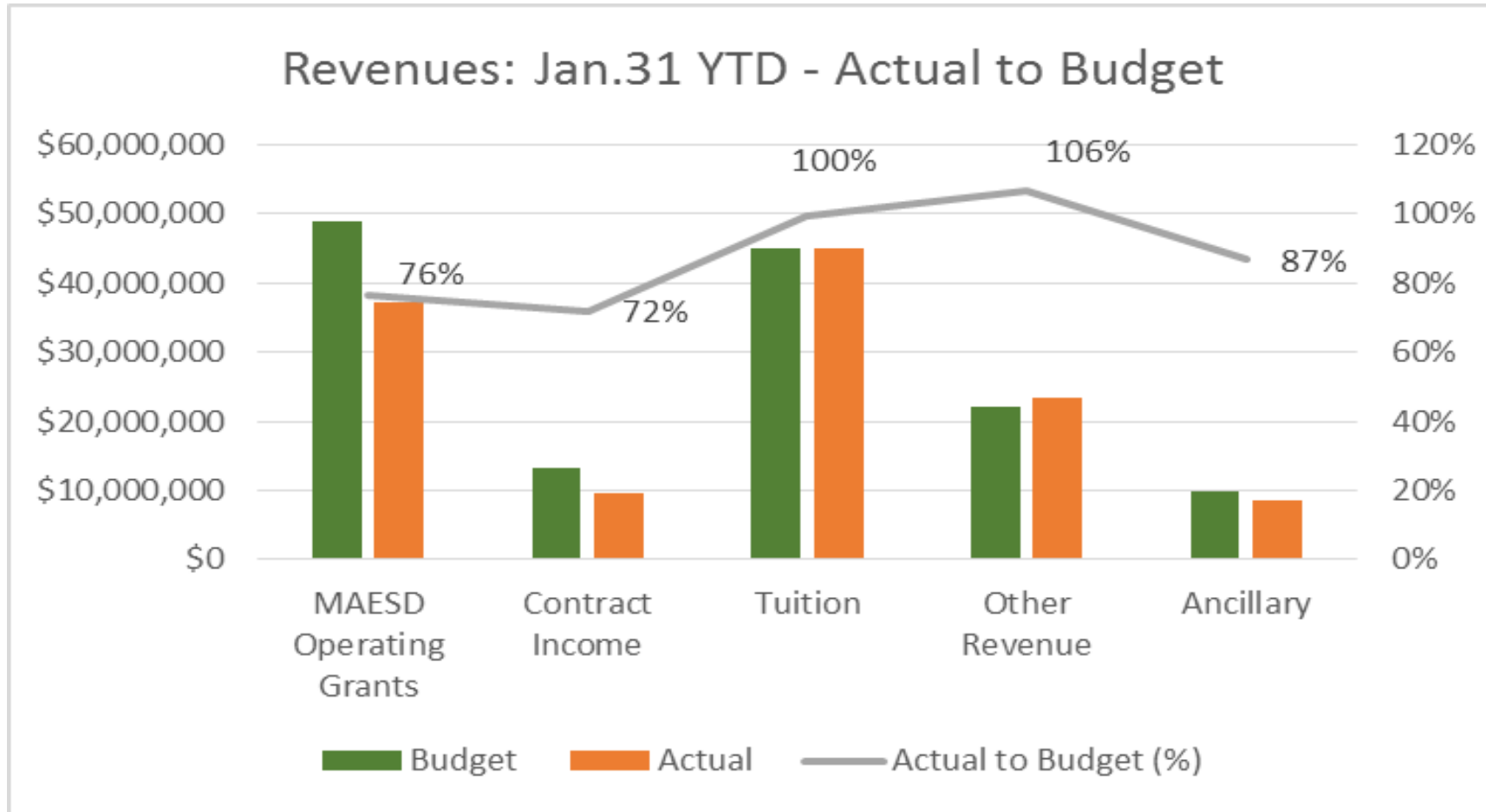
# Revenues

## Schedule II



# Revenues

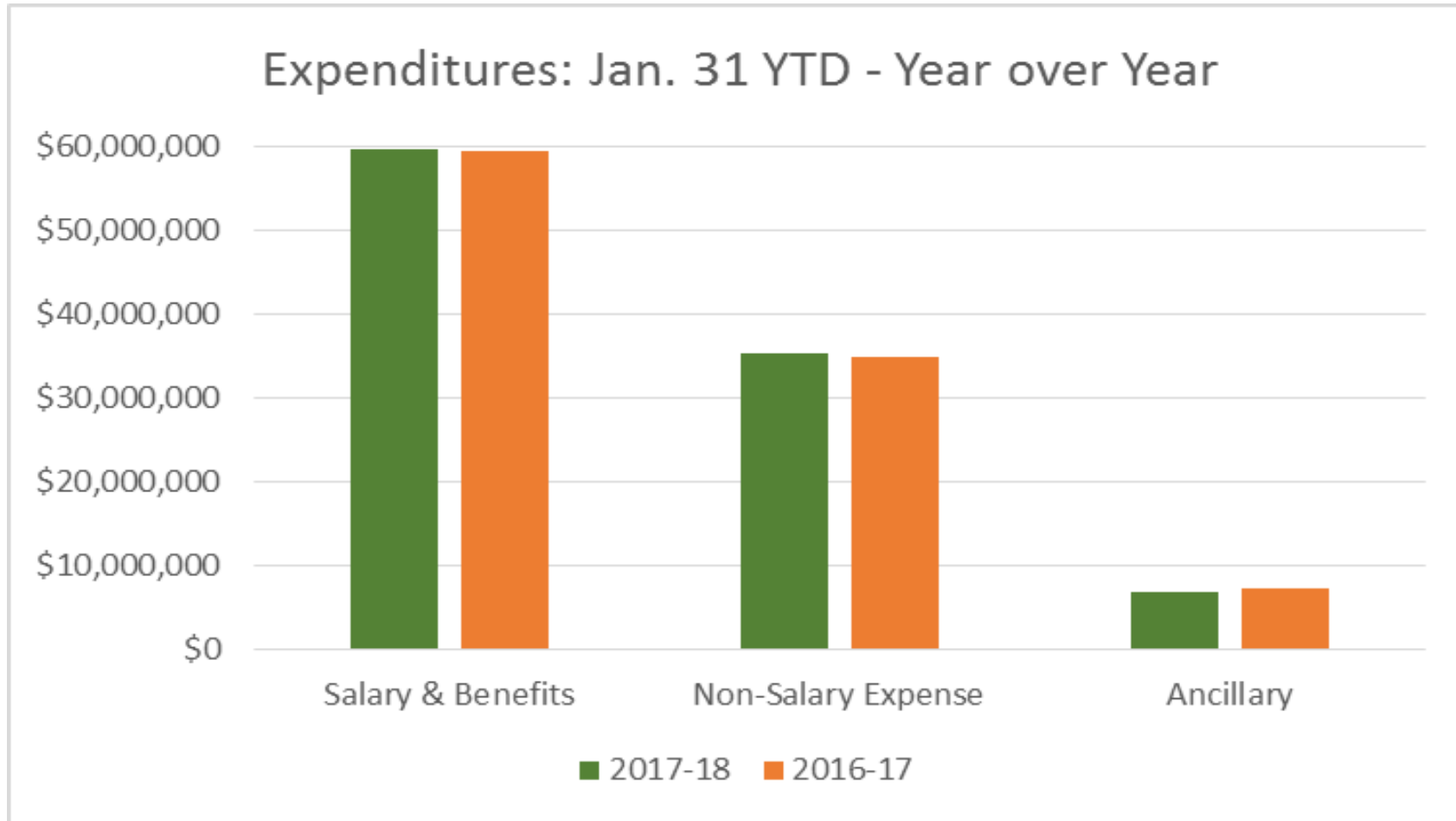
## Schedule II





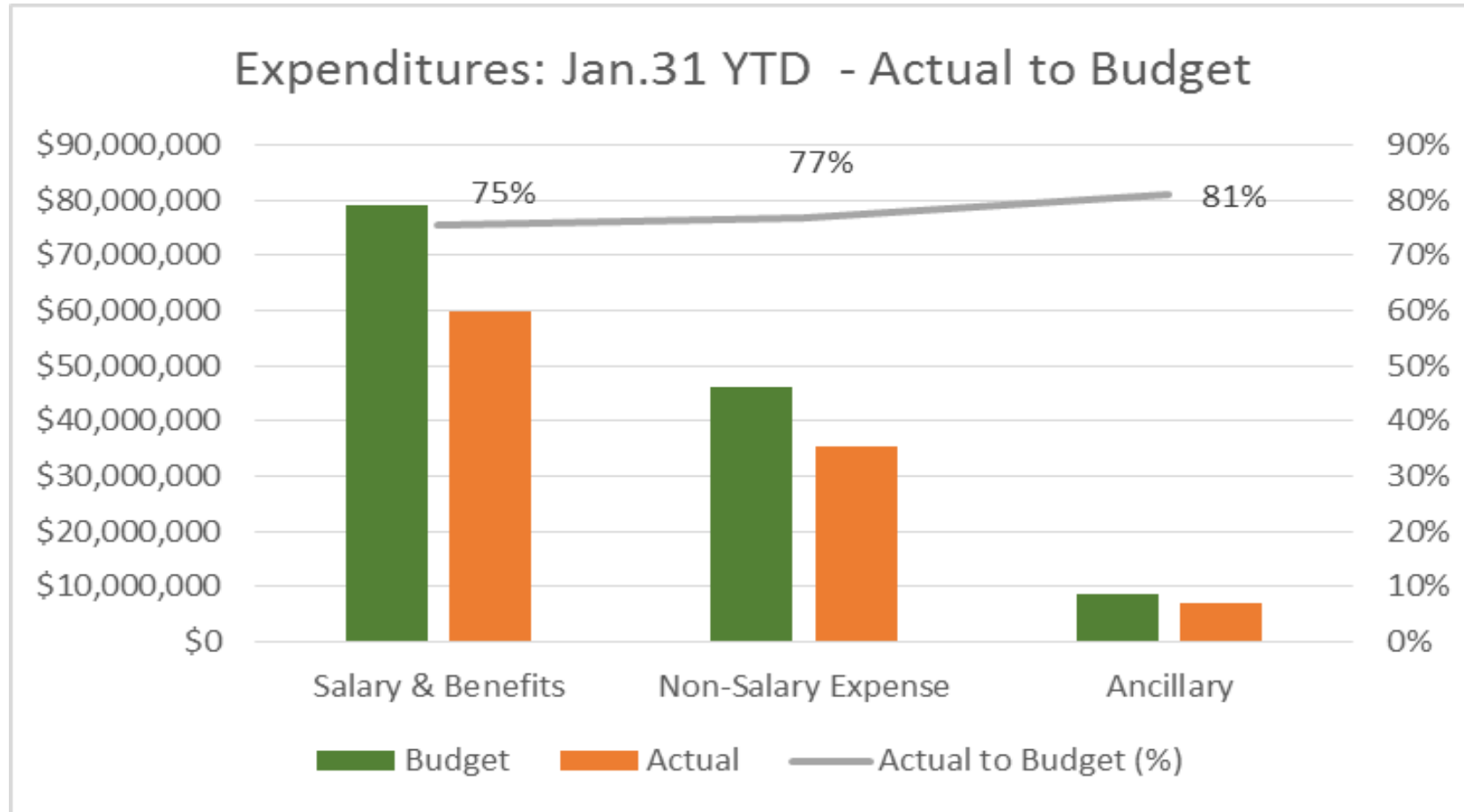
# Expenditures

## Schedule III



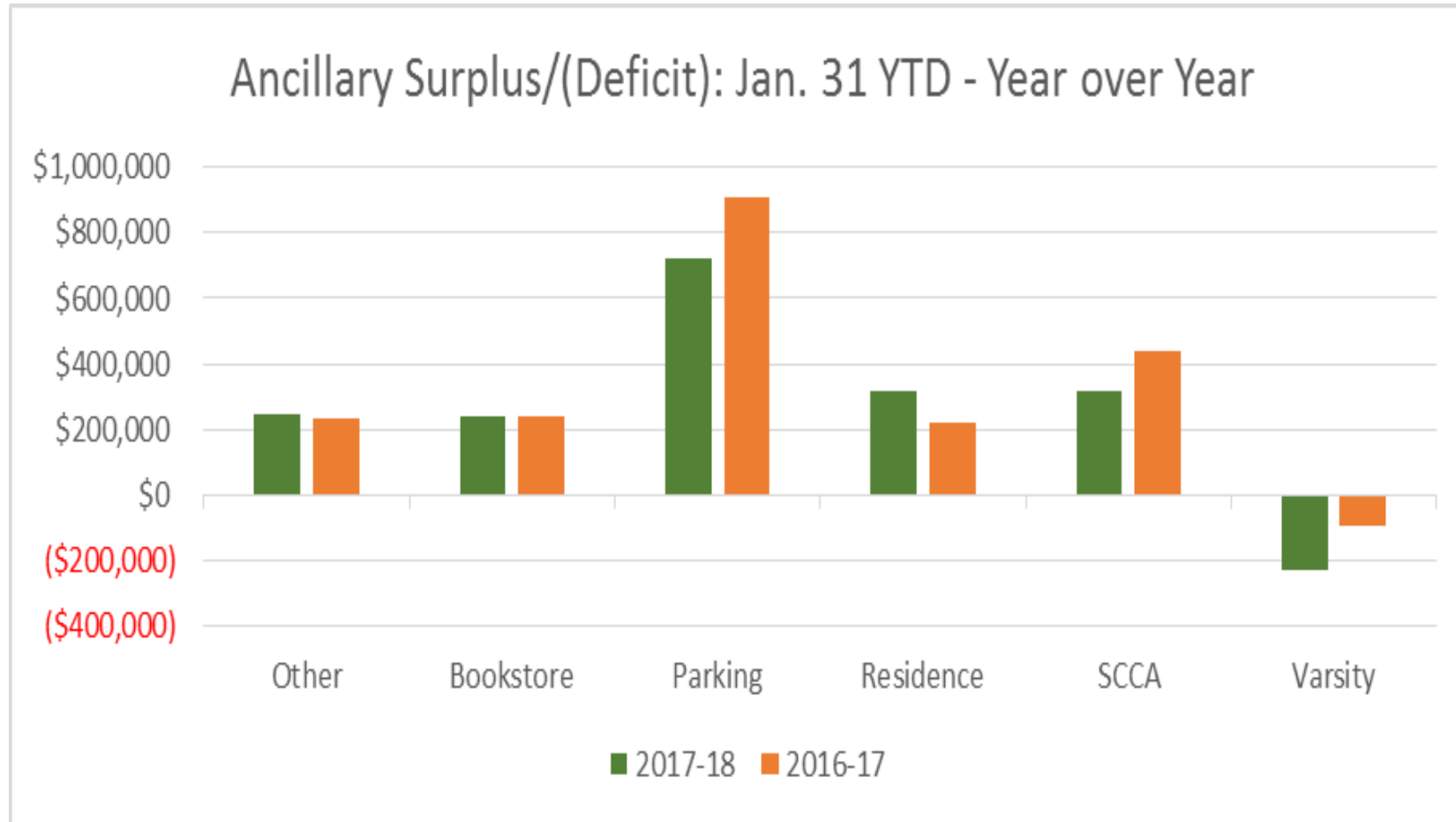
# Expenditures

## Schedule III



# Ancillary

## Schedule IV



# Capital Update at January 31, 2018

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Project	Fiscal Year Budget	Actual	Variance
SIF - Facilities	\$3,114,000	\$3,114,000	\$0
SIF - Powerline	\$1,200,000	\$1,033,000	\$167,000
Other Capital Grants	\$2,907,000	\$1,464,500	\$1,442,500
Operating Funds	\$5,600,000	\$2,684,000	\$2,916,000
Total	\$12,821,000	\$8,295,500	\$4,525,500

Note: College funds directed towards SIF projects are included under Operating Funds, not the respective SIF project. In addition, a \$304,000 contingency is included in Operating Funds that will not be spent if not required.

# Strike Implications (in 000s)

Implication	Estimate	Actual at Jan. 2018	Variance
Savings: Salaries and Benefits	\$3,000	\$2,956	\$43
Additional Costs:			
Incremental Teaching and Overtime	(\$1,450)	(\$684)	(\$766)
Student Strike Relief Fund / Tuition Bursaries / Lawsuit / Other	(\$2,500)	(\$885)	(\$1,615)
Tuition Refunds from Student Withdrawals	(\$3,000)	(\$2,197)	(\$803)
Return to Work Settlement	(\$700)	(\$250)	(\$450)
Additional Costs Subtotal	(\$7,650)	(\$4,016)	(\$3,634)
Net Impact to MYR Budget Surplus	(\$4,650)	(\$1,060)	(\$3,590)

# Recommendation

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- ▶ IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Board of Governors:
  - ▶ Receive the January 31, 2018 Financial Monitoring report for information.

Questions?

# St. Clair College In The News

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# Saints To Face Hawks

AM800 CKLW – October 25, 2017



Saints soccer 2017 (photo courtesy of Saints athletics)

The St. Clair College women's soccer team quarterfinal opponent is set for the upcoming OCAA Championship.

The Saints will be facing the Humber Hawks tomorrow at 9am in Sudbury. The Championship is being hosted by Cambrian College.

St. Clair will have their hands full against the top ranked Hawks. Humber is currently ranked 2nd in the OCAA and 6th in Canada.

The St. Clair women are on a roll, winners of four straight, including a 6-1 crossover play-off win this past weekend against St. Lawrence - Kingston.

If the Saints win they will advance to the championship semi-final Friday at 3 pm. Should they lose they will play in the Consolation bracket on Friday at 9 am.

# Saints still sore from ‘big pimple’ of a finish in 2016

Windsor Star - 26 Oct 2017 – Print Edition

Last year’s finish to the season still leaves a bitter taste for the few veterans left on the St. Clair Saints baseball team.

After a fourth straight OCAA title, a veteran-laden Saints squad lost in the final at the first National College Invitational Championship by a 2-1 count to Fanshawe, who had lost all five previous meetings with the Saints last season leading up to the final.

“It didn’t mean anything to me last year until we lost and then it was like a big pimple on your face,” Saints manager Dave Cooper said. “We don’t want it to happen again.”

With 14 new players on the roster, the Saints were impressive in winning all three games at this year’s OCAA championship and now head back to Oshawa for the national invitational championship, which begins Thursday.

“I knew we could do much better than that,” Saints shortstop Kevin Dion said of last year’s loss. “We expected more from ourselves.”

Now, the 20-year-old Dion is anxious to put the bitter memory of last year’s loss behind him.

“We’re kind of going in as an underdog because people knew we lost over half the team from previous years,” Dion said. “It helps drive us into this.”

“I think we’re riding the win right now and I think this has given us a confidence high. This year, I think, we have the ability to do it.”

Dion, who was named to the all-star team at the OCAA championship, has been one of the big reasons Cooper was able to rework his roster this year and come out on top.

In his third season with the team, Dion shifted from the outfield to shortstop.

“He’s worked his butt off and there’s not too many plays he doesn’t make,” Cooper said. “The first two weeks, there were not too many plays he made. He’s made it a great season.”

Dion credits the coaching of former Saints players Roberto Duncan and Max Ayarza with helping his rapid improvement.

“I actually played shortstop until I got here and then made the switch to the outfield because they had two infielders here,” said Dion. “I’ve been working a lot with Roberto and Max because they are very skilled in what they do. The whole mentality changed for me.”

St. Clair, Durham, Seneca, Humber and Fanshawe will compete from Ontario in the seven-team event. Montreal’s Ahuntsic College and Holland College from Prince Edward Island round out the field.

St. Clair will play Fanshawe at noon on Thursday and Humber at 3 p.m. The club then faces Durham at 8:30 a.m. on Friday and Ahuntsic at 2 p.m. The top two teams in each division move on to the medal round.

“It’s kind of the icing on the cake,” Cooper said of the tournament. “These guys know nothing but hard work, so I think they’re ready for it.”

“Right now, they’re on top of the world (after the OCAA championship), but it all starts up again. I’m at the point now where I think the only one that’s going to beat them is themselves. They know that feeling to win and what they have to do.”

# Windsor's tech week will delve into the future of artificial intelligence

Windsor Star - October 27,

The highlight of Windsor's upcoming tech week boasts an influential female panel from tech giants Amazon, IBM Canada and General Motors.

Addressing the future of artificial intelligence at Tech Week YQG (<http://www.wetech-alliance.com/techweeekyqg/>) will be: Windsor native Lillian Reaume, Amazon's director of human resources; Tecumseh's Debbie Landers, vice-president of cognitive solutions for IBM Canada; and Daphne Zargar, global manager of partner relations at GM.

The all-female panel discussion Nov. 14 at St. Clair College's Centre for the Arts will be a keynote event for what will be Windsor's first tech week (Nov. 13-17).

"We have a great technology community and it's time we started to showcase our region," said Matt Marchand, president of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce. "Having a technology week rather than just the one-day tech show (which was held in previous years) is a chance to tell our story."

Joining the chamber and WEtech Alliance as co-sponsors of the event are St. Clair College and the University of Windsor.

Windsor and Detroit's bid for Amazon's second headquarters has helped put a sharper community focus on technology, said WEtech Alliance president and CEO Yvonne Pilon.

"It's a nice coincidence. Because of the bid, people are more interested in tech, and that's what we've been trying to get for years," she said.

The focus on artificial intelligence, which is where the tech sector is headed, will help move the annual event away from its previous trade show format, Marchand said.

"We're already using it even if we don't notice it. It's in appliances, cars, smartphones," he said. "It anticipates what we want by the suggestions that pop up on our Facebook pages."

Traditional lines defining tech industries are blurring as the tentacles of technology become ever more entwined in our daily lives, Pilon said. "By 2020 experts are saying we'll have more conversations with bots than our spouses."

Tech Week YQG will kick off Nov. 13 with a panel discussion on the state of the tech community in Windsor. An inaugural innovative digital competition for all ages is Nov. 15, which will also include workshops on human resources best practices, tools for growing tech companies, and technical resume and interview workshops.

The Georgie Odette Leadership Symposium on Nov. 16 will allow participants to mingle with business leaders and will feature Twitter Canada managing director Rory Capern. The week wraps up Nov. 17 with the Nerd Olympics and the inaugural Tech Awards.

Tickets for the tech show are \$25 until Oct. 31 and \$30 thereafter. Student tickets are \$15. To purchase tickets, visit the [chamber's website](#).



# Saints End Season On High Note

AM800 CKLW - Sunday, October 29th 2017



St Clair College womens' soccer (photo courtesy of St Clair Athletics)

The St. Clair College women's soccer team finish their season on a winning note after a 1-0 win over the Mohawk Mountainers in the Consolation Final at the OCAA Championship in Sudbury.

Belle River's Julia Albeartie scored the lone goal in the 52nd minute while Andie Alebrt finished with the clean sheet in goal — good enough to be named Player of the Game.

The Saints finished with a 7-2-1 regular season record to finish 2nd in the oCAA West Division and went 3-1 in the playoffs with the lone loss coming in a 1-0 decision to the Humber Hawks.

The Saints rosterfeatured 11 first-year players and five second-year players of the 18 on the squad.

# UPDATED: Saints Baseball Strikes Gold At Nationals

AM800 CKLW - Sunday, October 29th 2017



St. Clair College's Men's Baseball team pose for a photo after winning the 2017 National College Baseball Championships in Oshawa, Ont on Sunday October 29, 2017. (Photo via @DurhamLords Twitter)

St. Clair College's Men's Baseball team brought home gold at the 2017 National College Baseball Championship in Oshawa Sunday.

The Saints put the finishing touches on a season that saw them win their [fifth consecutive OCAA Championship](#) with a 3-2 win over Fanshawe.

Coach Dave Cooper says it was sweet revenge for a Saint's team that lost a 2-1 nail-biter to Fanshawe in last year's final.

"It's hard coming to back-to-back weekends and raising your level of play for the second weekend. Coming off that loss last year, we're not used to losing two games or any games around here," says Cooper. "Losing that game in the fashion we lost it, things were playing out identical to last year."

He tells AM800 News the team had to tune-out distractions and go to work.

"If you're superstitious, we were in the same dugout, same everything," Cooper says. "You have to overcome all the little things that could bother you."

Taylor Pappin went the distance, throwing more than 120 pitches for the win.

Cooper says it was another in a string of great outings put in by his pitching-staff.

"Pitching was just outstanding," says Cooper. "Yesterday Kyle Breitner threw a fabulous game and Pappin was outstanding today, it's all about pitching."

They finished the tournament 4-1 with their lone loss at the hands of Durham College on Friday — the Saints swept the OCAA Championships last weekend.

Amherstburg native Matt Bondy was named tournament MVP.

# Local roundup: Saints edge Fanshawe for National College Invitational Baseball Championship

Windsor Star - October 29, 2017

This time, it was the St. Clair Saints turn to celebrate.

A year ago, the Saints watched the Fanshawe Falcons walk off the field with the National College Invitational Baseball Championship despite St. Clair winning the OCAA championship.

A year later, after St. Clair's fifth OCAA title, the Saints turned the table on the Falcons with a 3-2 win in Sunday's final in Oshawa.

St. Clair got all its offence in the bottom of the first inning with Matt Bondy driving in two runs and Mike McKay the other. Left-hander Taylor Pappin got the complete-game win as he held the Falcons to five hits and one earned run while striking out seven.

The Saints reached the final with a 4-1 win over the Holland College Islanders from Prince Edward Island in Saturday's semifinal.

Pitcher Kyle Breitner pitched a complete game and allowed just two hits and one run over seven innings while striking out 11 batters to reach 300 for his career with the Saints. Bondy had two of St. Clair's six hits and drove in a pair of runs.

## **Saints silver**

Freshman Tyler Jones won a silver medal and helped the St. Clair Saints men's team to a team silver at the OCAA cross country championships in London on Saturday.

Jones, a Sandwich high school product, finished the eight-kilometre race in 26 minutes 40.4 seconds, just three seconds behind the winner. He earned first-team All-Ontario status and was named male rookie of the year.

Gavin Wesley was eighth in 27:41.5 and Andre Tomasian was 12th in 27:52.5, which earned each second-team All-Ontario recognition, and Justin Folkeringa was 32nd in 29:02.7 to round out St. Clair's scoring four.

The women's team was fifth led by Beth Horrobin's fifth-place finish over 6k in 23:28.2. Hannah Cirino was 29th in 26:00.2, Nicole Desrosiers-Michienzi was 31st in 26:05.7 and Jessica Hodgkin rounded out St. Clair's scoring four by finishing 40th in 26:39.3.

Both teams qualified for the national championships on Nov. 11 in Sainte-Therese, Que.

## **Saints win title**

The St. Clair Saints took the consolation title on Saturday at the OCAA women's soccer championship in Sudbury.

Julia Albearie scored in the 52nd minute as the Saints beat the Mohawk Mountaineers 1-0. Andie Albert, who filled in at goalie, posted the shutout for the Saints, who featured 11 first-year players this season.

# sports

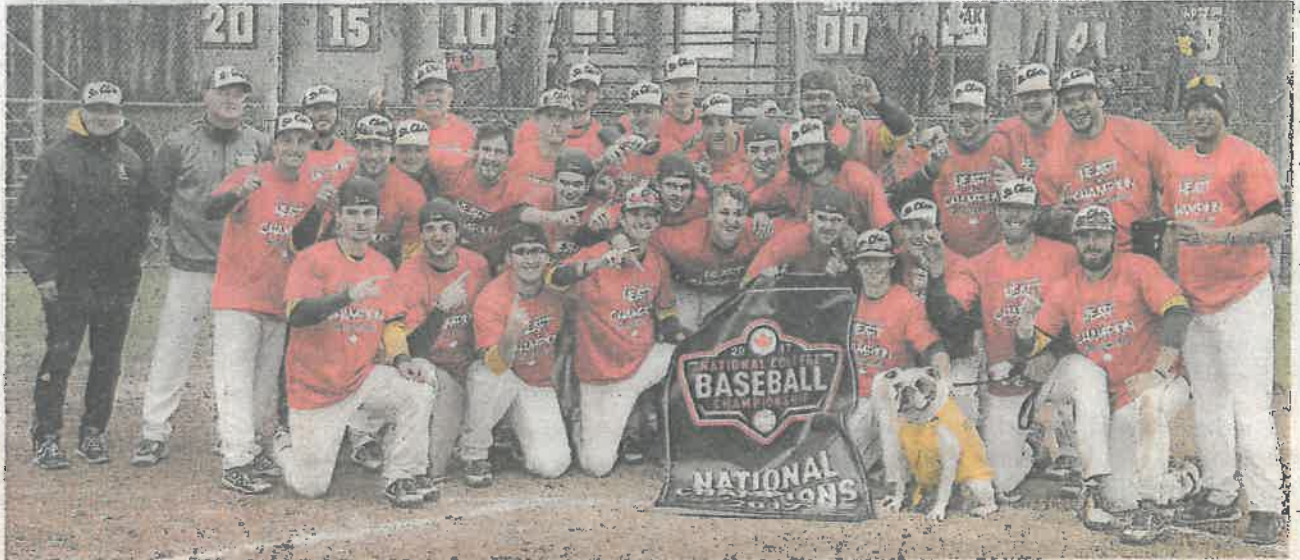


Photo courtesy of St. Clair College

St. Clair College's men's baseball team won the 2017 Canadian College National Championship last weekend in Oshawa.

# National champs!

## Burke, Breitner, Bondy and Pappin named to All-Star Team



The St. Clair College men's baseball team won the 2017 Canadian College National Championship with a 3-2 victory over Fanshawe College last Sunday at Oshawa's Kinsmen Memorial Stadium.

The win avenged a 2-1 loss to Fanshawe in last year's final and puts a stamp on quite a season for the Saints, who also won an OCAA regular season title and their fifth straight OCAA championship.

St. Clair fell behind 1-0 in the top of the first-inning, but responded quickly in the bottom half to take back a 3-1 lead.

The teams played scoreless until the seventh inning when Fanshawe scored a run and threatened to tie the game with runners aboard.

But Player of the Game and Saints' starting pitcher Taylor Pappin put a cap on his performance to secure the complete game win.

Pappin wasn't 100 per cent after being ill the last few days, but gave up only two earned runs on five hits but struck out seven Fanshawe batters in the gummy performance.

Third baseman Matt Bondy had a triple and a single with two RBIs on his way to winning the Championship MVP Award.

Also contributing at the plate for St. Clair was Michael McKay, who had a double, two walks, and an RBI.

Pappin earned the Championship Top Pitcher Award in addition to being named to the All-Star Team as the top left handed pitcher.

Other Saints joining Pappin on the Championship All-Star team were Bondy (third base), Carson Burke (outfield) and Kyle Breitner (top right handed pitcher).

## Saints' women's soccer team wins OCAA consolation final

The St. Clair College women's soccer team ended their season on a positive note in Sudbury last weekend.

The Saints defeated the Mohawk Mountaineers 1-0 in the Consolation Final at the OCAA Championship.

Julia Albeartie got the lone goal for St. Clair in the 52nd minute.

Andie Albert earned the win and clean sheet in goal and was named the Saints' Player of the Game.

The Saints ended their regular season with a record of 7-2-1 which was good for second place in the OCAA West Division.

St. Clair's playoff record was 3-1 with the only loss coming to the Humber Hawks 1-0 in the OCAA quarterfinal.

Humber ended up winning the silver medal after losing 2-1 to Algonquin.

The future looks bright for a young St. Clair squad. The roster of 18 featured 11 first year players and five second year players.

The Saints were by far the youngest and least experienced of the eight teams that qualified for the OCAA Championship.

## Silver for St. Clair men's cross country team

The St. Clair College Cross Country team competed at the OCAA Provincial Championship in wet conditions on Saturday which was hosted by Fanshawe College at London's Fanshawe Conservation Area.

Saints' rookie runner Tyler Jones led his team to a silver medal while earning a podium finish of his own.

Jones finished second overall in a time of 26:40 over the 8K course and was just three seconds from the leader while a mere two seconds ahead of the third place runner. He was also honoured as a 1st Team All-Ontario selection as well being named the Male Rookie of the Year Award winner at the OCAA Championship Banquet.

Other finishers for the Saints were Gavin Wesley (8th place, 27:41), Andre Tomasian (12th place, 27:52), Justin Folkeringa (35th place, 29:02), Ryan Bell (63rd place, 31:09) and Nicholas Cull (68th place, 31:31) in a field of 106 runners. Wesley and Tomasian were both named Second Team All-Ontario selections for their efforts.

The Lady Saints took fifth place as a team overall out of 13 schools and were led by Beth Horrobin, who finished in seventh place over the 6K course in a time of 23:28. With her top seven finish, Horrobin was named an OCAA First Team All-Ontario selection.

Other St. Clair finishers were Hannah Cirino (34th place, 26:00), Nicole Desrosiers-Michienzi (37th place, 26:05), Jessica Hodgkin (47th place, 26:39), Aryana Cirino (53rd place, 27:23) and Samantha Boussey (57th place, 27:57) in a field of 108 runners.

Both St. Clair teams have qualified for the Canadian Collegiate National Championship, which are being hosted by Collège Lionel-Groulx on Saturday, Nov. 11 at Equestrian Park in Blainville, Quebec.

# Another record-breaking year for the Windsor International Film Festival

An estimated 22,000 tickets were sold during this year's Windsor International Film Festival, which closed on Sunday night. "Anyone see any good movies?" asked WIFF executive director Vincent Georgie.

Windsor Star - November 5, 2017

"The biggest WIFF yet, and the best is yet to come," exulted [Vincent Georgie](#), executive director of the [Windsor International Film Festival](#), at the event's closing night for 2017.

The annual week-long celebration of cinema ended its 13th edition on Sunday night with praise for the many people who made it possible and a promise that this year's success will continue.

Georgie said an estimated 22,000 tickets were sold over the week — a new record for WIFF.

"Anyone see any good movies?" Georgie asked the closing night crowd at the Chrysler Theatre. "One or two? What a ball. Oh, it's been such fun."



WIFF's Vincent Georgie on stage at the Chrysler Theatre on Nov. 5, 2017.

WIFF 2017 brought 113 films from around the world to the Capitol and Chrysler Theatres. The closing night screening was a fitting appreciation of art: The French documentary [Faces Places](#), which presents an 88-year-old filmmaker's final adventure across her native country.

Before the showing, Georgie took the time to thank the festival's sponsors, venues, board of directors, managing directors, box office staff, technical staff, and student volunteers.

WIFF board member Marty Beneteau returned the favour, offering "our most highest and heartfelt recognition" to Georgie.

"Vincent is tireless," Beneteau said. "It is with you (the audience) in mind that he walks the walk of WIFF."



Windsor International Film Festival board members, staff, and volunteers fill the stage before the closing night screening on Nov. 5, 2017. Dalson Chen / Windsor Star

Festival-goers were happy to share their experiences from the past week. Movie buff Demetri Kalmantis went to seven screenings, including [A Ghost Story](#), [Lady Macbeth](#), and the hand-painted animated film [Loving Vincent](#).

“This has been my favourite festival yet,” Demetri said. “I’m so grateful that we have the film festival here.”

Demetri’s father, architect Evangelo Kalmantis, said *Loving Vincent* was like “seeing the soul of Vincent Van Gogh.”

“It was probably the most creative film I’ve ever seen,” Evangelo enthused.

Mary Boulineau went to the closing night screening with her daughter, Anik. A Grade 11 E. J. Lajeunesse student, Anik attended three of the many French-language screenings throughout this year’s festival.

“I enjoyed it very much. These kinds of movies, you don’t see them often on the big screen,” Anik said. “It gives you a different perspective of the movie industry.”

But Mary was most impressed by the film [12th and Clairmount](#) — a documentary of the Detroit riots of 1967. “It brought tears to my eyes,” she said. “It was awesome. Very intense.”



Windsor International Film Festival-goers gather for the closing night screening at the Chrysler Theatre on Nov. 5, 2017. Dalson Chen / Windsor Star

For anyone who somehow missed this year’s festival, you can still be a cinephile: Thanks to a donation from the University of Windsor alumni association, WIFF will be holding special screenings during the spring of 2018.

select films — including favourites from this year's festival list — will be shown on Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 8, and April 12. Visit [www.windsorfilmfestival.com](http://www.windsorfilmfestival.com) for details and updates.

Georgie also announced the dates for next year's festival — Oct. 29 to Nov. 4 — and said the board will begin working on the lineup for WIFF 2018 in two weeks' time.

“Book the time off or call in sick a year early,” Georgie joked. “We will see you there.”

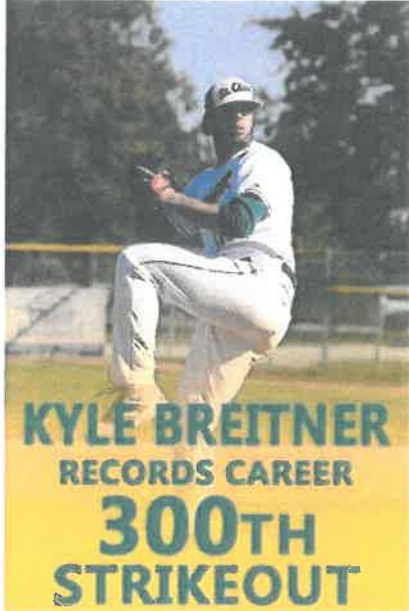


Windsor International Film Festival-goers gather for the closing night screening at the Chrysler Theatre on Nov. 5, 2017. Dalsen Chen / Windsor Star



# Breitner Hits Milestone

AM800 CKLW – November 7, 2017



(photo courtesy of Saints Athletics)

The St. Clair College Men's Baseball team has closed the books on another successful season after celebrating a regular season and OCAA Provincial Playoff Championship capped by a National Championship. But much of the program's success in recent years is due to the contributions of 5th year pitcher Kyle Breitner.

As part of those championship years Breitner has compiled an astounding 37-3 record on the mound with a sparkling 1.52 ERA in over 280 innings pitched.

With his 11th and final strikeout in this year's National Championship semi-final win over Holland College he reached the milestone of 300 total for his Saints career.

His playoff record in five seasons is a splendid 8-1 with his only loss being a 2-1 defeat in the OUA/OCAA Championship against Brock University.

Individual OCAA honours for Breitner include 4 All-Star team selections, 3 Pitcher of the Year Awards as well as 1 Player of the Year Award. He was selected to the OCAA Championship All-Star team in 2016 and named to the National Championship All-Star team as the Top Right Handed Pitcher in each of the last two years.

Breitner was also named the OUA/OCAA Championship Top Pitcher in 2013. St. Clair has honoured him 4 times as the Top Pitcher on the Saints team to go with a pair of MVP Awards.

# Councillor complaint to integrity commissioner called 'political theatre'

A call to have Windsor's integrity commissioner investigate a councillor's hyperbolic comment about a rape in a downtown alley is being described by observers as politics at its worse.

Windsor Star - November 8, 2017

A call to have Windsor's integrity commissioner investigate a councillor's hyperbolic comment about a rape in a downtown alley is being described by observers as politics at its worse.

"It's complete political opportunism," said political scientist Lydia Miljan, an associate professor at the University of Windsor. "This is great political theatre... It's a political ploy, as was the initial statement."

City council voted Monday night to have integrity commissioner Bruce Elman rule on whether a statement Coun. Rino Bortolin made in a recent Windsor Star story contravened its code of conduct.

The story included comments from Bortolin and other councillors critical that money from a parking garage the city decided not to build was funding a series of costly projects such as a \$3-million holiday light display in Jackson Park and a 99-year-old streetcar that will be refurbished at a cost of \$750,000.

Bortolin was quoted in the Oct. 18 story as saying, "When I have to continually go back to residents and say there is no money for a \$3,000 alley light where that person got beat up and raped last week, it's hard... They say: 'Whatever. You just got Christmas lights, you just got a trolley.'"

Bortolin apologized on social media the day the story was published. He reiterated that sentiment Tuesday calling his word choice "inappropriate and unfortunate."

Miljan agrees, saying Bortolin's comment perpetuates the myth that rapes are perpetrated by strangers lurking in dark alleys, when in reality, most are perpetrated by men known to their victims. But, she said, it was obvious Bortolin was not referring to an actual event, but using hyperbole to make a point.

"He was exaggerating for rhetorical effect."

Coun. Jo-Anne Gignac's motion did not quote a section of the code of conduct that applies to Bortolin's comment. Miljan said there may not be one.

"He should dismiss it out of hand," Miljan said of the integrity commissioner. "Really, what is there to investigate?"

Bortolin and Gignac often find themselves at odds on issues, voting on opposite sides.

Miljan said Gignac's motion appears to be "part of the normal divide on council."

As for council voting in favour of the motion, Miljan said, "They are making a one-day story into a three-month story."

Gignac did not return messages left Tuesday.

At council Monday night, Gignac said, as a woman, the issue of rape is especially sensitive.

She was accused Tuesday by another observer of “playing the woman card,” for political purposes.

Radio host Pat Papadeas, a professor of legal studies at St. Clair College and the organizer of a Windsor bus to the Women’s March on Washington, said she has never seen Gignac advocate for women’s issues in the past.

She said Gignac’s motion is detracting from the real issue — safety issues downtown.

“If you want to speak as a woman, address that,” Papadeas said.

Papadeas criticized Gignac on social media, and others piled on.

Mayor Drew Dilkens, who was the main force behind both the trolley and holiday lighting projects that Bortolin was criticizing, said that as chairman of the Police Services Board, he has a concern when someone says incorrectly that a rape occurred in an alley the previous week.

“Any sense left in the mind of the public that the city is unsafe,” when there is no basis in fact, “causes me concern,” he said.

Bortolin declared a conflict of interest and didn’t participate in the discussion Monday night. Tuesday he said he takes responsibility for his “dumb choice of words” and respects Gignac’s right to issue a complaint.

“It will run its course.”

According to the [city’s website](#), the integrity commissioner has the power to investigate a councillor and if he determines there’s been a contravention of the [code of conduct](#), he can recommend penalties that range from a reprimand to a suspension of remuneration for up to 90 days.

# St. Clair mourns the loss of varsity recruiter Ambrose

Windsor Star - November 9, 2017



Ken Ambrose was usually the first person a prospective student-athlete with eyes on becoming a member of the St. Clair College Saints would talk with.

Ambrose, who was in his seventh season with the school, passed away suddenly on Wednesday. He was 69.

“Ken truly believed and understood the value that varsity athletics brings to students and to St. Clair College,” the school’s vice-president Ron Seguin said in a statement. “He was the ultimate ambassador in this regard and we were so fortunate to have him represent Saints athletics with both enthusiasm and dignity.

“We envisioned Ken being a part of the sports family at St Clair for many years to come. We will miss him greatly.”

Ambrose first joined the school as its women’s basketball coach and after two seasons moved over to become varsity recruiter for all school teams.

For many, Ambrose would be the first contact and he would provide prospective student-athletes with information to help make their post-secondary choice.

“Ken became a part of the fabric of the athletic department from the minute he started at St. Clair,” said Christina Gatto, the school’s director of college recreational services. “He had a positive comment for everyone he met and his enthusiasm and dedication to St. Clair was unparalleled.

“His constant smile, warm heart and selfless contribution will never be forgotten.”

Prior to joining the Saints, Ambrose was a retired teacher with more than 40 years of basketball coaching experience at the elementary, high school, club, regional and provincial level with ties to the Windsor and Leamington areas.

In addition, he coached many other sports including youth baseball with the Riverside Minor Baseball Association. He was both the founder and president of the Riverside Falcons Basketball Association and the Leamington Cougars Basketball Association.

Ambrose served with the Ontario Basketball Association on the ranking and seeding committee. He also coached at in the midget development program with the St. Clair regional team and took a squad to the 2010 Ontario Summer Games in Sudbury.

Funeral arrangements remain incomplete.

# City has ingredients for tech hub, but needs right recipe

Windsor Star - November 9, 2017

Regardless of the outcome, a joint bid with Detroit for Amazon's second North American headquarters may be just the push Windsor needed.

"If Detroit's bid is successful, it will have the same impact the birth of the auto industry had on this area," said Doug Sartori, founder of The Hackforge and chair of the Workforce WindsorEssex board.

"That's why the Amazon bid is so positive. It represents everything we have to do. Our leadership is at the table with the Detroit leadership. Only good things can come from that," said Sartori, who runs his own IT consultancy business, Parallel 42 Systems.

So even if the bid isn't successful, Windsor benefits.

Eric Janssen believes the process offers a blueprint for Windsor's tech future.

It has focused attention on the local tech industry like never before, said the chief revenue officer and partner in Intellitix — which provides access control, cashless payment and experiential solutions for live events, such as the Ryder Cup and large music and food festivals.

"We don't have the right recipe, but we have the right ingredients," said Janssen, whose Chatham-based firm was named best technology provider at the 2016 Event Production Awards in London, U.K., and was also listed as one of the world's top 10 most innovative companies by the American tech and business magazine Fast Company.

He thinks Windsor has the talent, proximity and expertise in the right sectors — advanced manufacturing, agriculture and automotive.

"Detroit is emerging as a clear leader in the tech space," said Janssen, who lives in Windsor and works from home. "Whatever they're doing, we have to latch on. We don't want to compete. We want to ride their wave."

Just how big that wave could get will be determined by Amazon's decision next year.

Dan Gilbert, the founder of Quicken Loans and Rock Developments who is heading the Detroit-Windsor bid, has said the U.S. city is rebuilding with or without the Amazon headquarters, Janssen notes. "There's a real vision for Detroit."

The Motor City's tech industry already has a thirst for Windsor talent.

Windsor-area residents with tech skills are commuting across the border, and recently Michigan firms, such as marketing and consultancy company Alteris, are opening Windsor offices to access Canadian workers, said Sartori, who worked for Microsoft for five years.

"They essentially cherry-picked the top kids graduating from St. Clair College," he said. "There are 10,000 unfilled tech jobs in the Detroit area now. That's triple the size of our whole tech sector and Detroit is still in the early stages of developing into a tech hub."

## Doug Sartori, Workforce Windsor Essex 1:43

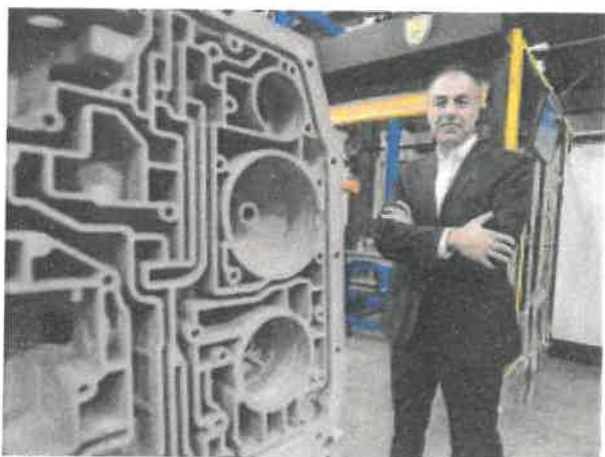
Windsor resident Justine Kilby, vice-president of strategy for human resources giant Ceridan, suggests the region focus its efforts in the tech field on its existing strengths in advanced manufacturing, agriculture and logistics.

“The auto industry and agriculture are two segments of the economy that are going to benefit the most from (artificial intelligence),” said Kilby, who was named one of the top women in tech in Canada in September by the Silicon Valley-based online publication The Boardlist. “We’re not going to recreate a Silicon Valley here. We need to focus on what we’re already good at. We’re makers and growers, and we’re world class in both.”

Ro-Matt International Inc. is one of many companies that has helped the Windsor region solidify its reputation as a leader in advanced manufacturing. Established in 1985, it builds customized machinery and handling systems for the automotive, mining, military, agricultural and recycling industries.

It also relies on outside tech help and president Steve Del Duca is a strong supporter of closer ties between industry and the tech community.

“There’s a lot of human resources software out there, but we needed something a little more specific for us,” he said. “We’re working with a local IT company, at a reasonable cost, to have them develop something that fits our needs.”



Steve Del Duca, president of Ro-Matt International Inc., is shown during an open house at his Oldcastle company on Sept. 14, 2017. Jason Kryk / Windsor Star

As an added incentive, his firm has no issue with the IT company selling the software to other local shops.

Another challenge faced by many firms is making the transition from one era of technology to the next, Del Duca said. “Part of the industrial world is still working off that legacy equipment because it’s still productive machinery.”

If technology can be used to modernize expensive equipment that still uses 3½-inch floppy disks, everyone benefits, he said. “At the end of the day, we all are trying to develop more customized and innovative products. If technology can help us do that more efficiently, that affects profitability. It’s going to play a big role in our future.”

Shelley Fellows, who along with her husband, Ross Rawlings, founded local software developer Radix Inc. in 1994, said the opportunities for the local tech community are in helping area industry find new ways to compete against low-wage nations.

“What technology is doing is changing the platform we’re competing on,” said Fellows, whose firm services industries that include automotive, food and beverage, and aerospace. “We don’t always want to compete on price. We want to compete on our quality and capability as well.”

There is agreement that it’s time for Windsor tech firms to think bigger.

Windsor’s tech sector lags other parts of Ontario, Sartori admits. The region has about 3,200 people employed in tech jobs, but that’s 100 fewer than five years ago.

This is despite St. Clair College and the University of Windsor graduating hundreds of students in tech related fields each year.

“We’ve had growth in the IT service segment, but we’ve lost people in the software development area,” Sartori said. “If you’re not developing intellectual property, you’re not fully participating in technology. That’s what we’re lacking.”

Workforce WindsorEssex is conducting a study to find out why there is a brain drain, which has resulted in local companies poaching talent from each other.

Splice Digital founder and president Brian Hendel said every local tech company he knows is hiring.

The demand is greatest for experienced web designers and app developers, user experience designers, user interface (UI/UX) designers and project managers.

It is forcing local companies and Workforce WindsorEssex to try a new approach.



Brian Hendel, president of Splice Digital, is shown in the company’s Walkerville office on Oct. 17, 2017.  
Dax Melmer / Windsor Star

“We’re trying to form a consortium of Windsor tech companies to create a post-grad training program,” said Hendel, whose web and app design firm has 15 employees and an international client list that includes Microsoft, Atari and Puma. “It’s a boot camp to bring junior level grads up in experience before they go seeking employment elsewhere.”

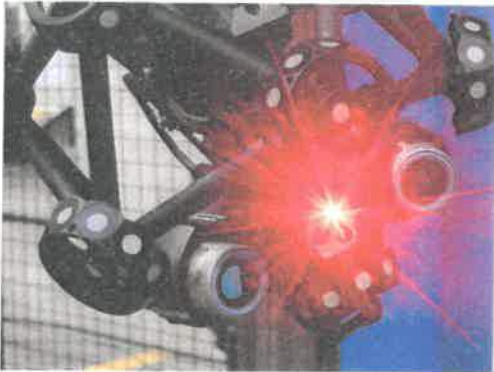
Hendel said for startups, getting from half a dozen employees to a staff of 10 to 15 is the hardest step in the expansion process.

“The main impediment is funding,” Hendel said. “We need to ID the people taking risks. Get the resources in front of those people driving innovation and help them scale up.”

The local scene could alter significantly with one big tech success story — whether it’s Amazon or his own firm’s work developing the pizza bot order-taking app that will allow the mom-and-pop shops to compete more effectively.

“We’ve got to create workplaces that creative people want to gravitate towards,” said Hendel, whose expanding 15-employee firm has outgrown its Walkerville office. “We’re trying to build brand excitement, so people want to stay in Windsor. We have to get the mentality of stop thinking Windsor and start thinking internationally.”

If Amazon does land in Detroit it’ll make it more difficult for local firms, at least initially, to hang on to talent, Hendel conceded. “We won’t be able to compete with those salaries.”



A robotic laser 3D inspection system is demonstrated during an open house at Ro-Matt International Inc. in Oldcastle on Sept. 14, 2017. Jason Kryk / Windsor Star

There are more automation engineers in the corridor running from Detroit and Windsor to Sarnia than there are in all of Germany, Kilby points out. “It doesn’t matter where Amazon goes, no city is going to have 50,000 developers sitting there.”

Local tech firms see a hole in the area’s sales message and are working together to put a recruiting video together, she said. “What we have to sell in this area is a tremendous quality of family life, affordable costs, the Great Lakes and being a Canadian suburb of Detroit. We need to focus on getting people when they’re reaching that stage of starting families wanting to settle or start up on their own.”

Windsor-based Spirits Wine Information Group is an example. The founders all worked in Detroit before returning home to create a firm that does statistical analysis and reports for the LCBO, Sartori said.

“We actually have good infrastructure in terms of the Internet backbone in Windsor,” Sartori said. “We’re also sitting across the river from a major nexus of connectivity in North America.”

The rust-belt narrative Detroit-Windsor has been saddled with means the region’s tech community has slid under the radar, Kilby said.

The Amazon bid is a chance to put it in the spotlight.

“Regardless of the outcome, it’s a huge opportunity,” Kilby said. “We can either get in and do the things we need to benefit or we can sit and watch the Detroit show go on.”



# St. Clair College mourns death of varsity recruiter

Windsor Star · 10 Nov 2017 · B3 · JIM PARKER [jpparker@postmedia.com](mailto:jpparker@postmedia.com) [twitter.com/winstarparker](https://twitter.com/winstarparker)

Ken Ambrose was usually the first person a prospective student-athlete with eyes on becoming a member of the St. Clair College Saints would contact.

Ambrose, who was in his seventh season with the school, died suddenly on Wednesday. He was 69.

“Ken truly believed and understood the value that varsity athletics brings to students and to St Clair College,” the school’s vicepresident, Ron Seguin, said in a statement. “He was the ultimate ambassador in this regard and we were so fortunate to have him represent Saints athletics with both enthusiasm and dignity. We envisioned Ken being a part of the sports family at St Clair for many years to come. We will miss him greatly.”

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Prior to joining the Saints, Ambrose was a retired teacher with more than 40 years of basketball coaching experience at the elementary, high school, club, regional and provincial level with ties to both the Windsor area as well as the Leamington area.

In addition, he coached many other sports including youth baseball in the summer months with the Riverside Minor Baseball Association. He was both the founder and president of the Riverside Falcons Basketball Association and the Leamington Cougars Basketball Association.

Ambrose served with the Ontario Basketball Association on the Ranking and Seeding Committee and coached at the MDP level with the St. Clair Regional team also taking a squad to the 2010 Ontario Summer Games in Sudbury.

At this time, funeral arrangements for Ambrose remain incomplete.

# U of Windsor, St. Clair College create new programs to meet demand for tech

Windsor Star - November 12, 2017

It's an age of employment opportunities for students with the right technology skills.

Demand is outstripping the supply. Some students are getting job offers before they graduate. That has talent-hungry employers exploring new approaches, such as sponsoring a student's education in exchange for a job commitment.

Students entering St. Clair College and the University of Windsor are getting the message.

"Robotics, medical engineering technician, automotive design and some other programs saw nearly a 50 per cent increase in first-year enrolment," said Darryl Danelon, chair of St. Clair College's school of engineering technologies.

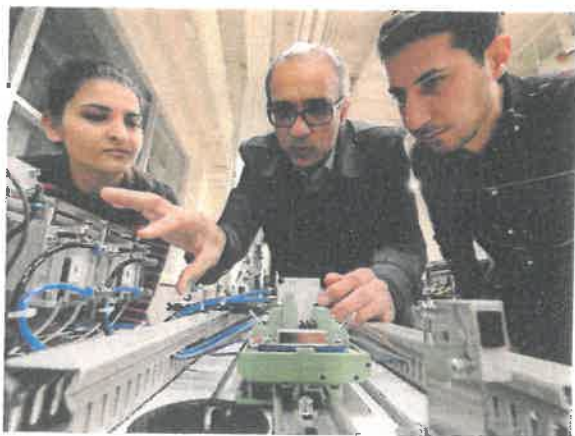
"I think the message is getting out there. We can't turn out enough graduates to satisfy the job market."

This fall there are 1,100 students in the engineering technologies school and another 700 in information and communications technology related business programs. Overall the number of students registered in technology-related programs at the college has risen by 25 per cent from 4,500 students to 5,700 in the past seven years. While Ontario college instructors are currently on strike, St. Clair is hopeful students will still be able to complete the term on time.

"We'll graduate 40 students from the third-year of our mobile apps program and they're already spoken for," said Jim Marsh, chair of the college's school of business and business and information technology.

It's a similar story of growing student interest in science, technology, engineering and math programming (STEM) at the University of Windsor. Preliminary figures for the fall semester show a six per cent increase in full-time enrolment in the STEM subjects year-over-year. There are 3,102 students in STEM programs compared to 2,927 in September 2016.

The university's computer science school has tripled in size since 2012, when it had about 300 students.



Second-year electrical and computer engineering student Gagandeep Saini, left, computer engineering assistant Prof. Shahpour Alirezaee and engineering master's student Saad Pola work in a lab at the University of Windsor on Nov. 7, 2017. Jason Kryk / Windsor Star

“I think students better understand there’s a wider variety of industries that need computer science graduates now,” said Ziad Kobti, who has headed the University of Windsor’s computer science school for the last five years.

“Software engineer is one of the fastest growing occupations. We’ve had top graduates walk out of here after four years and start with six figure salaries at companies like Amazon and General Motors.”

The growing student interest and the needs of industry are becoming increasingly important in the way post-secondary institutions are designing their programs.

Peter Frise, the University of Windsor engineering professor who founded the school’s automotive and aerospace engineering programs, feels the university has a responsibility to address the needs of the city it calls home.

“Our automotive program is special because it’s more practical and has more industry focused aspects to it,” Frise said. “That has made our graduates highly prized by industry.”

That practicality can range from stripping down an engine and rebuilding it by hand to spending a year in Germany working for Schaeffler Technologies.

The German company, which is the world’s largest bearings manufacturer, works exclusively with the university in Ontario and hires many of those involved in the program for its plants around the world, including the one in Stratford, Ont.

There are 12-15 students in Germany this fall and more than 300 students have gone over in the last 19 years

Technology and business are becoming increasingly entwined to the point where many claim every business is a technology business.

That has resulted in an increased blending of technological and entrepreneurial concepts into the curriculum to give students and researchers the practical skills needed to better operate in the modern economy.

That also means the globalization of students’ education.

“We have one capstone project being done by engineering and business students with a business in B.C. aimed at assuring the quality of 3D printing,” said Francine Schlosser, executive director of the university’s EPICentre.

“Students are working with scientists helping them develop commercial strategies. (In late October) a group of students (went) to Oxford (U.K.) looking at commercial ideas for bio-sciences technology.”

Closer to home, both the university and college are building relationships with organizations like TechTown Detroit and the Detroit Economic Club.

Schlosser said the rapid growth of student interest in technology has led to the creation of 3D printing and business start-up clubs and soon a robotics club with St. Clair College.

There is also the RBC EPICentre founders’ program, which pays students for 12 weeks each summer to work on their ideas for a product or business.

Another program aimed helping innovators develop a more entrepreneurial mindset to is the RBC's Ontario Business Model Competition to be held Nov.17-18. The competition offers a \$10,000 first prize.

Schlosser said all these programs fit into the university's three-pronged strategy of focusing on experiential learning, social innovation and building entrepreneurial skills.

The university is also trying to broaden its reach to get more computer science into high schools.

Beginning in September 2018, the university is offering a dual-credit course in computer science for high school students that will also count towards a university degree.

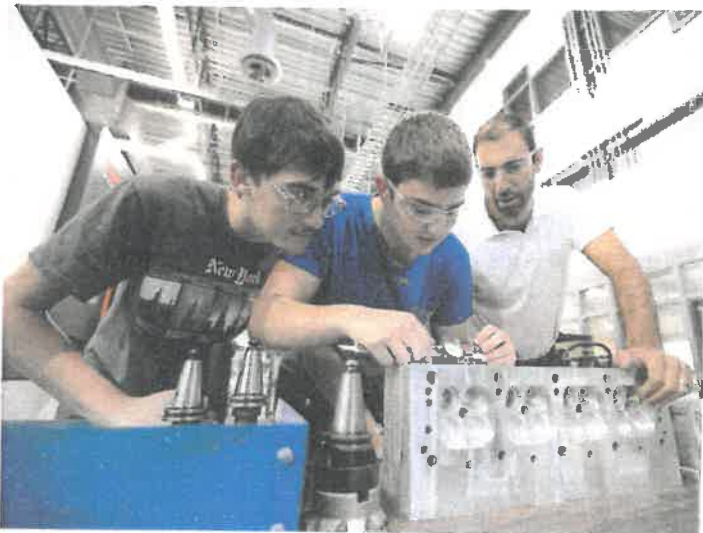
"We'll offer the students an opportunity to do a lot of co-op and get some university experience," Kobti said.

Schlosser said the university is building more bridges with the community with the introduction of industry advisory councils. These councils are being formed for the business and science faculties to offer advice to deans in updating curriculum.

Such consultation has led to the university's master of business administration program being repositioned to include more data analysis and computer science training.

The financial world is also proving a large consumer of technology and requires a rapidly growing IT workforce.

"One area we're developing more in is financial technology," Schlosser said. "Digital banking and cyber security are a huge deal right no. I've seen new programs in those areas being floated in computer science."



St. Clair College electromechanical engineering students, Michael Szentmiklossy and Justin Klassen work with Daniele DeFranceschi, co-ordinator of mechanical engineering technician, industrial and mechanical technician, and CAD CAM programs at St. Clair College on Oct. 5, 2017. Jason Kryk / Windsor Star

St. Clair College is also reaching out to the community for advice by creating industry councils for every program where it's deemed appropriate.

"Our mandate is different than a universities in that we're more hands-on in practical learning," Danelon said. "We want to know if our students are meeting industry's needs. I think one of the strengths of the college system is how flexible we can be."

An example is the multi-trade manufacturing engineer technician/technologist program the college hopes to have in place as early as September 2018.

It's aimed at satisfying the demand for students with broader skill sets in the trades.

"The goal is to have all students go through that and be placed with a company to have multiple work experiences over two or three years," Danelon said. "We're at the point of designing the curriculum. We're going out and surveying industry for feedback. Industry believes in these new programs because they've had a say in them."



Darryl Danelon, chair of St. Clair College's school of engineering technologies, is shown on Oct. 5, 2017. Jason Kryk / Windsor Star

The creation of the robotics, networking and mobile apps development programs in recent years are also responses to industry needs.

St. Clair is one of three colleges in Ontario that offers a bio-medical technology program, which is a cross of health sciences and engineering.

The college is also working on launching a four-year bachelor of arts degree in business administration and information systems technology, a two-year diploma in data analytics and an e-games design program. The college hopes to introduce those programs as early as 2018.

"Business has access to big data, but now they need to better know how to understand what it means," said Marsh, who ran companies such as Marsh Frozen Foods and steel cylinder manufacturing plants around the world in addition to supporting the University of Windsor's MBA program for the past 16 years.

"The degree program will also be heavy in data analysis. It'll be a dual degree in business and computer science. The strongest message we're getting from employers is for more data analysis."

# St. Clair hurler Breitner in a class of his own



Pitcher Kyle Breitner has compiled a 37-3 record with a 1.52 ERA in over 280 innings during his five years with the St. Clair College men's baseball program. *Shoreline Week photo: Bill England*

The St. Clair College men's baseball team has closed the books on another successful season after celebrating a regular season and OCAA provincial playoff championship, capped by a national championship.

But much of the program's success in recent years is due to the contributions of fifth year pitcher Kyle Breitner.

As part of those championship years, Breitner has compiled an astounding 37-3 record on the mound with a sparkling 1.52 ERA in over 280 innings pitched.

With his 11th and final strikeout in this year's national championship semi-final win over Holland College, he reached the milestone of 300 total for his Saints career.

His playoff record in five seasons is a splendid 8-1 with his only loss being a 2-1 defeat in the OCAA championship against Brock University.

But true to form, Breitner came back in the championship game for the Saints to earn a save in the final inning.

Individual OCAA honours for Breitner include four All-Star team selections, three Pitcher of the Year Awards as well as one Player of the Year Award.

He was selected to the OCAA Championship All-Star team in 2016 and named to the National Championship All-Star team as the Top Right Handed Pitcher in each of the last two years.

Breitner was also named the OUA/OCAA Championship Top Fitcher in 2013.

St. Clair has honoured him four times as the Top Pitcher on the Saints team to go with a pair of MVP Awards.

Breitner has helped the Saints baseball program win almost every major championship set in front of them over the past five seasons with the only blemish being a runner up finish at the national championship in 2016.

Since the inception of the OCAA baseball league in 2013, St. Clair has been its only champion in both the regular season as well as the playoffs, amassing a remarkable 97-10 overall record.

This includes a perfect 15-0 record in the OCAA provincial conference championship tournament.

In addition, St. Clair won two consecutive OUA/OCAA championships in 2013 and 2014, besting the finest Ontario universities offered.

Source: St. Clair College

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# Saints Have Great Run At Nationals

AM800 CKLW – November 14, 2017



Tyler Jones - St Clair College cross country CCAA- (photo courtesy of @saintsathletics)

The St. Clair College Cross Country team competed well in cold conditions at the CCAA National Championships in Blainville, Quebec.

Saints rookie runner Tyler Jones, a Sandwich Secondary grad, capped a fine season running to a 7th place finish in a field of 130 runners over the 8km course at the Blainville Equestrian Park in a time of 26:07.

With that top 10 finish Jones was named to the CCAA All-Canadian team and was also the top finisher from Ontario.

The St. Clair Men finished in 5th place overall in a field of 21 teams and were 2nd out of the Ontario Colleges entered.

Other finishers for the Saints Men were Gavin Wesley (38th Place, 27:28), Andre Tomasian (46th Place, 27:37), Justin Folkeringa (81st Place, 28:29), Ryan Bell (108th Place, 29:55) and Nicholas Cull (126th Place, 32:42). Each of the St. Clair Men's team ran personal best times for the season.

## sports

# St. Clair mourns passing of Ken Ambrose

## Coached with Riverside Minor Baseball Association; was founder and president of Riverside Falcons Basketball Association

St. Clair College was saddened to learn of the sudden passing of varsity recruiter Ken Ambrose last week.

Ambrose played a large role in Saints' athletics over the past 6.5 years, starting with his hire as the women's basketball head coach and then continuing with his move a few years later to recruitment for all the varsity intercollegiate teams.

Ambrose made an indelible impression on the athletes and coaches at St. Clair for whom he was always willing to assist in any capacity. His positive demeanor made him a tremendous

dous representative at various recruitment events and a likable spokesperson for Saints' athletics.

### Sports enthusiast

Ever the sports enthusiast he gladly spent time at local high school and club games to represent the St. Clair coaching staff who could not be in attendance.

Ambrose also enjoyed the travel associated with recruiting trips that brought him to various OFSAA tournaments to scout future Saints athletes.

For many St. Clair athletes, Ambrose would have been the

ST. CLAIR COLLEGE

# SAINTS

first point of contact which would lead to him supervising a campus tour for the recruit and their family.

He ultimately provided much of the necessary information that would help a prospective student-athlete towards their post-secondary choice.

During his time the St. Clair Varsity program enjoyed great

success and it was due in large part to Ambrose's involvement.

### Valued person

Ambrose was also a valued person on the host committee in the many championships St. Clair brought to the campus and Windsor area.

He was a fixture at Saints home events, keeping up to date with the recruits and coaches he helped along the way.

Ambrose proved so vital that he became part of St. Clair's marketing and recruitment department for events both in town and across the province.



Photo collage courtesy of St. Clair College

"Ken truly believed and understood the value that varsity athletics brings to students and to St. Clair College," lamented St. Clair College vice-president Ron Seguin.

"He was the ultimate ambassador in this regard and we were so fortunate to have him represent Saints Athletics with both enthusiasm and dignity.

"We envisioned Ken being a part of the sports family at St. Clair for many years to come.

"We will miss him greatly."

See AMBROSE on page 20



# Ambrose remembered

Continued from page 9

"Ken became a part of the fabric of the athletic department from the minute he started at St. Clair," added director of recreational services Christina Gatto.

"He had a positive comment for everyone he met and his enthusiasm and dedication to St. Clair was unparalleled. His constant smile, warm heart and selfless contribution will never be forgotten."

In his two seasons at the helm of the women's basketball team, Ambrose worked through a rebuilding season and then led the Saints to a 10-8 record and hosted a playoff game in his last year.

He was a retired teacher with more than 40 years of basketball coaching experience at the elementary, high school, club, regional and provincial level with ties to both the Windsor area as well as Learnington.

In addition, he coached many other sports including youth baseball in the summer months with the Riverside Minor Baseball Association. He was also the founder and president of the Riverside Falcon Basketball Association and the Leamington Cougars Basketball Association.

Ambrose served with the Ontario Basketball Association on the rank-

ing and seeding committee and coached at the MDP level with the St. Clair regional team, also taking a squad to the 2010 Ontario Summer Games in Sudbury.

The St. Clair College family wishes to extend its heartfelt condolences to the Ambrose family as well as his many friends across the region.

He will be missed.

Source: St. Clair College

# Local roundup: Saints women's basketball wins fourth straight game

The St. Clair Saints women's basketball team swept a pair of weekend OCAA basketball games at the SportsPlex while the men's team split two games.

Windsor Star - November 19, 2017

The St. Clair Saints women's basketball team swept a pair of weekend OCAA basketball games at the SportsPlex while the men's team split two games.

The women, now 5-2 and have won four straight games, beat the Sheridan Bruins 70-64 on Sunday after taking out the Conestoga Condors on Saturday, 84-47.

On Sunday, Shannon Kennedy led the Saints with 16 points while Logan Kucera had 14 points and 10 rebounds.

On Saturday, Kucera had 15 points, Kennedy 14 points and Nicole Tamm and Marissa Mara finished with 12 points each.

The men, now 3-4, fell 105-82 to Sheridan on Sunday after beating Conestoga 108-80 Saturday.

On Sunday, William Lara-Caston had 19 points for the Saints with Lance Drummonds finishing with 18 points and Gil Atencio had 15.

On Saturday, Drummonds finished with 25 points, Atencio had 22 points, Lara-Caston had 14 points and Jermaine Lynch chipped in with 12.



St. Clair College's Lance Drummonds is surrounded by Conestoga players during an OCAA men's basketball game on Nov. 19, 2017, in Windsor. Jason Kryk / Windsor Star

# Interactive Tools Engage Windsorites On The Environment

AM800 CKLW – November 29, 2017



Windsor Environmental and Sustainability Coordinator Kelsey Williams

If you're concerned about the environment in Windsor, time is running out to have your say.

The final public open house on the city's Environmental Master Plan (EMP) is Wednesday at St. Clair College, and the city wants to hear your voice.

On Tuesday, there was a display set up at the Main Branch of the Windsor Public Library.

Kelsey Williams is the city's Environmental and Sustainability Coordinator who staffed the display.

"We're getting a variety of different responses from people that are approaching us," she says. "It's really great because not everybody has the same concerns especially based on where you live. So your interests change on what you're exposed to so that's really great."

She says a stop at the WFCU Centre earlier in the month attracted younger people.

"Kids were really interested in it, so I talked to them, 'how do you feel about the environment, what have you learned in school.' So we're not just targeting adults we need to talk to everybody because eventually children will be the ones to make change."

The interactive map is a big hit, according to Williams.

"It's caused people to ask more questions which is exactly what we want," she says "If those questions aren't asked we don't know what to address or what people's thoughts are, so I think people have loved it. The map is the biggest go-to because it looks cool and you get to put a sticker on a map and we get to talk to you about why."

The updated five goals are: improve air quality, improve water quality, responsible land use, increase resource efficiency and promote awareness.

Williams says the consultation period goes to the end of the year and they'll compile the responses in January for a report back to Council.

The final open house is at St. Clair College Wednesday 11am to 2pm.

# PHOTOS: St. Clair College Children's Christmas Party

WindsoriteDOTca News - Saturday December 2nd, 2017



The annual St. Clair College and St. Clair SRC Christmas Party took place Saturday afternoon, bringing students as well as staff and their children together for a good time.

Families were able to partake in cookie decorating, writing letters to Santa, arts and crafts as well as meeting Santa himself. Children also received a gift and were able to kick off the Holiday spirit with family and friends.





# New College Building Coming Together

Blackburn News - December 8, 2017



Construction is on time and on budget for the new powerline technician building at St. Clair College in Chatham.

“Right now they’re closing it in,” says Chair of Academic Studies, Mark Benoit. “Hopefully we’ll have it closed in by the end of December, which will allow us to continue working inside the building.”

The building, which is going up on Bear Line Rd. at McNaughton Ave. W, should be completed by the end of March, 2018.

Students will be in the facility, which includes an indoor training lab, for the start of the September semester.

“So we’ll have poles inside the building that will be used for an indoor pole lab,” says Benoit. “The whole building is established around lab training — so, more hands on training.”

Benoit believes the new facility will make a big difference.

“It was, for us, the next right step. We are one of the largest trainers for the powerline trade in the province of Ontario, and now we are seeking to go on a national level.”

Funding for the new building came from the Federal government, the municipality of Chatham-Kent, the college, and private donors.

# Christmas rockers The S'Aints offer Hope For Hunger in Windsor-Essex

It's the seventh edition of the annual Christmas album and charity concert by Windsor-Essex rock supergroup The S'Aints. Performing Dec. 22 at Caesars Windsor.

Windsor Star - December 8, 2017

Once again, Christmas will rock for a good cause with the sound of [The S'Aints](#).

For a seventh consecutive year, the band of Windsor-Essex musical pros Jody Raffoul (vocals), Jeff Burrows (drums), Kelly Authier (vocals and keyboards), Kelly Hoppe (saxophone and harmonica), Wes Buckley (guitar), and David Cyrenne (bass) have recorded an album of holiday-themed songs and will perform a charity concert at Caesars Windsor.

This time, they're joined by back-up singers Liz Robinson and Stephanie Baker, plus Marty Bak handling programming and additional percussion.

All proceeds from album and ticket sales go to a variety of community service organizations.



Jody Raffoul and Jeff Burrows of The S'Aints performing at the Windsor Star's News Cafe on Dec. 8, 2017. Dan Janisse / Windsor Star

This year's track list:

1. Chuck Berry – Run Run Rudolph
2. Jackie Wilson – (Your Love Keeps Lifting Me) Higher and Higher
3. Brenda Lee – No Place Like Home / Rocking Around the Christmas Tree
4. The Rolling Stones – Gimme Shelter
5. Wham! – Last Christmas
6. Jody Raffoul – Like a Star
7. Stevie Wonder – Living For the City
8. Jackie DeShannon – Put a Little Love in Your Heart
9. Thunderclap Newman – Something in the Air
10. Pink Floyd – Us and Them
11. Erik Satie – Gymnopedie



Kelly Hoppe plays saxophone while Jody Raffoul looks on as The S'Aints perform at the Windsor Star's News Cafe on Dec. 8, 2017. Dan Janisse / Windsor Star



Kelly Authier of The S'Aints performing at the Windsor Star's News Cafe on Dec. 8, 2017. Dan Janisse / Windsor Star

**The S'Aints perform on Dec. 22 at The Colosseum at [Caesars Windsor](http://CaesarsWindsor.com) (377 Riverside Dr. East). Concert begins 8 p.m., all ages welcome. Ticket prices start at \$20, available via [caesarswindsor.com](http://caesarswindsor.com), [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca), or the casino's box office.**

**To purchase this year's album — Hope For Hunger — visit [www.sleighinghunger.com](http://www.sleighinghunger.com).**

**Proceeds benefit the Unemployed Help Centre, the Windsor Homes Coalition, Goodfellows Windsor, The Welcome Centre Shelter for Women, Outreach For Hunger (Chatham), and St. Clair College.**



Jeff Burrows of The S'Aints performing at the Windsor Star's News Cafe on Dec. 8, 2017. Dan Janisse / Windsor Star



# Windsor man paralyzed in Michigan skiing accident faces steep medical bills

CTV Windsor - December 8, 2017

A Windsor man now faces a life as a paraplegic, with very expensive medical bills, after a serious skiing accident in Michigan.

Shawn Florence, 24, was severely injured after crashing into a fence on Nov. 26 at the Pine Knob Ski and Snowboard resort in Clarkston, Michigan.

Florence sustained 13 broken ribs, a collapsed lung and permanent damage to his spinal cord.



Shawn Florence, 24, has been transferred to Windsor Regional Hospital in Windsor, Ont., Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017.

Florence was rushed to St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital in Pontiac, where he spent several days in the intensive care unit. After a week, he was moved to Windsor Regional Hospital.

In addition to dealing with his paralysis, Florence is now facing hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical bills.

Florence did not have out of country medical insurance, and has yet to receive the bills for his care at the Michigan hospital.

His girlfriend, Tiffany Laporte, has created a [GoFundMe](#) page with a goal to raise \$150,000.

Florence says the money would help offset medical bills, but Laporte says any support would be great.

“We also do need emotional support,” says Laporte. “Something like this is very hard to go through.”

Florence, his girlfriend and his family say they are trying to remain optimistic as they face a long road of rehabilitation.

Florence was born and raised in Leamington, and has been active in the community, umpiring baseball games in the county. He graduated from St. Clair College and is a computer science student at the University of Windsor. Florence also works at KelCom in Windsor, where his co-workers are supporting his recovery.

Florence hopes to be able to transfer to Parkwood Institute at St. Joseph’s Health Care in London, a rehab centre that helps spinal injury patients rehabilitate and re-train their bodies.

# Knobby's Kids scores \$5,000 gift

Windsor Star - December 9, 2017

Knobby's Kids scored a \$5,000 donation Saturday.

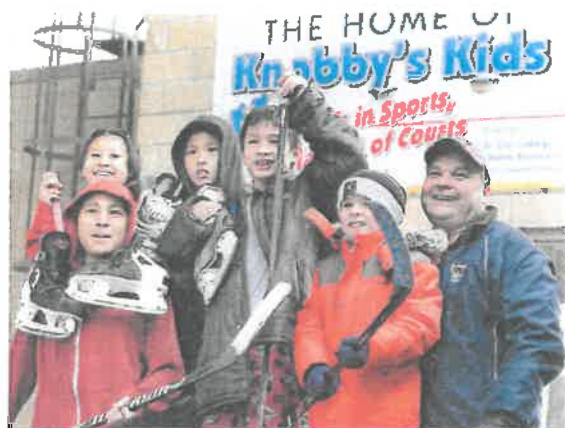
The St. Clair College Alumni Association donated the money to the group at Lanspeary Park, to help more youngsters have fun on the ice.

Knobby's Kids is a skating and hockey program for youngsters who cannot afford to play in organized leagues.

Knobby's Kids organizer Marty Kerester joined a number of current and past members for the check presentation — and, as always, to enjoy themselves on skates.



Graduates of Knobby's Kids Hockey program parade around the ice at Windsor Lions Outdoor Rink following another \$5,000 donation by St. Clair College Alumni Association on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017. Nick Brancaccio / Windsor Star

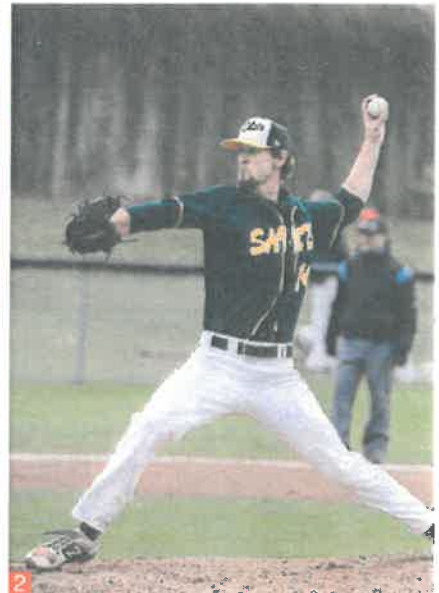
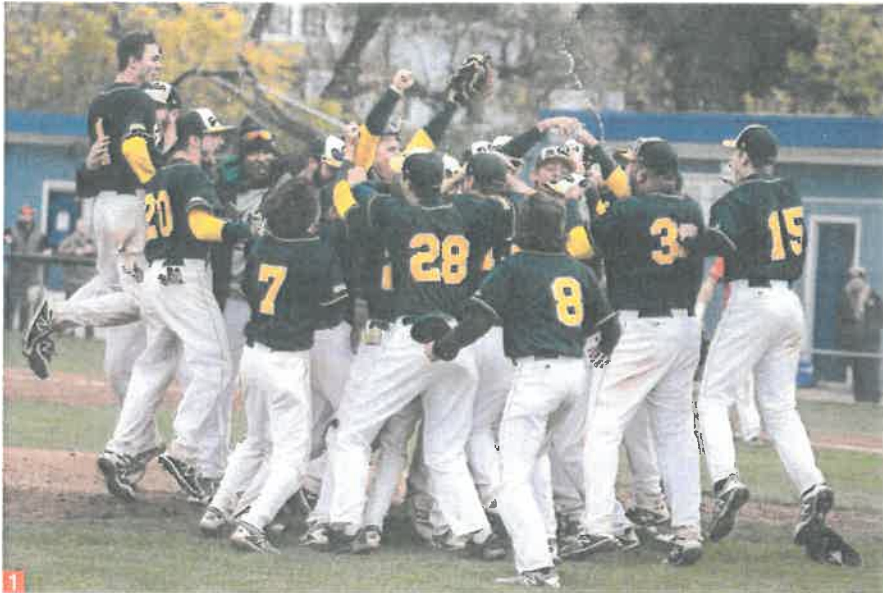


After celebrating a \$5,000 donation by St. Clair College Alumni Association, Knobby's Kids gather for a group photograph at Lanspeary Park Saturday Dec. 9, 2017. Knobby's Kids organizer Marty Kerester, right, is joined by participants Mimi Wah, 11, left, Thamu Kur, 12, Htoo Wah, 10, Kyae Lie, 10 and Keegan Davis, 6. Nick Brancaccio / Windsor Star

# PRESS PASS

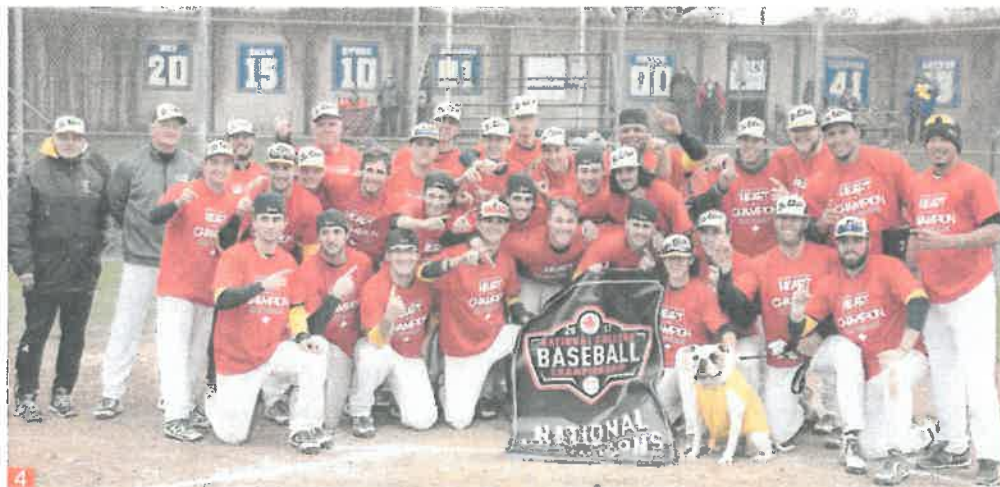
## ST. CLAIR COLLEGE BASEBALL WINS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

STORY BY TED BEALE / PHOTOGRAPHY BY DURHAM COLLEGE ATHLETICS AND ALLAN FOURNIER



THE ST. CLAIR COLLEGE MEN'S BASEBALL started well at the National Invitational Championship Tournament being hosted by Durham College in Oshawa Oct. 26 winning 10-1 over Fanshawe College (London) in their first game at noon and then followed that up with an 8-3 decision over Humber College (Etobicoke) later that afternoon. St. Clair finished pool play with a 3-1 record after splitting a pair of games Oct. 27 dropping their morning game to host Durham College by a score of 3-0 but rebounded for a resounding 8-0 victory over College Abuntsic from Montreal, QC later that day.

Advancing to the semi-final the Saints defeated Holland College (Charlottetown, PEI) the ▶



1. St. Clair College Men's Baseball team celebrating their National Championship following the final out of at Oshawa's Kinsmen Memorial Stadium. St. Clair won the game 3-2 over Fanshawe College.

2. St. Clair Pitcher and Player of the Game Taylor Pappin delivering a pitch in the Championship final.

3. St. Clair third baseman and Championship MVP Matt Bondy sliding safely into third after hitting a triple in the final game.

4. St. Clair Men's Baseball team posing with the Championship Banner following the final game.

# Merry Christmas

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at the



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morning of Oct. 28 by a score of 4-1 qualifying them for the Championship final. In the semi-final win St. Clair pitcher Kyle Breitner (Mississauga, ON) turned in another outstanding performance and was rewarded with Player of the Game honours. In wet and cool conditions Breitner threw a complete game 2-hitter allowing only 1 earned run while striking out 11 batters. Making the effort even more memorable for Breitner was that he reached 300 career strikeouts as a Saint with his final whiff. The Championship game was originally scheduled for later in the afternoon Oct. 28 but persistent rains in the Oshawa area forced a postponement until Oct. 29.

The afternoon of Oct. 29 St. Clair claimed their 2nd National Championship with a 3-2 victory over Fanshawe College (London, ON) at Oshawa's Kinsmen Memorial Stadium. The win avenges last year's 2-1 loss in the Championship game to Fanshawe and puts a stamp on quite a season for the Saints who also won an OCAA Regular Season Title and a Playoff Provincial Championship.

In the final game the Saints fell behind 1-0 in the top of the 1st inning but responded quickly in the bottom half to take back a 3-1 lead. The teams played scoreless until the 7th inning when Fanshawe scored a run and threatened to tie the game with runners aboard. But Player of the Game and St. Clair starting pitcher Taylor Pappin (Brantford, ON) put a cap on his performance to secure the complete game win. Pappin wasn't 100% after being ill the previous few days but gave up only 2 earned runs on 5 hits while striking out 7 Fanshawe batters in the gutsy performance. Saints third baseman Matt Bondy (Amherstburg, ON) had a triple and a single with 2 RBI's on his way to winning the Championship Most Valuable Player Award. Also contributing at the plate for St. Clair was Michael McKay (Miramichi, NB) who had a double and two walks to go with an RBI.

Pappin was given the Championship Top Pitcher Award in addition to being named to the All-Star Team as the Top Left Handed Pitcher. Other Saints joining Pappin on the Championship All-Star team were Matt Bondy (Third Base), Carson Burke (Outfield), Curtis Cunningham (Designated Hitter) and Kyle Breitner (Top Right Handed Pitcher).

The St. Clair Men's Baseball team finished with 22-5 overall record after a 14-4 regular season and an 8-1 playoff tally. WUM

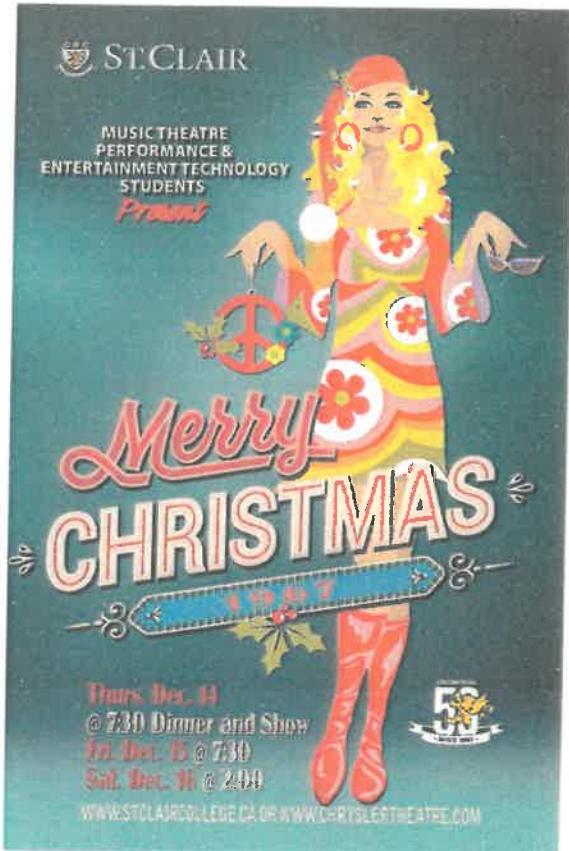
# PHOTOS: Snowfall At St. Clair College

WindsoriteDOTca News - Tuesday December 12th, 2017



# St. Clair College Presents: Merry Christmas 1967

WindsoriteDOTca News - Wednesday December 13th, 2017



St. Clair College Performing Arts students will deliver a family-friendly musical that's fun for all ages this weekend.

Merry Christmas 1967 brings the magic of Christmas alive for audiences and elves alike with show-stopping dancing and vibrant musical numbers that echo the free spirit of the sixties.

The show transports audience members to Christmas of 1967, the year the college was first established, and features a groovy sound track of classic re-mastered hit songs made famous by artists like the Monkees, Stevie Wonder and the Beatles.

"We are always proud to bring the spirit of Christmas to our audiences," says director Katherine Kaszas, "Students in both programs have built a remarkable show that will get audiences dancing in the aisles."

Merry Christmas 1967 will be performed at the Chrysler Theater on December 14th and 15th at 7:30pm, and December 16th at 2pm.

Tickets can be purchased at the Chrysler Theatre's box office or online. Adults are \$20 and students are \$10. For further information, call 800-387-9181 or visit [ChryslerTheatre.com/events](http://ChryslerTheatre.com/events).

# A Warm Christmas Dinner Brings Hundreds Through The Snow

AM800 CKLW - December 13th 2017



Sherry Thompson (right) along with 9-year-old Madison Emond (upper left) enjoy the Salvation Army Christmas Dinner held at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts on December 13, 2017. (Photo by Ricardo Veneza)

Another successful Salvation Army Christmas Dinner as upwards of 700 people braved a snow storm blowing through Windsor to attend the annual event.

There were 170 volunteers helping to serve the packed dining hall at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts on Wednesday night.

The Salvation Army Band entertained the happy crowd with renditions of "Silver Bells" and "Do You Hear What I Hear" with the small group of musicians working as the focal point of the room.

Eric Turner from Windsor says it's an evening he doesn't like to miss.

"We try to make it out to the dinner every year, even through the crazy weather — dedicated fans; love the service, love the atmosphere, the love in the air, Christmas time," says Turner. "I've been coming here for a long time, I'm just glad that I get to share it with my kids now right?"



The annual Salvation Army Christmas Dinner is held at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts in Windsor on December 13, 2017. (Photo by Ricardo Veneza)

Turkey smothered in gravy served alongside steamed veggies with plenty of bread was the main course before a sundae dish of ice cream topped off with piped cream and chocolate drizzle helped to sweetly round out the evening. Christmas trees on either end of the room helped add a warm glow while the blowing snow added a picturesque backdrop.

Fellow Windsorite, Sherry Thompson, says the Salvation Army holds a special place in her heart.

"I have newspaper articles of my grandfather trying to get help when him and my grandmother first got married, he was turned down by the city for welfare and it was the Salvation Army that helped him out."



The annual Salvation Army Christmas Dinner is held at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts in Windsor on December 13, 2017. (Photo by Ricardo Veneza)

Marc Plurde from Windsor says the Salvation Army was there for him in his past having lived under the group's roof seven years ago.

"They're amazing people," says Plurde. "They take people in who have no homes or if they have an addiction — whether it's drugs or alcohol — they try to help them out. They actually do a phenomenal job with the community."

Meantime, the Salvation Army's Kettle Campaign in Windsor is struggling to reach the \$315,000 goal.

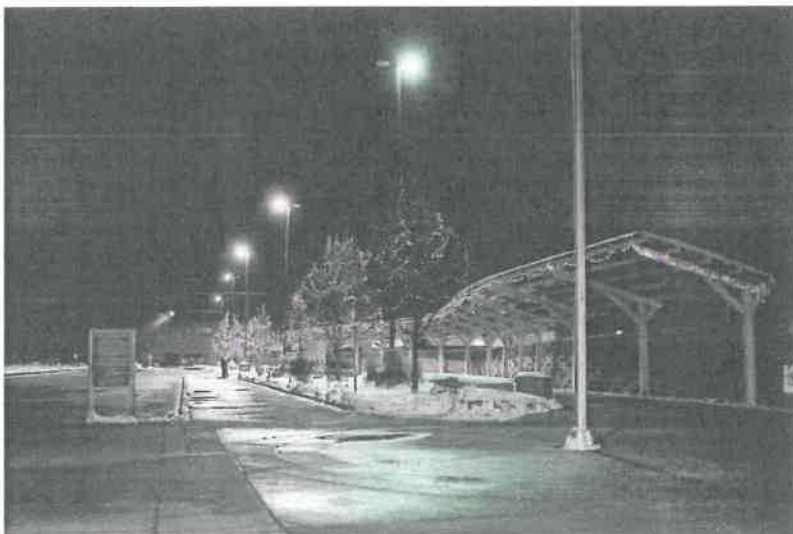


# Christmas Visual: St. Clair College

WindsoriteDOTca News - Tuesday December 19th, 2017



Christmas lights on the campus of St. Clair College.



# The S'Aints gearing up for concert to help fight hunger in Windsor-Essex



CTV Windsor

Published Thursday, December 21, 2017

A group of philanthropic rockers are helping everyone get in the giving spirit.

The S'Aints have been helping fight hunger in our community for several years with a family-friendly concert at Caesars Windsor.

The S'Aints founding members Jody Raffoul and Tea Party drummer, Jeff Burrows are joined by by Wes Buckley, Kelly "Mr. Chill" Hoppe, David Cyrenne, Kelly Authier, Marty Bak, Liz Robinson and Stephanie Baker.

Burrows says the audience will be entertained with another great show this year.

"What to expect this year is another full on concert, beautiful lights, beautiful sound," says Burrows. "We've got guests ranging from The Horns of Dilemma to the sinners choir to Pete Palazzolo of the Palazzolo family in Windsor."

Burrows says he expects more children will be able to attend.

"It's on a Friday night this year, which is spectacular, because sometimes on the Sunday the kids aren't able to join us and it is a family event, family friendly," says Burrows.

The musicians are putting their own rock flavor to some traditional holiday tunes and rock classics. The S'Aints will perform songs from their current record including "Last Christmas", "Run Run Roudolph."

"It's an early night and it's a great way to kick off the holidays," says Burrows.

The collaborative concert with St. Clair College and Caesars Windsor Cares raises funds for local area food banks.

Tickets are available [online](#) or at the Caesars Windsor box office.

# Five local foodbanks receive timely Christmas gift



CTV Windsor

Published Friday, December 22, 2017

The annual Sleighing Hunger fundraising concert raised \$50,000 that will be evenly split between five Windsor-Essex foodbanks.

Through a partnership with The S'Aints Band, St. Clair College and Caesars Windsor Cares, the donation will go to The Unemployed Help Centre, The Goodfellows, Outreach for Hunger in Chatham, Welcome Shelter for Women and the Windsor Homes Coalition.

“We are proud to host this incredible fundraising concert year after year and make a donation that we know will make a significant impact to those in need in our community,” says Tim Trombley, director of entertainment, Caesars Windsor.

The S'Aints will take center stage Friday night at the annual holiday concert at 8 p.m. and tickets are still available.

“This year, St. Clair College is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with 50 Acts from the Heart, celebrating community work completed by students and staff,” said Ron Seguin, vice president of international relations, training and campus development at St. Clair College.

“The Sleighing Hunger performance marks our final 50<sup>th</sup> act of 2017 and we are pleased to wrap up our yearlong celebration by helping our local non-profits and families dealing with hunger,” says Seguin.

The donation is a combination of CD sales, a \$25,000 contribution from Caesars Windsor Cares and ticket sales.

“The Unemployed Help Centre is thrilled to be a recipient of the concert again this year,” says June Muir, CEO, Unemployed Help Centre.

“The holiday season is a very busy time for our Food Bank as it accounts for nearly 50 per cent of our annual campaign. Funds raised during the holiday season ensure our shelves are stocked throughout the year,” says Muir.

The past three Sleighing Hunger shows raised more than \$135,000 for local non-profits and foodbanks.

The show is a great holiday tradition for the entire family. Audiences will enjoy their favourite holiday songs, with an edgy twist including “Last Christmas”, “Run Run Rudolph”, and “Gymnopedie”.



Representatives from five Windsor and Chatham food banks display the donations they received from ticket sales to the 2017 Sleighing Hunger concert at Caesars Windsor, December 22, 2017. Photo by Mark Brown, Blackburn News.

## Concert Raises Money For Five Area Food Banks

Blackburn News - December 22, 2017 4:12pm

An annual holiday concert is benefiting some southwestern Ontario food banks.

Ticket sales from Friday night's Sleighing Hunger concert at Caesars Windsor are supporting five of the area's food banks, as part of their efforts to stamp out hunger this holiday season.

The agencies being supported are the Unemployed Help Centre, the Goodfellows, the Welcome Centre Shelter for Women, the Windsor Homes Coalition, and the Chatham Outreach for Hunger. Each is receiving \$10,000. Another portion of the proceeds is going toward St. Clair College's general scholarship and bursaries fund.

The concert, which features the band The S'Aints and has become an annual holiday event at Caesars Windsor, is held in collaboration with St. Clair College and Caesars Windsor Cares, the casino's community service initiative. In addition to the ticket sales, the donation includes proceeds from CD sales and \$25,000 from the casino itself.

St. Clair College President Patti France said that she hopes that, in time, this kind of fundraising will no longer be necessary.

"It would be wonderful if poverty, hunger, unemployment and homelessness did not exist in our community," said France. "Perhaps there will come a day when we will be able to relax our fundraising efforts because those ills of society have been eliminated."

Tim Trombley, director of entertainment at Caesars Windsor, says they were very happy with the demand for tickets to this year's concert.

"Because of the success of the ticket sales, which are very strong this year, thousand of local families will be fed and have a brighter holiday," says Trombley.

The casino says the last three Sleighing Hunger concerts have raised a total of \$135,000 for local non-profits.

# Concert raises \$50,000 for local charities

Windsor Star - December 22, 2017

Five local charities got \$10,000 each Friday from the annual Sleighing Hunger fundraising concert by the S'Aints at Caesars Colosseum.

A joint effort by the band, St. Clair College and Caesars Windsor Cares, the Friday concert raised \$50,000. The money will go to The Unemployed Help Centre, The Goodfellows, Outreach for Hunger in Chatham, Welcome Shelter for Women and the Windsor Homes Coalition.

The donation is a combination of CD sales, a \$25,000 contribution from Caesars Windsor Cares and ticket sales.

"We are overwhelmed by the generous support we have received from our community," said S'Aints drummer Jeff Burrows of the Tea Party.

The band is a philanthropic project featuring Jody Raffoul, Wes Buckley, Kelly Hoppe, David Cyrenne, Kelly Authier, Marty Bak, Liz Robinson and Stephanie Baker.

"We are proud to host this incredible fundraising concert year after year and make a donation that we know will make a significant impact to those in need in our community," said Tim Trombley, Caesars Windsor's director of entertainment.

June Muir, CEO of the Unemployed Help Centre said she was thrilled her food bank was a beneficiary of the concert again this year. "Funds raised during the holiday season ensure our shelves are stocked throughout the year."

The past three Sleighing Hunger shows have raised more than \$135,000 for local non-profits and foodbanks.

# LaSalle transit to start collecting fares Jan. 2

Windsor Star - December 29, 2017

Transit riders in LaSalle will need to dig into their pockets beginning Jan. 2 as the free rides end.

After a busy four-month start to the public bus service that provided 13,000 free rides on the LaSalle Transit 25 route, a \$3 one-way fare will now be required.

Riders can transfer for free to Transit Windsor routes including the South Windsor 7, Dougall 6 and Dominion 5, allowing access to places like St. Clair College, the University of Windsor, downtown Windsor and Devonshire Mall.

“We are pleased with LaSalle Transit and have received many positive comments from our residents,” Mayor Ken Antaya said.

The service is in partnership with Transit Windsor.

“Transit Windsor has heard many positive comments on the service being provided on the LaSalle 25 route,” said Patrick Delmore, executive director. “The partnership between the two municipalities in providing public transit has certainly been a positive experience thus far.”

Bus tickets and passes are available at the LaSalle Civic Centre, 5950 Malden Rd., the Vollmer Complex, 2121 Laurier Pkwy, the Windsor International Transit Terminal, 300 Chatham St. W. and all Transit Windsor third-party locations.

Bus passes require photo identification, which must be obtained at the Windsor terminal or at the Transit Centre, 3700 North Service Rd.

LaSalle buses run Monday to Saturday, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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YEAR!**

St. Clair College is proud to have shared its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year with students, staff, alumni and the entire community. Thank you for your continued support of higher education in Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent.

Wishing you all the best in 2018.



stclaircollege.ca

# St. Clair College esports team holds tryouts, scholarships offered to top video gamers

College's Saints Gaming team offers scholarships to players based on their skill level

[CBC News](#) Jan 04, 2018



Students are trying out for the Esports team at St. Clair College. (Meg Roberts/ CBC News )

In a small study room that was recently converted into the 'training room,' several St. Clair College students sit in front of monitors playing video games. In the upcoming days students are trying out for the college's esports team.

And for top players, the payoff could be big.

"We are looking to see if there is any new talent that we didn't catch in the first semester to see if we can bring in some new faces," said Shaun Byrne, esports Director for Saints Gaming.

This is Saints Gaming's second semester operating as a varsity team. St. Clair College was the first school in Canada with a competitive video game — or esports — team.



Players sit in a room called "the nest" which is where the team trains. Although the games takes place online, the team competes like any other athletic program at the college. Students have to try out for the squad and they are expected to keep their marks up while on a very busy training schedule.

"You get treated the same way as any of the traditional sports varsity athletes on campus," said Byrne. "We give them scholarships, send them to tournaments and they represent their school on a North American scale."

"Being a college student — money is tight so having a varsity scholarship and being able to do something you really like and really enjoy doing and being paid to do it ... I find really awesome," - *Matthew Hughes, first-year nursing student*



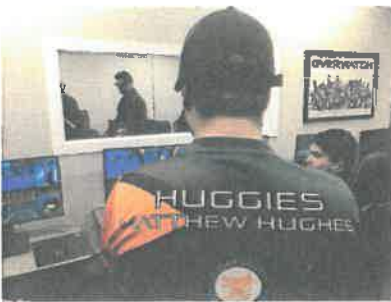
The St. Clair team is made up of 35 students who are split into seven teams. Each team plays a different video game. Last semester, two out of the seven teams placed in the top 20 of 300 North American esports teams, which far exceeded the leagues expectations.

## Playing payoff

Matthew Hughes, a first year nursing student, was on the team last semester and has hopes to make it again this time. He said like any other varsity sport, the commitment "is kind of demanding."

But the scholarship is worth it.

"Being a college student — money is tight so having a varsity scholarship and being able to do something you really like and really enjoy doing and being paid to do it ... I find really awesome," he said.



Matthew Hughes is trying out for the team for the second semester in a row. Every player gets a Jersey with their real name and video game username. Hughes' username is "Huggies".

Scholarships are offered to players based on their skill level and range from \$500 a semester to a full ride.

Hughes said along with the financial help, he likes the social aspect of the sport and has made a lot of friends through being on the team.

"They're putting in as much work as other [varsity] players ... eventually it will become a normality,"  
- *Ethan Sinclair, Saints Gaming coach*

His coach, Ethan Sinclair, said the program proves video games don't have to be isolating and players are able to build relationships through the team setting.

"It's bringing them a way to come together as a team and be there physically with each other ... first bumping after you get an incredible play," said Sinclair.

Sinclair, who used to play before coaching the team, makes sure the players are training hard, are focused, and on time to their games and practices.

"They're putting in as much work as other [varsity] players ... eventually it will become a normality," he said.

Saints Gaming has plans to travel to Montreal, Toronto and Michigan for tournaments in the upcoming semester.

# Jordan McGrail humbled by nomination, but ready to fight

Chatham Daily News - Saturday, January 6, 2018



Jordan McGrail has been picked by local New Democrats to be the party's candidate to run in the riding of Chatham-Kent-Leamington in the upcoming provincial election. She was all smiles after the NDP candidate nomination meeting held in Tilbury, Ont. on Saturday January 6, 2018.

TILBURY – Local NDP members have chosen political rookie Jordan McGrail to be the party's candidate for Chatham-Kent-Leamington in the upcoming provincial election.

On Saturday, McGrail defeated long-time New Democrat Dan Gelinias, who represented the NDP in the 2014 provincial election, during a candidate nomination meeting hosted by the Chatham-Kent-Leamington Ontario NDP Riding Association in Tilbury.

“I feel pretty humble,” McGrail told The Chatham Daily News after winning the nomination. “But, I feel that we have a fight and that I have the energy and I have the community behind me, and we have a real chance at making a difference here in Chatham-Kent-Leamington,” she added.

McGrail, who says she is “close to that 40 number” when asked her age, has been politically active for the past 18 months advocating across the province to save public services in Canada and Ontario.

She is concerned about the impact of services such as Hydro One and the OLG becoming privatized.

“Our coffers of Ontario . . . they’re becoming empty,” McGrail said. “If we don’t have this money from assets like Hydro One and OLG, how are we going to pay for good schools, how are we going to pay for hospitals, how are we going to pay for road clearing?”

She is ready to take on the challenge of contesting incumbent Progressive Conservative MPP Rick Nicholls, who is seeking a third term, and is not worried about her lack of political experience.

“Millennials are now passing baby-boomers as the most eligible age group to vote,” McGrail said. “When I look at a millennial and I look at what they need, I’ve been through their struggles . . . and I think they can relate better to myself.” She also believes being well-versed in social media and how to connect with younger voters will be an asset. And she feels the skills she has gained advocating to save public services, and the skills to mobilize communities, will also help her as a politician.

Local NDP riding association president John Willatt, said, "I'm delighted for Jordan, because she represents the next generation." He noted some people may see the younger generation as being apathetic, but he pointed to the fact McGrail won over a more experienced candidate on Saturday.

"People are excited by someone of Jordan's age coming into the process and hopefully winning the next election," Willatt said. He added if she won, it is hoped she could continue for two or three terms. McGrail said she is looking forward to getting out to meet people in the community and getting people engaged. She said it is important to keep rural Ontario going "so our kids have the chance to stay here and have a great family and great community, just like we did growing up.

# PHOTOS: Local FIRST Robotics Teams Receive Funding From St. Clair College And University Of Windsor

WindsoriteDOTca News - January 6th, 2018



Saturday morning was an exciting time for local [FIRST Robotics Competition](#) participants, with this year's game and competition being released for teams to begin working on via a live world-wide video conference. In addition to that, teams got together at St. Clair College's Student Life Centre to receive a sponsorship of \$1,000 from both St. Clair College and the University of Windsor. The sponsorship was given to each of the 19 teams—giving each team \$2,000 in funding.

This year's game that the local high school students will be working towards winning is called "Power Up," with more information being released on it today for the teams to start working on.





# NDP chooses new candidate for Chatham-Kent—Leamington

Windsor Star - January 7, 2018

The New Democratic Party has chosen a new candidate to run in Chatham-Kent—Leamington for the upcoming provincial election.

Jordan McGrail was nominated over Dan Gelinas, who ran in the last election, during a nomination meeting Saturday in Chatham.

“Families in this region need more public services – not more cuts,” said McGrail. “Students deserve more resources and opportunities, not cuts in classrooms. Patients deserve shorter waits for care, not more healthcare layoffs. People are really feeling the squeeze, and I know we can do so much better to make life easier.”

McGrail is a mechatronics technologist at St.Clair College’s Thames Campus. She is also a volunteer who has worked on campaigns to encourage women to pursue careers in technology, and the We Own It campaign fighting further privatization of government services.

McGrail said NDP leader Andrea Horwath’s plan for pharmacare — a prescription drug plan for all Ontarians regardless of age or income — and the plan to put Hydro One back into public hands are important issues for her region.

“It’s time for a plan that offers hope for everyday families,” said McGrail.

“We can’t give Kathleen Wynne another chance to do more damage. But Patrick Brown and the Conservatives aren’t the answer, either. They support Wynne’s hydro plan, and their platform says they won’t change a thing when it comes to hydro.”

The election will be held June 7.

# schools

## FIRST Robotics kickoff 2018




St. Clair College hosted the FIRST Robotics kick off of the 2018 season. Nineteen high school teams from Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent were on hand to receive a sponsorship from ST. Clair College of \$1,000 for every team that is participating this year. As well, any student who enrolls in a St. Clair College program in September 2018 also receives a \$1000.00 tuition scholarship. Lakeshore schools who are participating include Belle River District High School and St. Anne's Catholic High School. The event takes place from March 30 until Apr. 1. Further detail can be found at [www.firstroboticscanada.org/events/category/frc/list/](http://www.firstroboticscanada.org/events/category/frc/list/)



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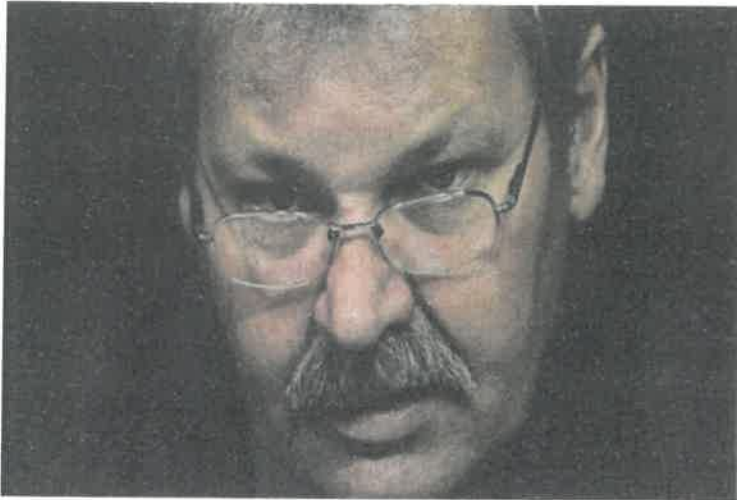


at  
**Lakeshore News**

# Part-time staff at Ontario's 24 colleges vote to unionize, OPSEU says

The vote to join OPSEU took place in 2016, but was not counted until this week

The Canadian Press / CBC - Jan 11, 2018



OPSEU president Warren (Smokey) Thomas called the vote a "magnificent victory."

Approximately 20,000 part-time support staff at the province's colleges have voted to join the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

OPSEU says 84 per cent of the ballots counted were cast in favour of joining the union.

It says the supervised vote at all 24 Ontario community colleges was held in June 2016, but legal wrangling by the College Employer Council kept ballots from being counted until this week.

OPSEU president Warren (Smokey) Thomas called the vote "a magnificent victory for part-time college support staff and for all the people who worked hard for so many years to win union rights for them."

OPSEU has long represented full-time staff at the colleges, but it was illegal for part-time employees to organize.

The union says a campaign it began in 2004 resulted in the provincial government amending the Colleges Collective Bargaining Act in 2008 to grant them the right to unionize.



# College's Part-time Support Staff Vote To Unionize

AM800 CKLW - January 11, 2018



St. Clair College Main Campus

Part-time support staff at St. Clair College have officially voted to become members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

The college's Support Staff President Connie Collins is calling the move to unionize a major victory for precarious workers who, until now, had little to no job security.

"A lot of work ahead now trying to get the part-timers all together and get them their own collective agreement and finally going to get some rights, some job security equal pay. So it's absolutely amazing."

St. Clair was part of a vote held at all 24 colleges across the province with 84% of workers voting to join OPSEU.

Collins says this is something they've been fighting for for years.

"This, for us, is an amazing, amazing event. I think most of us are still kind of speechless and still in that awe phase because we truly, as much as we were excited for this day to come, I think it's still kind of surreal that it actually happened."

Collins says they'll be using the full-time agreement as a template for a new contract.

"They do have a lot of issues and concerns on their own end. So as to what exactly it's going to look like, I'm not really sure. It will really be up to all of the part-timers across the 24 colleges to get together, do their own bargaining teams and come up with demands and things that they actually want."

Ontario's approximately 20,000 college part-time support staff voted in June of 2016. After a legal battle with the College Employer Council, the ballots were counted earlier this week.

# St. Clair College's part-time support staff vote to unionize

Windsor Star - January 11, 2018

Part-time support staff at St. Clair College have voted to join the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

St. Clair was part of a province-wide vote that saw 84 per cent of the 20,000 part-time support staff at Ontario's 24 community colleges vote to join the union.

St. Clair College support staff president Connie Collins said she expects the fulltime support workers' collective agreement to be the template the two sides will follow in crafting an agreement for part-timers.

A new contract will be centrally bargained by OPSEU and the College Employer Council.

The release of the results of the vote, which was held in June, 2016, ends the legal wrangling between OPSEU and the College Employer Council that kept the ballots from being counted until this week. It's also the end of a 14-year organizing campaign that OPSEU said goes down as the largest in Canadian labour history.

"(It's) a magnificent victory for part-time college support staff and for all the people who worked hard for so many years to win union rights for them," said OPSEU president Warren (Smokey) Thomas in a press release announcing the vote results.

"The union movement is back and stronger than ever."

OPSEU has also mounted a province-wide organizing drive to represent more than 20,000 contract faculty in the colleges. That vote, which took place in October 2017, has yet to be counted by the OLRB.

# Mini Maker Faire Planned For St Clair College

The Square - 15 January 2018

(WINDSOR, ON) – The Maker Faire is coming to Windsor. The first annual Windsor-Essex Mini Maker Faire is scheduled for February 24, at St Clair College. The Call for makers, performers, and crafters is open now through January 31.

Entries can be submitted by individuals or by groups, such as hobbyist clubs and schools.

The Windsor-Essex Mini Maker Faire particularly encourages exhibits that are interactive and which highlight the process of making things. Any groups or individuals interested in participating in this inaugural event must [complete an online application by the end of January](#).

The Windsor-Essex Mini Maker Faire takes after other larger maker faire events such as Maker Faire Detroit. The Windsor-Essex Mini Maker Faire will be a smaller, community-focused event, but will follow the maker faire model of celebrating do-it-yourself creativity and tinkering.

Featuring both established and emerging local makers, the inaugural Windsor-Essex Mini Maker Faire is a family-friendly celebration featuring student projects, robotics, DIY science and technology, urban farming and sustainability, alternative energy, unique hand-made crafts, and interactive art projects.

Everyone in the community is welcome and attendance is free. Pre-registration is required.

[Visit online for more information.](#)

Maker Faire Windsor-Essex is independently produced by the University of Windsor EPICentre in partnership with the St Clair College Genesis Centre and in collaboration with Maker Media.

# Jarvis: Future lies in intellectual side of automotive sector, analyst says

Windsor Star - January 15, 2018

If Windsor is to remain a leader in Canada's auto industry, it must promote research, development and technology, veteran auto analyst and Windsor native Dennis DesRosiers said Sunday.

"The future of the auto sector in Essex County is the six inches between our ears," DesRosiers said at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

Windsor has been "very slow" to understand and prepare itself for the future of the industry, DesRosiers said, responding to a speech by former Toyota Canada chairman Ray Tanguay, now auto adviser to the provincial and federal governments.

"Windsor is years behind where they could have been if the whole community — the academic community, auto manufacturing sector and various levels of government — had put a full-court press on."

The city spent too much time in the past chasing "low probability stuff" like electric bus manufacturer BYD and making windmills, he said.

But "Windsor is not dead," DesRosiers said.

The University of Windsor led AUTO21, the national automotive research network that "put Windsor on the map," until 2015, when federal funding for it ended. Chrysler, Ford and some tool and mould plants also have research centres here.

"Windsor has the opportunity to go back and develop the intellectual side of the automotive sector," he said.

"It really needs to refocus on it," he said. "It comes down to the University of Windsor and St. Clair College."

Mayor Drew Dilkens "gets it" now, DesRosiers said.

"They've realized the intellectual side of the automotive sector can be very big and they're thinking more than just the next assembly plant," he said. "I think Dilkens...is doing a better job."

He cited Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne's announcement in November that Windsor and London will share \$5 million to help develop technology for autonomous and connected vehicles. The money is part of \$80 million over five years for the Autonomous Vehicle Innovation Network, which spans Stratford, Kitchener-Waterloo, Hamilton, Oshawa and Ottawa.

Dilkens announced last year that the city would apply for \$3 million a year from the fund.

“The technology is evolving and advancing every single day,” he said at the time. “We’re going to have to be able to keep up with the times.”

He also pitched Windsor’s unique position on the border with the United States as the best place to test how autonomous vehicles navigate an international crossing. Autonomous vehicles have already been tested crossing the border here several times, including a highly publicized test in July when two vehicles, a Chrysler and a Cadillac, embarked on a day trip from Windsor, across the border and up to Traverse City.

“The intellectual stuff is high probability stuff,” DesRosiers said. “The big advantage Windsor has is it’s a stone’s throw from Detroit. The people making these decisions are in Detroit. They want to touch and feel their product development. You’ve got a thousand decision-makers based in Detroit so Windsor is not a big leap.”

Stratford Mayor Dan Mathieson and that city’s economic development officials were at an electronics show in Japan last month and “there was a lineup to talk to them about autonomous vehicles and what’s going on in Stratford,” DesRosiers said.

The city was the first municipality in Ontario to offer city-wide Internet. It then partnered with its utility and the Automotive Parts Manufacturers’ Association to become a centre for testing autonomous and connected vehicles. Several companies are already conducting tests there, and there’s a “lineup” of companies that want to go there, DesRosiers said.

He called it “a little bit embarrassing” that Stratford is so far ahead of Windsor.

Stratford’s renowned theatre and music festivals and array of restaurants are also helping it draw companies, DesRosiers said.

“The intellectual class likes the arts,” he said. “They want that stuff.”

Tanguay talked about “the fusion” of the auto industry and technology.

“We can’t stay back and just let things happen,” he said of the industry. “We need to be able to evolve, to change, because if we don’t, somebody else will replace us.”

In addition to the innovation network, Ontario is preparing itself by trying to increase the number of graduates in science, technology, engineering and math to 50,000 from 40,000. It has also committed to 1,000 graduates with an applied master’s degree in artificial intelligence.

“We have to make sure we have the talent,” Tanguay said.

He also cited the importance of technology incubators and accelerators, with partnerships between universities, government and industry, in supporting start-up companies. Waterloo Region’s innovation hub, Communitech, is “one of the great examples,” he said.

Canada’s immigration laws are another advantage, Tanguay said.

“We welcome talent from anywhere in the world,” he said. “If you look at the talent in Silicon Valley, there’s a large percentage that are non-Americans.”

Canada is behind in the development of autonomous vehicle technology, according to a report by the Information and Communications Technology Council in Ottawa.

“Much work is needed to get Canada near the level of the world’s key AV players,” states the report, funded by the Canadian government.

The development of autonomous and connected vehicles could add 34,700 jobs by 2021, the report estimates.

“It is crucial that we take steps now in order to ensure that Canada remains competitive in this quickly developing and revolutionary field,” it states.

# St. Clair College seeking nominations for Alumni of Distinction

Windsor Star - January 16, 2018

St. Clair College is now accepting nominations for its annual Alumni of Distinction Awards.

Nominations can be made in the creative arts, technology, business, health sciences, community studies and a recent graduate (within five years).

The public can nominate graduates who have achieved success in their career, made a difference in their community and demonstrated a real commitment to others as a new graduate, employee or volunteer.

To nominate an individual who graduated from St. Clair College in Windsor, Chatham or the Western Ontario Institute of Ontario (W.O.I.T. the predecessor of St. Clair College located on Mercer Street in Windsor) go to [stclairalumni.com](http://stclairalumni.com) and click on the Alumni of Distinction ad for the nomination form.

The 26th Annual Alumni of Distinction Awards will be held in the spring at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts.

# Public consultation on police street checks coming to Windsor

Windsor will be one of 12 stops in a series of province-wide consultations to review Ontario's law on police street checks, also known as carding.

Windsor Star - January 16, 2018

Windsor will be one of 12 stops in a series of provincewide consultations to review Ontario's law on police street checks, also known as carding.

Appeal Court Justice Michael Tulloch will conduct the independent review of the regulation introduced last year on the collection of identifying information by police.

New rules took effect Jan. 1, 2017, requiring police to inform people they don't have to give their names or other identifying information during street checks. The rules state that refusing to co-operate or walking away can't be used as a reason to compel someone to give the information.

The aim of the regulation was to end arbitrary stops by police that some people have complained are based on race.

Tulloch is holding the consultations to hear views from the general public and people affected by street checks. He wants to know if the rules are being followed and whether they address the public concerns.

Tulloch will also meet with police services, police associations, community groups and other stakeholders.

The public consultations will be held between Feb. 1 and April 23, 2018. There will be three events in Toronto. The others will be held in Thunder Bay, Brampton, Hamilton, Ajax, Markham, London, Ottawa and Sudbury.

The public consultation in Windsor is April 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Skyline A ballroom at St. Clair College Centre for the Arts on Riverside Drive. Doors will open at 5 p.m.

Tulloch's report will be published by Jan. 1, 2019.



# Downtown Mission embracing fitness with new facility

Windsor Star - January 16, 2018

The Downtown Mission Wellness Centre is embracing its mind, body and spirit approach with the addition of a new fitness facility.

Mission executive director Ron Dunn said when the wellness centre opened last year at 875 Ouellette Ave., the goal was to offer a fitness centre. On Wednesday, the Cameron Robert Bell Fitness centre, filled with cardio and resistance equipment, opened its doors.

“We are all about mind, body and spirit,” he said. “We have the spirit covered, we have lots of programs to help work on people’s mental health and now we have the physical aspect.”

Dunn said the idea for the fitness centre came after visiting different agencies across Canada and the United States. Most had fitness centres incorporating programs like boxing, zumba and yoga for its clients.

Dunn hopes to add programs as the centre progresses. The centre is a partnership between the mission and St. Clair College Applied Arts and Technology. College students will staff the centre and assess participants’ limitations, needs and goals to build tailored programs.

“It gives the people we serve a chance to work on their overall wellness,” he said. “People who are in our recovery programs, folks from the wellness centre and people from the community who don’t take advantage of any of our other services and are looking for an opportunity to be fit and well — we have a full-service gym here.”

The room filled with rowing machines, stationary bikes, ellipticals trainers and treadmills along with resistance equipment, weights and yoga mats was donated by Dr. Robert Bell, whose grandson, Cameron, loved Brazilian jiu jitsu.

“He suffered from addiction issues and how he dealt with it was through physical fitness,” Dunn said. “Unfortunately Cameron succumbed to his addiction in 2017, so it’s very fresh. Dr. Bell contacted us and this is what he wanted to do.”

The Phoenix Recovery Program currently operates on the same floor as the fitness centre. Dunn said the plan is to build the gym and physical fitness into their existing programs. Also the Enterprise programs, for people with barriers to employment, will have access to the gym.

“It’s all about teaching people to refocus and maybe even reset,” he said. “We all have goals and it’s that time of year. So I think it’s a great time for us to launch. If we can replace habits with some new habits, it’s a great start.”

# Nomination Period Opens For Alumni Awards At St. Clair College

AM800 CKLW – January 17, 2018



AM800 file photo

The nomination period has opened for the St. Clair College Alumni of Distinction Awards.

The awards were established in 1992 to honour accomplishments made by St. Clair College graduates in Windsor and Chatham along with graduates from the Western Ontario Institute of Technology.

College spokesperson John Fairley says there are a number of categories that recognize successful graduates including creative arts, technology, business, health sciences and community studies.

Some past winners include AM800's Lynn Martin, Rocco Tulio and Rick Farrow.

Fairley says the college has honoured 102 graduates since the awards were established and the nomination period closes next month.

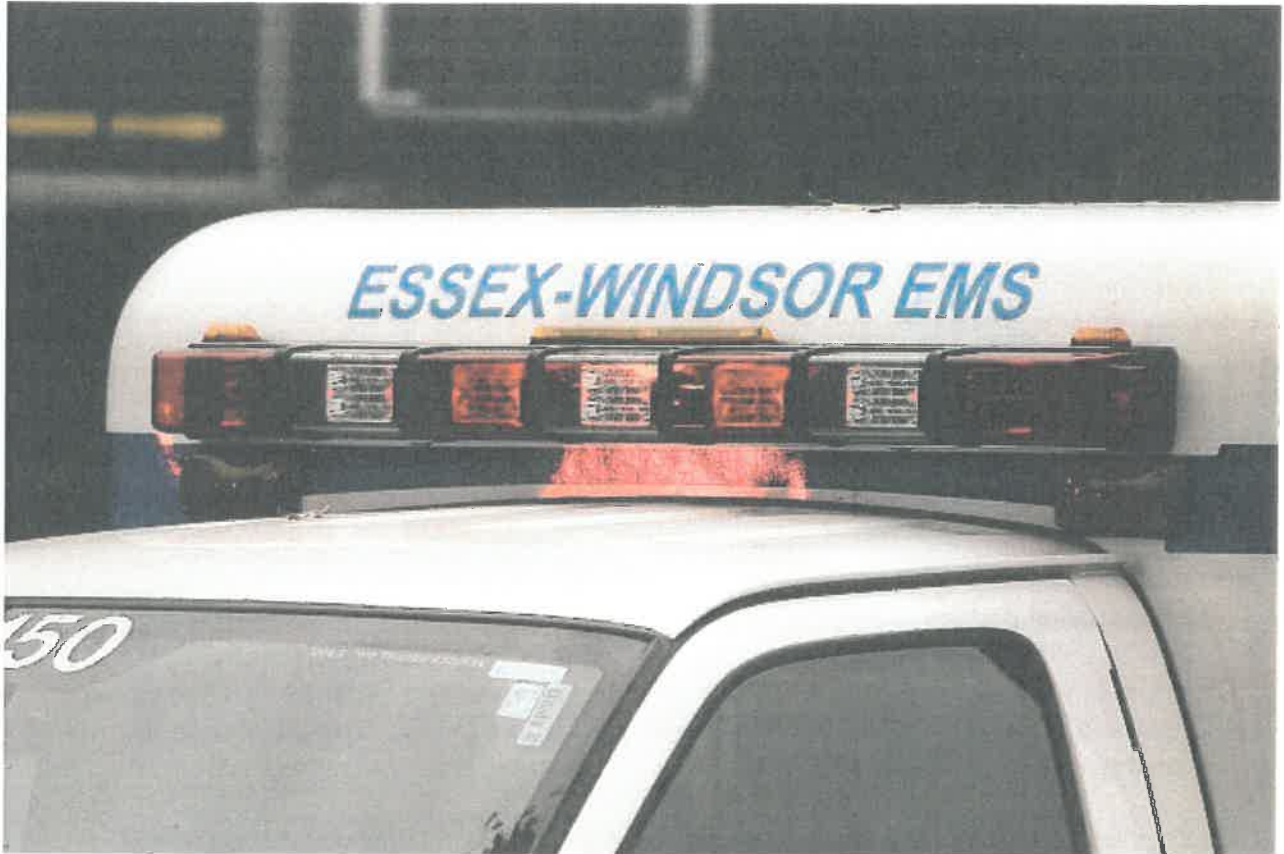
"Usually we try and get it done by mid-February," says Fairley. "So that's why we kind of do a month of nominations. We have a lot that have been nominated for other years that we carry over."

The 26th annual awards ceremony will be held in the spring. A date has not been announced.

The link to nominate an alumni member from St. Clair College is <http://www.stclaircollege.ca/alumni/aod/nomination.html>

# Old Ambulances To Benefit St. Clair College Paramedic Program

WindsoriteDOTca news - Wednesday January 17th, 2018



Future paramedics are going to get a new tool for hands-on training.

St. Clair College recently made a request to Essex Windsor EMS asking for the donation surplus ambulances to be used as a teaching tool as part paramedic program.

In past years, older ambulances no longer needed for service have been donated to St. John Ambulance, the Town of LaSalle Police Service, Jamaica, and Haiti.

The college last received an ambulance in 2009 and is still in use as a teaching tool.

The proposed donation would take place in 2018, 2019, 2023 and 2024.

County Council will be asked to approve the donation at their Wednesday meeting.

# Upcoming job fair at University of Windsor to be 'biggest one yet'

This year's job fair for University of Windsor and St. Clair College students will be held Jan. 24, featuring a list of 123 employers.

Windsor Star - January 17, 2018

University of Windsor and St. Clair College students preparing to enter the world of work will benefit from a massive job fair happening on Jan. 24.

"This is our biggest one yet," said Yvonne Currie, the university's career development coordinator.

[A long list of 123 employers](#) will be exhibiting at the St. Denis Centre, including manufacturing firms, tech companies, financial institutions, and public service agencies.

From Fiat Chrysler Automobiles to Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare to Windsor CrossFit, there are potential positions in a wide variety of fields.

Currie said the university and the college have teamed up annually to host the recruitment event for the past 19 years.

"Whether you want to have conversations about active employment opportunities, or you just want to build your network and gather information about what skills employers are looking for — it's really important to get that face-time with employers," Currie said.

Current and former University of Windsor and St. Clair College students are the focus: Admission is free for those with valid student identification.

Online pre-registration is recommended (via [www.uwindsor.ca/cces/job-fair](http://www.uwindsor.ca/cces/job-fair)). However, students will also be able to register at the door.

"We usually see somewhere between 1,200 to 1,500 students attending. We're expecting bigger numbers this year — Our pre-registration is already over 1,000," Currie said on Tuesday.

Career services staff from both the university and the college will be on hand to help students with their resumes and job pitches. They'll even help students update their [LinkedIn.com](https://www.linkedin.com) profiles.

Non-students who want to attend need to be vetted ahead of time. Contact [careerevents@uwindsor.ca](mailto:careerevents@uwindsor.ca). Admission for non-students is \$20.

**The job fair takes place Wednesday, Jan. 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Dennis Fairall Field House of the St. Denis Centre (2555 College Ave.). For more information and online registration, visit [www.uwindsor.ca/cces/job-fair](http://www.uwindsor.ca/cces/job-fair).**

# Nomination Open For St Clair Alum Awards

The Square - 17 January 2018



St Clair College unveiled the Alumni Wall of Distinction on 19 May 2017 as part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Photo courtesy of John Fairley/St Clair College.

(WINDSOR, ON) – In 1992, St Clair College established the Alumni of Distinction awards in recognition of graduates of the college and its predecessor, the Western Ontario Institute of Technology. To date 102 grads have been honoured by St Clair.

If you know of a graduate of St Clair who deserves to be recognized for their accomplishments, the window for nominations for the 26th annual awards is now open. [Click the link to let the college know](#) who has achieved success in their career, made a difference in their community, and demonstrated a real commitment to others as a new graduate, employee, or volunteer.

The Class of 2018 will include honourees in the disciplines of Creative Arts, Technology, Business, Health Sciences, Community Studies, and those who graduated within the last five years.

The awards ceremony will be held in the spring at the St Clair College Centre for the Arts.

# **This fitness centre is designed specifically for people battling addiction, poverty**

**'You can walk into this room and it lifts you up,'**

[CBC News](#) Posted: Jan 17, 2018



The Downtown Mission in Windsor has a new room with exercise equipment available to guests. (Chris Ensing/CBC)

Cameron Robert Bell was a fun loving, charming man that trained in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu as a way to help battle an addiction.

Now his name is cemented forever on a bronze plaque hanging inside a fitness centre aimed at improving the mental and physical health of people recovering from addiction in Windsor.

"Cameron had some issues in life," said his grandfather, Robert Bell, a local retired doctor.

On Wednesday the family attended the official opening of the fitness centre at the Downtown Mission where they were thanked for their donation to the project.

"You can walk into this room and it lifts you up," said Bell, pointing out the bright, natural light flowing into the room and highlighting motivational posters on the walls.

Bell said the centre is something that his grandson — who died last July at the age of 35 — would be proud of.



Robert Bell joked "we're broke now" after donating to help start the fitness centre in the Downtown Mission. (Chris Ensing/CBC)

"When Cameron died we decided we were going to donate to charity," said Bell.

As Bell and his wife weighed potential causes, they took a tour of the mission with the organization's executive director Ron Dunn.

"Almost as an after thought [Dunn] said 'In the future we would like to have a fitness centre.' That was Cameron. I knew right then this was a project we were going to support."

## **Fitness for addiction and mental health**

"We know that physical fitness has a role to play in recovery from addictions and treatment for mental health," said Dunn.

He cited research that shows as a person's physical health improves so does their mental and overall health.

"I felt so overjoyed just to be able to see our hard work actually come to life today." - *St. Clair student Arielle DiMenna*

"I never met Cam," said Dunn. "But at the mission we know lots of Cams... Lots of Cams come through our doors — great people who are stuck in an addiction, in a conflict."



Cameron Robert Bell was passionate about Brazillian Jiu Jitsu which he trained in to help keep sober, according to his grandfather. (Mount Pleasant Funeral Home)

Dunn said that having the donation come from the Bell family shows a true sign of support while also offering a warning of how serious the temptations of addictions can be.

"It's clearly a memorial plaque. Somebody has died," said Dunn. "And I hope that they ask us who he was."

## **Student run, donation driven**

St. Clair College students with the Health and Fitness Promotion Program spent time with people using the Downtown Mission and asked what they would like to see at the fitness centre.

"We got to listen to their wants and needs and we really put that into consideration when we were designing the facility," said student Arielle DiMenna.

"I felt so overjoyed just to be able to see our hard work actually come to life today."



Arielle DiMenna is one of the St. Clair College students who helped design the fitness centre to meet the needs of people at the Downtown Mission. (Chris Ensing/CBC)

Students will also help prepare programs specifically tailored to guests using the fitness centre.

"Feeling welcome," said DeMenna, as she recalled specifically what people wanted to see at the centre.

"Mixing mental health with physical health and just having an overall picture of wellness."



# Nominations Open For St. Clair College 2018 Alumni Of Distinction Awards

WindsoriteDOTca news - Wednesday January 17th, 2018



Nominations are now open for the St. Clair College 2018 alumni of distinction awards.

The awards were started in 1992 to honour accomplished graduates of St. Clair College in Windsor-Chatham and the Western Ontario Institute of Technology (W.O.I.T.) formerly located on Mercer Street in Windsor, the predecessor of the College.

Alumni are recognized in the following disciplines:

- Creative Arts
- Technology
- Business
- Health Sciences
- Community Studies
- Recent Graduate within 5 years

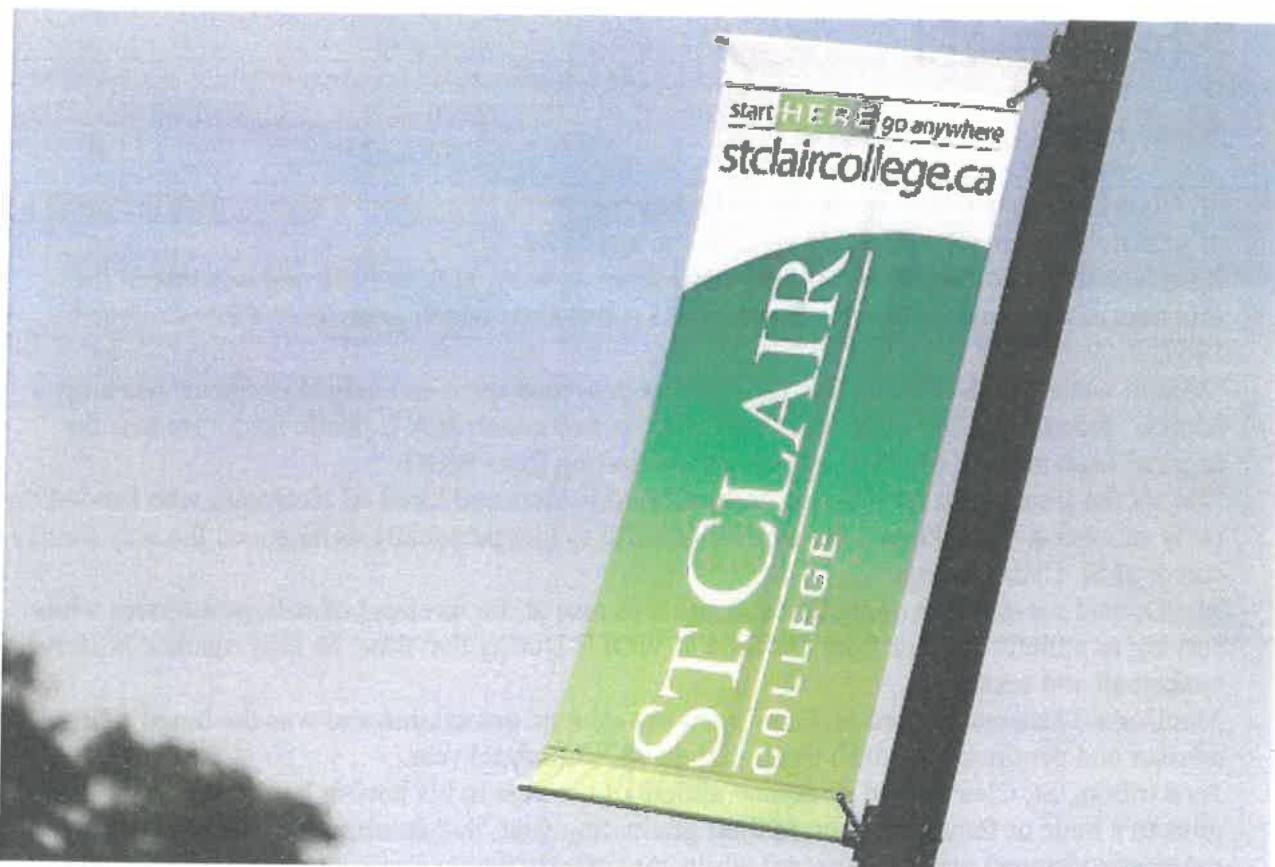
This is an opportunity for the public to nominate an outstanding graduate who have achieved success in their career, made a difference in their community and demonstrated a real commitment to others as a new graduate, employee or volunteer.

To nominate an individual visit [stclairalumni.com](http://stclairalumni.com) and click on the alumni of distinction ad for the nomination form.

The 26th Annual Alumni of Distinction Awards will be held in the spring at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts.

# Makers, Crafters And Performers Wanted For First Annual Windsor-Essex Mini Maker Faire

WindsoriteDOTca News - January 18th, 2018



The first annual Windsor-Essex Mini Maker Faire will take place on Saturday February 24th, 2018 and they are looking for Makers, Performers and Crafters

The Windsor-Essex Mini Maker Faire takes after other large Maker Faire events such as Maker Faire Detroit.

Taking place at St. Clair College, the Windsor-Essex Mini Maker Faire will be a smaller, community-focused event, but will follow the Maker Faire model of celebrating do-it-yourself creativity and tinkering.

Featuring both established and emerging local "makers," the inaugural Windsor-Essex Mini Maker Faire is a family-friendly celebration featuring student projects, robotics, DIY science and technology, urban farming and sustainability, alternative energy, unique hand-made crafts, and interactive art projects.

Entries can be submitted by individuals or by groups, such as hobbyist clubs and schools. The Windsor-Essex Mini Maker Faire particularly encourages exhibits that are interactive and that highlight the process of making things. Any groups or individuals interested in participating in this inaugural event must complete an application at <https://windsor-essex-makerfaire.com/call-for-makers/> by the end of January.

# Obit: St. Clair College mourns the loss of MacDonald

Windsor Star - January 19, 2018

St. Clair College is mourning the loss of a key member of the school's history with the passing of Mason MacDonald earlier this week at the age of 89.

Born in 1928, MacDonald came to Windsor from Sydney, N.S. in 1958 and was one of the founders of the Western Ontario Institute of Technology, which grew in St. Clair College in 1967.

"Mason was a true Maritimer that possessed a generous spirit and helped everyone he came across," former St. Clair athletic director and hockey coach Jack Costello said. "He was the original leadership of St. Clair athletics transitioning from WOIT.

"He set the framework for the next generation of leaders and hired Al Hoffman, who headed our early success at the college. I am forever grateful to him personally as he paved the way for my career at St. Clair College."

MacDonald served dean of applied arts and was also at the forefront of college athletics while serving as athletic director from 1958-66 at WOIT. During that time, he also coached hockey, basketball and soccer.

MacDonald also established St. Clair's student athletic association and was the board's first advisor and continued to coach through the 1987-88 school year.

As a tribute, St. Clair named its annual athlete of the year in his honour beginning in 1967, which goes to a male or female student, in their graduating year, that combine athletic excellence, scholastic progress and achievement while consistently demonstrating qualities of leadership, loyalty and dedication to their respective team.

MacDonald created an endowment in his name so that recipients of it would receive financial assistance in perpetuity. To date, 88 student-athletes have received this award.

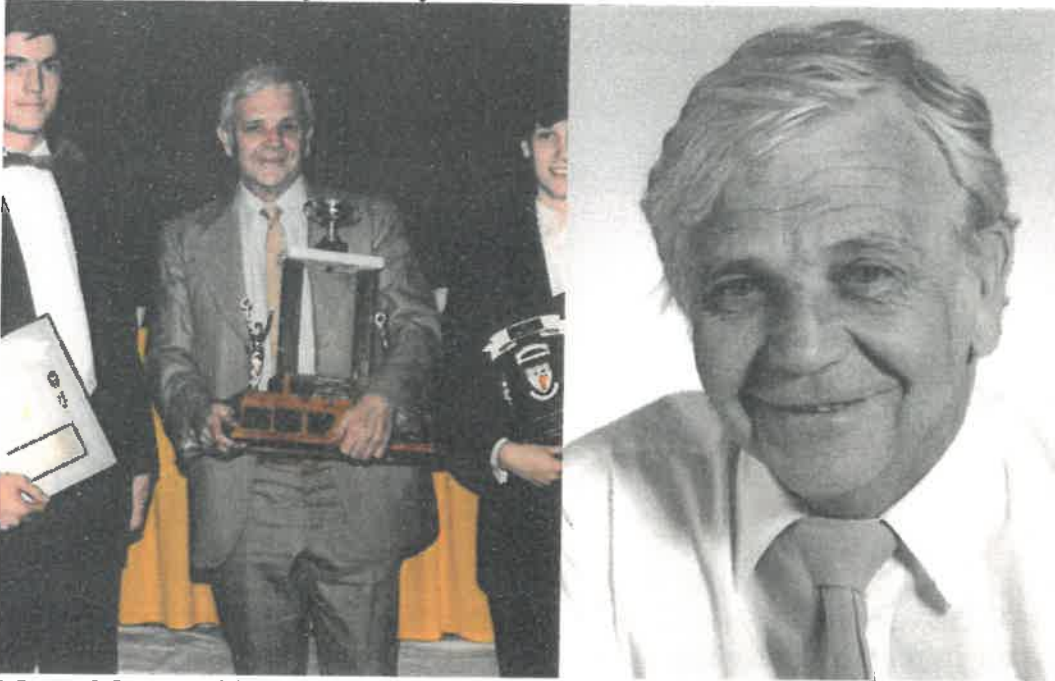
"I remember Mason as an intelligent and kind man who took great pleasure in spending time with those around him," Saints athletic co-ordinator Ted Beale said. "He enjoyed staying in touch with the college long after his career was over and made every effort to attend the athletic awards banquet.

"From an academic and athletic point of view, I don't think we could have asked for a better architect of our history. It is appropriate that our most prestigious student-athlete award is named in his honour."

No service is planned for MacDonald, who also served as an alderman for the Village of Riverside, but a tree planting in his memory will take place at a later date.

# St Clair Founder Dies

AM800 CKLW - Friday, January 19th 2018



Mason MacDonald (Photo courtesy of St. Clair College)

St. Clair College has lost an important piece of its history - founder, [Mason MacDonald has died.](#)

MacDonald came to Windsor in 1958 to become a founder of St. Clair's predecessor, the Western Ontario Institute of Technology (WOIT.)

Once St. Clair College became a reality in 1967, MacDonald became its first Dean of Applied Arts. He also later established St. Clair's Student Athletic Association and was the board's first advisor.

He continued his involvement with the St. Clair Athletic Department leading the Saints to many OCAA provincial medals as Coach of the Varsity Curling team.

He also served many years as a professor at both institutions until his retirement in 1990.

Athletic Coordinator, Ted Beale says MacDonald's legacy is twofold.

"He was a sterling academic, many degrees, creation of programs, not only St Clair College but some of those things that were used a lot across Canada in the college system," says Beale. "Then obviously the other side of that is a person that really held close to his heart, the role of athletics and recreation in terms of the entire life of a college student."

MacDonald was 90-years-old.

# MacDonald An Historic Piece Of St Clair

(WINDSOR, ON) – St Clair College has lost an important piece of its history with the passing of Mason MacDonald on January 14 at the age of 90.



Mason MacDonald.

Born in Sydney, NS, he came to Windsor in 1958 to become a founder of St Clair's predecessor, the Western Ontario Institute of Technology and served many years as a professor at both institutions until his retirement in 1990. Once St Clair College became a reality in 1967, MacDonald became its first Dean of Applied Arts where he assembled a talented staff who contributed greatly to scholastic life on the campus.

Under his direction, he created and developed academic programs that were imitated across the Canadian college system.

MacDonald was also at the forefront of athletics and recreation in the infancy of college sport, holding the post of Athletic Director for WOIT from 1958-1966. During that span he also coached the hockey, basketball, and soccer teams. He later established St Clair's Student Athletic Association and was the board's first advisor.

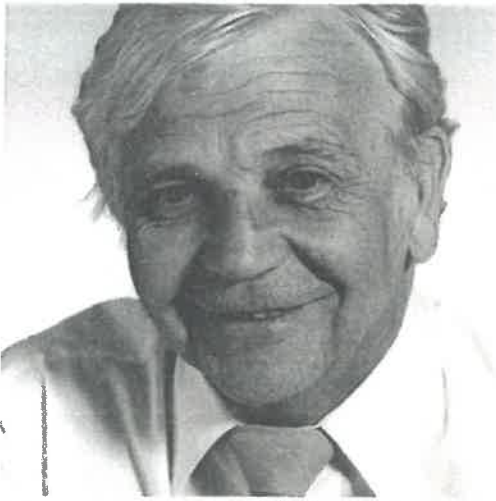
His continued involvement with the St Clair Athletic Department included leading the Saints to many OCAA provincial medals as coach of the varsity curling team until his final season in 1987-88.

In a tribute to his efforts, St Clair College named the annual Athlete of the Year Award in his honour beginning in 1967. The Mason MacDonald Trophy is awarded annually to a male and/or female inter-collegiate student in their graduating year who best combines athletic excellence, scholastic progress, and achievement while consistently demonstrating qualities of leadership, loyalty, and dedication to their respective team(s), the Department of Athletics, and to St Clair College.

MacDonald created an endowment in his name many years ago so the recipients of St Clair's most prestigious Athletic Award would receive financial assistance in perpetuity. Until he was no longer physically able, he gladly attended the Annual Athletic Awards Banquet to present his trophy. To date, 88 student-athletes have received the award with many receiving his personal congratulations.

Mason MacDonald will be missed but never forgotten.

[Mason MacDonald obituary](#). No visitation or funeral services are being held.



Mason MacDonald. Photo by St. Clair College.

## St. Clair College Founder Mourned

Blackburn News - January 20, 2018

St. Clair College is mourning the passing of one of its founders.

Mason H. MacDonald, who made a mark as a founder of the college but was also instrumental in the advancement of its athletic program, died in Windsor on Sunday, January 14, according to an [obituary](#) provided by Families First.

He was 90.

The Nova Scotia native was educated at Dalhousie University, then Springfield College in Massachusetts and the University of Florida. He helped found the Western Ontario Institute of Technology, a forerunner of St. Clair College, in 1958. WOIT became St. Clair College in 1967 and MacDonald served as a professor and the college's first Dean of Applied Arts.

In addition to his academic contributions, he also helped grow the college's athletic department. He served as its first athletic director and coached the hockey, soccer and basketball teams. After WOIT became St. Clair College he served as its curling coach for over 20 years.

The athletic department continues MacDonald's legacy by naming its male and female athletes-of-the-year awards after him.

MacDonald is survived by his wife of over 60 years, Dorothy, along with sons Mason and Dalton and two grandchildren.

Families First says there is no funeral and MacDonald had requested his body be donated to science. A memorial tree will be planted in his name.

## Large Job Fair Planned For Wednesday

WindsoriteDOTca News - January 22nd, 2018



A job fair hosted jointly by the University of Windsor and St. Clair College takes place this Wednesday.

This is the 19th year the college and university have invited companies who are actively recruiting for employment or volunteer opportunities to take part.

If you're a student or recent graduate of the University of Windsor or St. Clair College, the job fair is your best opportunity to network in-person with employers and make connections while marketing your skills.

It takes place at the Dennis Fairall Field House at the St. Denis Centre from 10am to 3pm.

Admission is free to current and former University of Windsor and St. Clair College students with valid student ID. Members of the public who did not attend either institution may be admitted at the discretion of the event organizer. A \$20 cash only admission fee applies.

# Polar Plunge Held For Special Olympics

The Square - 22 January 2018



Chatham-Kent Police Chief Gary Conn was first into the pool at the 2018 Polar Plunge in support of Special Olympics, held 20 January at St Clair College in Chatham.

(CHATHAM, ON) – The Chatham-Kent Police Service, in conjunction with staff and students at the Chatham campus of St Clair College, conducted their first ever Polar Plunge in support of the Ontario Special Olympics, on Saturday.



Organized by CKPS Constable Jason Herder, and held at the HealthPlex in the morning, volunteers helped to raise \$13,600, 100 per cent of which will directly benefit the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. The amount far surpassed the stated goal of \$10,000.





A large contingent of plungers from CKPS were on hand to test the frigid waters of a temporary pool. As well, CKEMS personnel, St Clair students and teachers, and members of the community also more than dipped their toes for the good cause. More than 40 people in total participate, while Herder made two jumps for good measure.

Planning is already underway for next year's event.



After less than a year with the Chatham-Kent Police Service, Danica Quenneville (L) and Destiny Pailey went above and beyond the call for Special Olympics during the Polar Plunge held at St Clair College in Chatham on 20 January 2018.  
Photo by Ian Shalapata.



St Clair College staff and students raised \$13,600 for Special Olympics during a Polar Plunge held at the Thames Campus in Chatham on 20 January 2018.  
Photo by Ian Shalapata.

# Skilled trades training centre at St. Clair College celebrates first anniversary

Windsor Star - January 23, 2018

The St. Clair Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre can't crank out enough graduates to satisfy the needs of local industry. The centre celebrated its first anniversary Tuesday.

A few years ago, Sarah Pare was enrolled in the music program at the University of Windsor and working at a butcher shop to help pay for tuition.

She ended up dropping out of school.

"It was just too expensive to try and pay my way through it," the 24-year-old said Tuesday. "I needed to figure something else out and get a job out of it."

That something else turned out to be the St. Clair College Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre where Pare trained as a CNC machinist.

St. Clair celebrated the one-year anniversary since taking over the training centre on St. Etienne Boulevard from Valiant Tool & Mold. It brought back some graduates like Pare to share their stories, not to mention some cake.

"I love my job," Pare said of being a CNC machinist for New Tec Tool Ltd. "I love going to work every day. Not everyone can say that."

Pare said she heard about the centre through some friends. "I knew nothing about it," she said. "I didn't even know how to hold a drill."

The training centre works in partnership with local industry.

"We're producing parts for 36 companies locally," said Mike Ouellette, centre general manager. "The students are getting real training making these parts on the latest tooling equipment. They come in green as grass and leave as a CNC programmer. It's a great fit because it saves industry a lot of time and training."

Ouellette said the local industrial workforce is set to lose 40 per cent of its talent pool over the next four to five years due to retirements.

"I can't give them enough people," he said. "Industry needs programs like this."



Chelynne Schram, 26, left, and Jeff Lemmon, 28, graduates out of the St. Clair College Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre are pictured during a press event celebrating the one-year anniversary of the centre on Jan. 23, 2018. Dax Melmer / Windsor Star

Jeff Lemmon graduated from the centre in December 2016 and started at Centerline Ltd. in Windsor the next month.

"I had been out of school for a bit in a couple of dead-end jobs," Lemmon, 28, said. "This is more career driven. I want to keep moving up."

Lemmon had previously graduated from the University of Windsor with a degree in biology and followed that up with a teaching degree.

"Unfortunately there are no jobs in those sectors," he said.

The 'earn while you learn' program offered at the centre pays students \$14 an hour and supplies them with a toolbox and tools valued at \$1,500.

After taking the 46-week training, many step right into full-time jobs.

Chelynne Schram is a 5-axis machinist at Cavalier Tool. She enlisted in the Canadian military at 17, right out of high school.

"I didn't do the trades in high school but a friend brought me to his shop and said, 'This is what I do,' " the 26-year-old said. "I looked at the machines and thought, this is cool."

Schram enrolled at the training centre almost four years ago when Valiant ran it, and has been working in her field since.

The facility just added two cutting edge 5-axis machines to its stable.

Equipment upgrades over the last 12 months "ensures our curriculum remains relevant and state-of-the-art," said St. Clair College president Patti France. "This is just the first year of what we know will be decades of success for this centre."

[mcaton@postmedia.com](mailto:mcaton@postmedia.com)



St. Clair College president, Patti France, speaks during a press event celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre on Jan. 23, 2018. Dax Melmer / Windsor Star



**Michael Ouellette, manager of the Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre, is joined by his team as he speaks during a press event celebrating the one-year anniversary of the centre on Jan. 23, 2018. Dax Melmer / Windsor Star**



**Mike Ouellette, left, manager of the St. Clair College Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre and Mike Solcz Sr. cut the anniversary cake during a press event celebrating the one-year anniversary of the centre on Jan. 23, 2018. Dax Melmer / Windsor Star**

# Successful Year For St. Clair College's Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre

AM800 CKLW – January 23, 2018



GM of Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre, Mike Ouellette (centre) with industry partners and students at an anniversary celebration, January 23, 2018 (Photo by AM800's Rob Hindi)

St. Clair College's Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre is celebrating its first anniversary.

The centre opened last year and is located on St. Etienne Boulevard in east-Windsor.

It's described as a hybrid program that prepares students to become proficient in math, blueprint reading, computer skills, safety training and hands on training using CNC machines.

Jeffrey Lemmon took part in the program and is currently a CNC Lathe operator with Centreline.

"They've given me every opportunity to excel and I'm doing my apprenticeship now for general machinist," says Lemmon. "I'll be done first year later in April. As long as you show initiative in this area, ask a lot of questions, your employers will be there to help you."



Memorabilia created by the students of the Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre, January 23, 2018 (Photo by AM800's Rob Hindi)

"What makes this program unique is we are working with 36 different companies locally," says centre manager, Michael Ouellette. "We are producing real parts for them and what makes it unique is we're training people of their parts and when they're done the program, we're placing them in those industries."

The 46 week program is called "Earn While You Learn." There are currently 49 students enrolled with 10 of those students enrolling earlier this month.

# St. Clair skilled trades program can't keep up with industry demand for trained workers

**'This is definitely what I'm meant to do,' said graduate Sarah Pare**

CBC News · January 23rd 2018



Sarah Pare graduated from St. Clair College's Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre program. She said she now has a skilled trades job that she loves. (Stacey Janzer/CBC)

While studying music in university, Sarah Pare worked as a butcher to help pay her tuition.

Facing rising costs, Pare was forced to drop out of school. While searching for better paying work, a friend suggested applying to St. Clair College's Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre program, even though she said she didn't know how to hold a drill.

The friend explained she would be paid while she learned and could get a job as soon as she finished the program.

The first few days were nerve-racking, said Pare, but then she got the hang of it.

"This is definitely what I'm meant to do," she said.



CBC News Windsor

One year anniversary St. Clair College Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre

00:00 00:59

Sarah Pare talks about why she went into the St. Clair skilled trades program. 0:59

Pare now runs a computer numerical control (CNC) machine at New-Tec Tool in Windsor. She likes that the job is challenging and that every day she gets to make something different.

I love getting up and going to work every day and I didn't have that when I worked in the butcher shop, - *Sarah Pare, skilled trades worker*

"Every part I make, you feel so good about it," Pare said. "There's so many details in some parts and you just want to make it look really nice and perfect."

The sense of pride she gets from her work makes Pare think she won't be changing her career path.

"I love getting up and going to work every day and I didn't have that when I worked in the butcher shop," she said. "I didn't even have that when I was singing."

## One-year anniversary

It's been a year since St. Clair took over the skilled trades program from Valiant Training & Development Centre, who previously ran the course.

"We can train 300 people right now and it won't satisfy industry," - *Michael Ouellette, manager of St. Clair's skilled trades program*

In the 2017-18 school year, 49 students enrolled in the 46-week program, with another 10 students joining this month.

Michael Ouellette, the manager of the program, said even though students are enrolling he still can't keep employers satisfied. He said industry professionals are in need of more employees.



Michael Ouellette manages the St. Clair program. He said even if they can train 300 students, it still wouldn't meet the local industry demand for skilled trades workers. (Stacey Janzer/CBC)

"We can train 300 people right now and it won't satisfy industry," said Ouellette.

The college is focusing on training students to be prepared to step right into a job. He said industry needs to focus on building their business and the college will focus on the footwork.

"I have 85 jobs in my hand right now that I cannot fill," Ouellette said. "We even have students working part-time after hours trying to help out the shops and they're very impressed with them and automatically have a job with them after they're done."

# Regional Training Centre Reaping Dividends

The Square - 24 January 2018

(WINDSOR, ON) – It was just one year ago that the transitional *passing of the torch* from the Valiant Training and Development Centre to St Clair College took effect. Since that time the college's Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre has enrolled 49 students in the 46 week program entitled *Earn While You Learn* in 2017-18.

“We’re so pleased that we’ve been able to expand and enhance the innovative earn-while-you-learn model that was created by the Valiant Corporation,” said St Clair College’s president, Patti France. “This partnership with industry exemplifies how Canada can close the skilled trades gap, while simultaneously providing young people with affordable educations that lead to rewarding and lucrative careers. We’re celebrating the first year of what we’re confident will be decades of service to our community provided by this centre.”

The *Earn While You Learn* certificate is a hybrid program which prepares students, in a very short period of time, to become proficient in math, blueprint reading, computer skills, safety training, and hands-on training on a wide variety of state-of-the-art equipment, including CNC machines.

“These skills make our graduates highly marketable in today’s business climate,” said Mike Ouellette, the general manager of the Regional Training Centre. “We have placed a significant number of students in industry, with companies that are in desperate need of skilled trades professionals. This is a training model that works.”

The Skilled Trades Centre recently enrolled 10 students in January and anticipates two more classes to be enrolled throughout the year.

“We have a great relationship with industry in the community, and are able to help them create efficiencies in their organizations by completing some work for them right here in our centre,” said Ouellette. “It’s a win-win for our students and industry.”



# Federal minister visits St. Clair College about upskills grant



Minister of Employment Patricia Hajdu at St. Clair College in Windsor, Ont., on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018. (Michelle Maluske / CTV Windsor)

CTV Windsor - January 24, 2018

A federal minister was at St. Clair College Wednesday to explain the changes to employment insurance to help Canadians return to school and access skills training.

Minister of Employment Patricia Hajdu described the "upskills grant" of up to \$1,600 for students who have been out of school for 10 years.

Hajdu also met with local labour groups.

# Employment Minister Announces Help For Mature Students

AM800 CKLW -- January 24, 2018



Federal Employment Minister Patty Hajdu at St. Clair College. January 24, 2018 (Photo by AM800's Peter Langille)

Canada's Employment Minister has used the St. Clair College campus to make an announcement of help for mature students.



Employment Minister Patty Hajdu with St. Clair College President Patti France (by AM800's Peter Langille)

Patty Hajdu has announced several measures to financially help those people looking to retrain for a career change.

The "Top Up" grant is available for people with low income who have been out of school for 10 years or more.

They can receive \$1600 on top of any other grants or bursaries they're eligible for, parents receive \$200 per month per child and their income is calculated on current year income.

Hajdu also announced a change to Employment Insurance rules so that mature students in an education program don't have to seek employment to receive benefits.

She says using the current year income accommodates the kind of people likely to access the grant.

"Often times people who are looking at improving their skills have experienced some sort of shock, whether it's a layoff or change to their sector that's resulted in either lower paying earnings or sometimes unemployment" explains Hajdu "So by using the current year's earnings we get a better picture of what they're actually earning rather than basing it on perhaps a much higher earning period"

She says the program will reduce the barriers for parents.

"People that have children will get additional amounts for their children," says Hajdu "it's to reflect the fact that people that have children are returning to improve their skills or study often have additional expenses that might be child care or other things that put a particular financial strain on them"

She says the concerns of mature students have been expressed for some time.

"This is something people have talked about over and over. You know if I could only go back to school, if I could afford to go back to school if I could afford to go into an apprenticeship program I would" say Hajdu " I just can't make ends meet, I've got debt already I'm scared about taking on more student debts. So this is to respond to those kinds of concerns that we've heard"

Hajdu says Canada's rapidly expanding economy is creating a lot of new jobs and this allows people who have been out of school for some time to make a career change.

She toured the St. Clair robotics lab before making the announcement.

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# Ontario first to get new federal incentives for adult students

**Adult students able to collect EI while attending post-secondary institution**

[CBC News](#) - Jan 24, 2018



Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, announced new federal incentives to encourage mature students to head back to school. (Jason Viau/CBC)

Ontarians will be the first to cash in on federal incentives that make it easier and cheaper for mature students to head back to school.

With hopes of addressing the labour shortages some industries face across Canada, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour Patty Hajdu announced the launch of the new initiative in Windsor, Ont. Wednesday, called 'Skills Boost.'

## Collect EI and go to school

A major component of the announcement is allowing those who collect Employment Insurance (EI) to continue receiving that money while attending a post-secondary institution. Currently, those adults who are collecting EI must choose one or the other.

"It's to reflect that studying and skills development is just as important as looking for a job," said Hajdu, adding that it also leads to a less likelihood of unemployment.

After being laid off of his job as a cable guy, James Allison was in search of a new career path that would provide some stability for his family into the future. It's been a financial struggle for Allison to pay child support, car payments, insurance and other bills while juggling a job and training to start a new career.



James Allison said heading back to school for a new career as an adult would have never been possible without government assistance. (Jason Viau/CBC)

The 30-year-old father estimates his tuition costs so far at roughly \$25,000, but said he must only pay back a fraction of the loan because of government grants for mature students. Allison is now in his second year of the robotics program at St. Clair College.

"This would have not been possible, at all," said Allison. "There's no way I could do child support, a full-time job and school, there's no way."

## More grants for mature students

Another incentive for adults to return to school is new grant money, which is cash that does not have to be re-paid. For anyone who's been out of high school for at least 10 years, they qualify for an additional \$1,600 per school year.

In addition, full-time students with children will receive up to \$200 per month per child, and part-time students with kids can get up to \$1,920 per year in grants.

"Ontario has been the first province to work with us to change their intake processes so that we can move forward as quickly as possible." - *Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour Patty Hajdu*

"What we're hoping is that this policy intervention will allow people to improve their skills, get that better-paying job, but also start to address those labour shortages that we're starting to see across the country," said Hajdu.

## Coming fall 2018

All of these changes were outlined in the 2017 federal budget and will take effect beginning in the fall semester of 2018.

The new program will also look at each person's current year earnings, instead of the previous year. This would paint a more accurate picture of someone's financial situation in the event they're laid off or move into a lower-paying job.

The feds estimate these changes will help 43,000 Canadians in the next school year.

These new perks are expected to be available to all Canadians at some point, but it's unclear exactly when the government will expand its initiative.

"Ontario has been the first province to work with us to change their intake processes so that we can move forward as quickly as possible," said Hajdu.

# More Money For Post Secondary Education

The Square - 25 January, 2018

(WINDSOR, ON) – The Federal Government selected Canada’s southernmost city to introduce a program it says will provide additional financial support to adults needing more education. Yesterday, Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development, and Labour, was in the city to launch *Skills Boost*.

Central to the plan is a new Canada Student Grant and new flexibilities for those on Employment Insurance who are considering upgrade training. Because of this, the government estimates the changes will make going back to school within reach for 43,000 Canadians.

Although originally announced in the 2017 Budget, Hajdu took on the role of pulling the curtain on a program available later this fall as part of a \$287.2 million three-year pilot project. Students eligible for the Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students, and who have been out of high school for at least ten years, could receive an additional \$1,600 per school year, or \$200 per month, in what Hajdu calls, “top-up funding.”

For the first time, working and unemployed Canadians whose employment situation has significantly changed from the previous year could see their most current income used to assess Canada Student Grant eligibility. Canadians who experience a drop in income will no longer find themselves automatically disqualified for assistance based on a previous year’s earnings.

*Skills Boost* also means expanded access to Canada Student Grants for part-time students and students with dependent children. It is a measure Hadju thinks will help break down financial barriers to post-secondary education, particularly for women.

Currently, women represent nearly two-thirds of the Canada Student Loans Program’s part-time recipients. An estimated four out of five students receiving the Canada Student Grant for students with dependent children are women.

Support is also coming this fall for Canadians who find themselves out of work and want to go back to school. Unemployed workers receiving Employment Insurance benefits often lose eligibility for their benefits if they return to school or undertake training. Not so with the new program.

This, explained the minister, can interfere with their availability for work, without the necessary referral from designated authorities. Starting in the fall, the unemployed collecting EI support will be able to go back to school for training and will not lose benefits.

“As an adult learner myself, who went back to school as a single mom of two children, I know that adult learners can face challenges to pursuing post-secondary education. Not only because of the cost of education itself, but also because of the financial pressures and time constraints of supporting our families,” said Hajdu. “Our government has Canadians covered, no matter their circumstance, whether they are going to college or university for the first time, returning to school, or upgrading their skills.”

So-called mature students living in the region have become an increasingly significant portion of the area's community college enrolment over the past decade or so.

“Many of them come to us with challenging circumstances as they pursue their educations,” said St Clair College president Patti France. “They often need to brush up on new technology and techniques before commencing their studies, many of them are raising families, and many of them are also attempting to accommodate part-time or even full-time jobs in their complicated lives.”

She is optimistic that, “extremely generous assistance offered by the federal government will ease many of the pressures on these students. And providing them with a more affordable and accessible education will ultimately improve their lives in immeasurable ways.”

The pilot project top-up grant funding will be prorated based on the length of the study period. For example, those registered for an eight-month school year will receive \$1,600, while those registered for a 12-month school year will receive \$2,400. This funding will be provided on top of any other grants for which the student qualifies.

Using a working or newly unemployed Canadian's current income rather than the previous year's earnings is expected to allow them to become eligible for income-tested Canada Student Grants, including up to \$3,000 for the Canada Student Grant for full-time students as well as the top-up funding.

To receive the Canada Student Grants, students must apply to their province or territory of residence seeking financial assistance for the 2018–19 school year.

# McDonald's Partnering With St. Clair College For Business Program

AM800 CKLW- Saturday, January 27th 2018



(Photo courtesy of Getty/NICOLAS ASFOURI)

One McDonald's owner in Windsor wants you to think about the golden arches when getting your business degree.

McDonald's Canada has partnered with all 24 Ontario colleges to offer business management program.

Jason Trussel owns five McDonald's locations in Windsor-Essex, including Dougall Ave.

He says if you complete management training at McDonald's, St. Clair College will recognize that as a first year business administration program.

The official partnership was announced in early 2017, but Trussel hopes there is renewed interest following the college strike.

"I was reading about the drop-out rate from the college strike, and I thought 'wonder if there are some business administration students that are now trying to figure out what to do that have dropped out.' This may be a great opportunity for them to earn an income, get the equivalent of a first year college program, and save some money and it's kind of a win for us, and a win for them."

He says they're looking for anyone willing to work hard.

"Folks that have a customer service and a guest-centric mentality. People that are passionate about the McDonald's brand, because we're very proud of what we do here at the golden arches and we want people who are proud to work for us, and people who aren't afraid to work hard and play hard."

Trussel says this allows business students learn how to run a franchise.

"Each restaurant is a multi-million dollar operation, so having exposure as a manager to everything from managing food costs, managing scheduling, managing ordering, managing the overall business is a great experience that can help them accelerate their career path within McDonald's and is also very relevant to careers outside of McDonald's."

Trussel says three manager positions are open at his locations now for residents to apply to.

Interested residents can apply [online](#) by specifying the Dougall Ave location.



# Obituary: Windsor architect Jerry Glos (1927-2018) - Windsorites drive past his work daily

Windsor Star - January 30, 2018



Jerry Glos. Courtesy of the Glos family. / Windsor Star

At age 90 and in poor health since a fall in August, Jerry Glos organized a week-long Caribbean cruise to ring in the new year with his family.

His wife Geraldine wondered about if he was up for the trip with his walker and his family wasn't sure if all 12 of them including their two children and six grandchildren could arrange their schedules over the Christmas holidays.

The Windsor architect and devoted family man whose life will be celebrated at his funeral Saturday managed to arrange a family getaway they will always remember.

"Family was very important to him," his wife Geraldine said Tuesday. "That was the thing he wanted, that we would all get together and we did."

Glos died Sunday. His wife Geraldine said she wasn't sure about the holiday cruise but he said, as it always did, that "we'll work it out." He planned family reunions, family vacations including one to Czechoslovakia where his ancestors lived, and as CEO of the Boys Club, he regularly took his three grandsons to Tim Hortons.



The St Clair College SportsPlex, a building Jerry Glos helped design. Cunningham Sheet Metal Ltd. / Windsor Star

His son Tim said they would have been regretting it if they all hadn't been able to make the trip.

"The highlight was spending New Year's Eve with my father and my entire family and having dinner together," he said.

Jerry Glos, the co-founder and senior architect of Glos Associates Inc. also loved his work. He encouraged his grandchildren to follow their passion in a career choice. He went into the office until he was 89 and then sent emails from home on designs.

You've likely driven past some of the buildings he helped design in Windsor. He was most proud of the recent [St. Clair College Sportsplex](#) and the [Windsor International Transit Terminal](#) (downtown bus station).

His wife used to swim at the Adie Knox recreation complex where there was a plaque with his name on it and she remembers how he would show visitors his buildings such as the [Windsor Star](#) printing plant as he drove past on the expressway. "There are all sorts of monuments to him in a way," she said.

He first partnered with another architect in 1959 to form a Windsor firm and then in 1966 started Glos Architects and Engineers with his brother. The business grew substantially in 1979 when they landed the contract to design the GM Trim Plant.

[Glos Associates Inc.](#) has designed schools including Leamington District Secondary School, retirement homes such as Clair Beach Retirement Community, and churches including the Heritage Park Alliance Church.

Tim, who is an engineer at the firm, said a McGill University professor told his father he'd never succeed. His father's recent honours included being inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada for outstanding achievement in 2015.

He loved the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. Tim said his father's motto was function over form which earned him repeat customers because his buildings worked.

Visitation is Friday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Families First Funeral Home on Dougall Avenue. The funeral is at Banwell Community Church at 11:30 a.m. Saturday after visitation starting at 10:30 a.m.

# Architect Jerry Gos, who designed several prominent Windsor buildings, dead at 90

## Architect remembered for his passion and love of work

CBC News · January 30th 2018



Architect Jerry Gos, 90, of Gos Associates Inc. (Gos Associates Inc.)

If you've ever been to the Sportsplex at St. Clair College, the Adie Knox Herman complex or set foot inside the old GM Trim Plant, Jerry Gos has touched your life.

Gos was the architect behind those buildings and several others in this area including the Windsor Star printing facility and the Windsor bus terminal.

He died Sunday at age 90, but is being remembered for his talents as an architect and devotion to the community.

"It's a sad day for everybody here in the office and the Gos family," said Paul Driedger, the vice president and architectural manager for Gos Associates Inc., the firm Gos co-founded.

"Jerry will be missed. He was a mentor to many of us here in the office, including myself," Driedger added.

According to his obituary, Gos was honoured as a "fellow" at the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada convocation in June of 2014.

He is recipient of the Charles Clark Award for his contributions to the University of Windsor, two Windsor Construction Association awards of merit and a Premier's Award for Accessibility for his work with the All Saint's Church renovation of 1985.

In his obituary, Gos is described as as "a role model, a cheerleader, [and] a man of deep Christian faith."

"Jerry was a true gentleman in every sense of the word," wrote Jim Adkin on a page of condolences.

A visitation will be held at Families First Funeral Home on Dougall Avenue Friday. The funeral service will be held Saturday at Banwell Community Church.

# Police, College Kick Off Polar Plunge

The Square - 2 February 2018

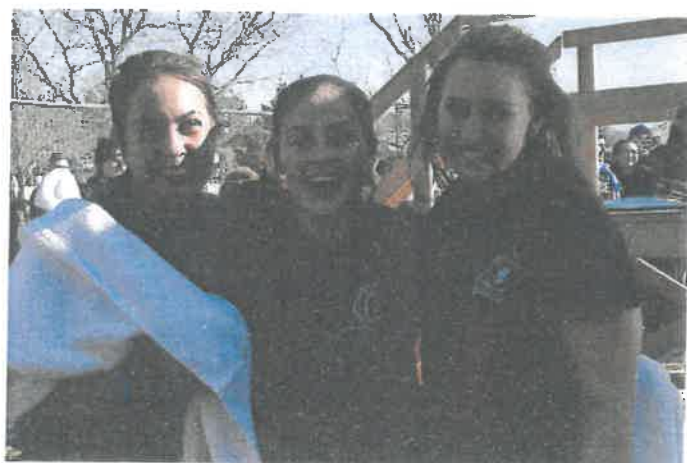


Participants during the Third Annual Polar Plunge at St Clair College to benefit Special Olympics at the St Clair College main campus in Windsor, Ontario on 2 February 2017. Photo by Ian Shalapata.

(WINDSOR, ON) – St Clair College, in association with the Windsor Police Service, kicked off the 2018 Polar Plunge in support of Special Olympic Ontario, at the SportsPlex on Wednesday. For the 4th straight year, WPS and St Clair College will welcome participants and pledgers to raise funds for Special Olympics.

Police officers, college students, staff, and instructors, and the community as a whole are invited to take the plunge on March 2 at the SportsPlex on St Clair's main campus in Windsor. Since 2014 Polar Plunge Windsor-Essex has raised more than \$130,000 for Special Olympics.

[To register for the plunge visit online.](#)



Participants during the Third Annual Polar Plunge at St Clair College to benefit Special Olympics at the St Clair College main campus in Windsor, Ontario on 2 February 2017. Photo by Ian Shalapata.

# OBITUARY: Bob Williams never lost his love for speed despite paralysis

Windsor Star - February 4, 2018

Thirty years ago when Bob Williams was in a motorcycle crash that left him paralyzed from the waist down, it didn't quell his love for speed and motorcycles.

From a wheelchair, Williams started to build unique bikes including a 18-foot Bonneville streamliner which started out as an auxiliary fuel tank from an F4 Phantom fighter jet and was raced at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah. His passion for bikes and the streamliner in particular along with his contributions to the motorcycle community landed him in the Motorcycle Hall of Fame in 2007.

"Building bikes really helped to build his confidence," said his son, Chris. "And it turned out he had a great understand and knowledge about bikes which helped. He could see people at an equal and that gave him the confidence to continue on. It was always something that he went back to."

He also built a 750 cc Honda motorcycle that he mounted a side car onto and then moved the handlebars over to the side car. He could drive the whole bike with no one on it from the sidecar. It might not have been street legal, but it let him continue his passion on the road.



Bob Williams at Sandpoint Beach on June 23, 2017 during a ceremony at the popular east side park. Nick Brancaccio / Windsor Star

On Feb. 1, after battling an infection, Williams died at 74 years of age leaving his wife Jean, sons Chris and Jeff and daughter April. He also had many grandchildren with whom he loved to share his love for the game of chess. Williams grew up an orphan and at a very young age developed a stuttering problem. Feeling like a bit of an outsider, he was drawn to model airplanes because it gave him the opportunity to work with his hands and create something. Soon his focus turned to motorcycles and his very first bike came in pieces in three bushel baskets.

“When he started it, he had never driven a bike before and he was in a basement,” Chris said. “He started it up, it took off across the floor and ended up halfway up the stairs before he could shut it off. He didn’t know what he was doing, didn’t know how to shut it off, it was just something he wanted to do and that echoes in a lot of parts of his life.”

Williams operated Williams Motorcycles before closing it in 1990 and then turned his focus on his family-run Arrow Mailing company. He owned a large catamaran and sailed for years with the LaSalle Mariners Yacht Club. In fact, he loved sailing so much he designed his basement to look like the bottom cabin in a boat complete with a tight spiral wooden staircase leading to the basement. He helped John Elliott at Sandwich Teen Action Group in the west end counselling some of the kids.

“No matter where he went he was always well respected,” said his son, Jeff. “Many people were impressed with what he could create. They would say that’s incredible and he’s doing it from a wheelchair.”

He was also instrumental in starting the Learn to Ride motorcycle program at St. Clair College along with helping to write the Motorcycle Mechanic handbook. He was also very vocal on wheelchair accessibility issues throughout the city. He always wanted to give back to the community and take people under his wing, something his sons’ related to the fact he was an poor, orphan who had a stutter.

“He loved anything that was challenging,” Chris said. “He was never that football or soccer guy. He was an amazing person and if you take a snapshot of everything he has done, it’s really very incredible. I think that’s why everyone loved him.”

# Premier picks new location for Windsor town hall



St. Clair Centre for the Arts in this file photo, Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2013. (Melanie Borrelli / CTV Windsor)

CTV Windsor - Wednesday, February 7, 2018

A location has been chosen for the Premier's town hall meeting in Windsor next week.

It will now be held at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts.

Kathleen Wynne's initial site for the town hall meeting on Thursday February 15 was the Caboto Club. But the premier's office cancelled that location after learning of the club's policy of allowing only men to be voting board members.



The Giovanni Caboto Club in Windsor, Ont., on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018. (Michelle Maluske / CTV Windsor)

In a written statement to CTV News, the premiers' office said she is committed to supporting a fair Ontario - "a commitment that extends to working with partners who reflect these values of equality and inclusiveness."

The town hall will now take place in the Alumni Skyline room at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts on Riverside Dr.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and the town hall will begin at 7 p.m.

The General Manager of the Caboto Club also told CTV News on Tuesday that the board may want to revisit its rules.

"We won't react just to be PC about it, we'll react if we think it's important to our club," said Ron Moro.

# Pressure mounting on Caboto Club over men-only voting policy

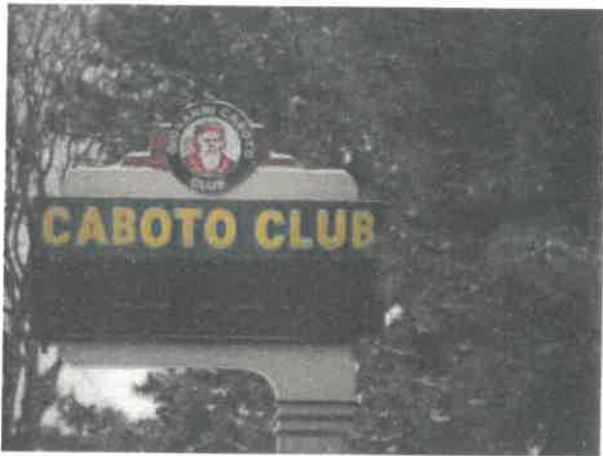
Windsor Star - February 7, 2018

Pressure is mounting on the Caboto Club to change its policy barring women from being voting members, with local groups saying publicly they are rethinking holding events at the Italian banquet hall.

The controversy over the club's membership policy was back in the spotlight this week after Premier Kathleen Wynne cancelled a town hall meeting at the Caboto.

Now other groups say they will consider doing the same.

“(The Caboto Club) is not in line with our values and it's time to stop making decisions to book events there in the future,” said Pat Papadeas, a law professor at St. Clair College who represents OPSEU on the Windsor and District Labour Council.



The roadside sign for the Giovanni Caboto Club is pictured on Feb. 7, 2018. Dax Melmer / Windsor Star

“I'll definitely be bringing this up at the next labour council meeting,” she said.

Papadeas, one of the local organizers of the [Women's March](#) group, said the labour movement has championed gender equality and can hardly look the other way and book events at a club that wouldn't recognize female unionists as full members.

“This is where leadership takes precedence. It's time for (union) leadership to go to the people at Caboto and say, ‘You need to take a look at this.’”

The Premier's office announced Monday Wynne's town hall meeting at the Caboto was being cancelled over the club's policy barring women from being full voting members or holding positions on the board of directors. The event has been moved to the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts.

[The issue of the club's membership policy first made headlines in 2014 when former Essex councillor Denisa Blackburn tried to join the club.](#) She went public after being told she would only be allowed to join the women's auxiliary.



Later that year, the issue spurred the University of Windsor to cancel an event that had been held annually at the Caboto Club and move it to a new venue.

Anne Forrest, a professor in the women and gender studies program at the University of Windsor who was part of that 2014 decision, said she is not surprised the Caboto Club hasn't responded to persuasion that its policy is archaic and insulting to women.

"They weren't interested in talking to us," Forrest said. "Pressuring the Caboto Club financially is the only option left on the table. It's long past time for that."

Windsor Regional Hospital stopped booking events at the Caboto Club three years ago because of the membership policy.

Caboto Club manager Ron Moro has not responded to phone messages or emails left over the past three days. Club president Dennis Segatto did not return messages left Wednesday.

In brief comments reported by other local media, Moro said the club has previously dealt with the membership issue and won't make changes just to be politically correct.

The executive director of the Hospice of Windsor and Essex County said sticking to how things have been always done no longer washes as an answer in the current political climate.

"This is an era of change all over the place. You see it in the headlines about women's rights every day," Carol Derbyshire said.

"The powers that be at the Caboto Club have to look at where these policies came from and whether it's time to change them in this modern era."

Hospice will be hosting its 34th annual Savour the Sea event at the Caboto Club next month. Derbyshire said she plans to talk to Moro about the issue hoping their long-standing relationship will provide some influence.

"My approach will be to say this is getting very difficult for us. What are you going to do?"

Windsor and District Labour Council president Brian Hogan is hoping labour can provide a united front and gently nudge the club into making changes rather than being confrontational.

"Many of our members are also members of the Caboto Club," Hogan said. "We need to engage with them, their spouses and families. We need to get them to raise this issue of having a more progressive membership policy at the next general meeting.

"I think when outsiders try to push, get in your face, there's a tendency to dig in."

Over the past couple days, the Star also reached out to Unifor Local 444 officials, Unifor automotive director Dino Chiodo, who is being honoured as Italian of the Year at the Caboto Club next month, and City of Windsor officials for comment. None of those messages were returned.

Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce president Matt Marchand said he has already contacted Moro to discuss the club's position.

“We’re going to review things with the board and our membership and determine what the next steps are,” said Marchand, whose organization has a growing number of female business owners.

Marchand declined to criticize the club’s reluctance to change its members’ policy.

“That decision wasn’t up to us,” Marchand said. “It’s a decision the Caboto Club made and it’s a private club.

“It’s up to us to evaluate that decision.”

Marchand said there are no major chamber of commerce events booked at the Caboto between now and the end of the fiscal year in June.

### **Town Hall Meeting Moved**

Premier Kathleen Wynne will now have her town hall meeting on Feb. 15 at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts in downtown Windsor.

The event will be held in the St. Clair College Alumni Skyline Room. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the meeting starting at 7 p.m.

# Ontario Premier's Town-Hall Moved To St. Clair Centre For The Arts

[AM800 CKLW - Wednesday, February 7th 2018](#)



AM800 file photo of the St. Clair Centre for the Arts on Riverside Dr. October 2014

St. Clair Centre for the Arts will now be hosting Premier Kathleen Wynne's Town Hall next week.

*Wynne was scheduled to attend the town hall meeting at the Caboto Club February 15 which has a men's only policy for board members — prompting the search for a new venue.*

A release issued by the Ontario PC, MPP Lisa MacLeod stated, "what kind of message does this send to little girls that the Premier of Ontario is speaking at a club where woman are viewed as second-rate."

The town hall will now take place at St. Clair Centre for the Arts on Riverside Dr. near Ferry St. Doors open at 6pm with the town hall beginning at 7pm.

# New Venue For Wynne Visit

The Square - 8 February 2018

(WINDSOR, ON) – Premier Kathleen Wynne is inviting people to join her at an open public forum in Windsor to discuss how to create more fairness and opportunity in southwestern Ontario in this period of rapid economic change.

The premier's fifth town hall will take place on February 15 at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts and will be moderated by former CAW president Ken Lewenza, Sr. Admission to the event is free and open to anyone who wishes to share their thoughts on the issues affecting them and their communities. All questions are welcome.

Wynne [cancelled a previously scheduled town hall](#) to be held at the Caboto Club because of an all-male board of directors.

Since kicking off the province-wide town hall forums last November, Wynne has met with over 1,000 people of all ages across Ontario, hearing their stories and discussing a range of issues, from the minimum wage to health care, to international trade.

"I believe personal connections are key to any healthy democracy. There is no replacing that face-to-face engagement when it comes to truly understanding someone's issue or concern," said Wynne. "Through these in-person conversations, people across Ontario have reminded me how passionate and informed they are about the issues affecting their lives and communities."

General admission seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Centre for the Arts. Doors will open at 6pm, and the town hall will start at 7pm. Those who wish to attend are encouraged to [RSVP](#). Note, however, that an RSVP does not guarantee admission, but helps to ensure there is adequate seating available.



Liberal Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne addresses Provincial Council at Caesars Windsor on October 18, 2014. (Photo by Jason Viau)

## Premier's Town Hall Finds New Venue

Blackburn News - February 8, 2018

After cancelling a date at the Caboto Club earlier this week, Premier Kathleen Wynne has found a new spot for next week's town hall in Windsor.

The event will be at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts. The date has not changed. It will still be held on Thursday, February 15. The doors will open at 6pm, and the town hall meeting will get underway at 7pm.

Former CAW president Ken Lewenza Sr. will moderate the discussion.

Wynne kicked off a province-wide series of town hall meetings last November. This will be her fifth.

[The premier decided to cancel the event's booking at the Caboto Club after it came to her attention the club does not allow women on its board.](#) There is a women's auxiliary board, but women are not allowed to vote on club business.

Wynne has held events at the Caboto Club in the past, as has other political parties including the Ontario Progressive Conservatives who complained about the location this week.

MPP Lisa MacLeod called on the premier to cancel saying, "what kind of message does this send to little girls?"

General Manager at the Caboto Club, Ron Moro admits he is disappointed the club finds itself in the crosshairs of a political debate between the two parties. He says while the club's board has no plans to change the rule, that does not mean it never will.

"We're pretty comfortable with who we are. That doesn't mean we're not going to change because we're dynamic," he says pointing out the club has been a fraternity for 93 years.

Moro insists his club is not "the bad guy". He says it gives food to hundreds of people in need every week and has helped raise millions of dollars in the community over the years.

"We're a very integral part of the community," he says. "We don't talk about it about it because we just take care of them."

## PM Classes At St Clair Canceled

By: [Ian Shalapata](#) 9 February 2018

(WINDSOR, ON) – Due to the increasingly poor weather and driving conditions, St Clair College is canceling all classes, including continuing education and apprenticeship, at all campuses starting at 4pm this afternoon and throughout the evening.

The College will remain open.

Tonight's St Clair Saints women's and men's varsity volleyball games against the Mohawk Mountaineers will be played as scheduled at 6pm and 8pm, respectively, at the SportsPlex.

# For first time, St. Clair College to add spring intake for students

Windsor Star - February 12, 2018



"Capable of running year-round." Michael Silvaggi, associate vice-president of student services and registrar at St. Clair College, is shown Feb. 12, 2018. Dax Melmer / Windsor Star

To meet the growing demand from international students, St. Clair College will offer a spring intake for the first time.

The May start for students will be offered in 12 programs in the areas of international business, management, computers, construction engineering technology, gerontology and office administration.

"The spring intake will be just over 1,500 students," said Mike Silvaggi, registrar and associate vice-president of student affairs.

"We have this facility and it's capable of running year-round and that's what we're looking at doing. It involves complex planning, but we're being mindful about the space we have."

St. Clair already offers a 12-week spring semester but has never allowed students to start their programs in May.

Silvaggi said he expects the spring intake to be heavily dominated by international students. He said domestic students prefer the fall/winter schedule and to work through the summer.

"The spring semester, we've always traditionally lost students to work," Silvaggi said.

“We know with full certainty we can offset some of those numbers with international students. It’s about the most efficient use of your resources.”

The appeal of a spring intake for international students is they don’t have to wait until September to start if they can’t make the traditional early-January start. Students can complete a two-year program in less time by taking four consecutive semesters without a break. Silvaggi said most international students are taking two-year programs.

The timing of the spring intake also coincides more with international educational calendars.

Silvaggi points to this winter’s record intake of international students as an example.

“I think the strike actually helped our international numbers because the winter semester started towards the end of January,” Silvaggi said. “It gave them a little more lead time.

“It allowed students to get their paperwork, visas in order in time to enrol instead of having to wait.”

About 1,500 international students enrolled at St. Clair last month.

Along with the enrolment of another 450 to 500 domestic students, it was almost enough to offset the loss of the 1,000 students who didn’t return in January after withdrawing following last fall’s faculty strike, as well as replacing graduating students.

The college has 10,449 full-time students currently registered compared to 10,539 in September.

Though the departure of 1,000 students represents a \$3-million loss in annual tuition, January’s international students and their higher fees more than made up the difference.

The college’s main South Windsor campus now has 2,400 international students. The top two sources for the college’s international students are India and China.

“We see those numbers continuing to grow,” Silvaggi said. “We’re getting a lot of interest from overseas.

“Most of our international students already have some kind of educational certificate from their home country. They like the hands-on aspect the college offers to compliment that.”



# Premier Kathleen Wynne to tour college, host town hall in Windsor Thursday

[CBC News](#) - Feb 12, 2018



(Note: CBC does not endorse and is not responsible for the content of external links.)

Premier Kathleen Wynne will be visiting the St. Clair College Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre on Thursday, as part of a tour she is taking of some of Ontario's college and university campuses.

The training centre, which just celebrated its year anniversary, offers an earn-while-you-learn program where students get paid while training in the precision machining and metal cutting industries.

The premier will visit the facility and talk with students in the program. She'll also meet with college president Patti France, as well as industry representatives, and students who have graduated from the program and were hired by industry.

"Last July, the premier toured the Ford Centre for Excellence in Manufacturing, so we thought it was an appropriate facility," explained Ann Hetherington, the college's director of marketing and recruitment.

"I think what she'll see is a great cooperation between post-secondary education and industry."

A spokesperson for the University of Windsor said that no visit to the university has been scheduled yet.

Later in the day, the premier will host a public town hall at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts at 201 Riverside Dr. W. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the town hall begins at 7 p.m.

General admission seating will be available on a first-come-first-served basis. People who wish to attend are asked to [RSVP](#).

# Buses packed with college students bypass frustrated Transit Windsor riders

"My bus pass is \$95 a month," says daily Transit Windsor rider Lisa Bassett. "That's a lot of money to get passed every day."

Windsor Star - February 13, 2018

After a long day's work and waiting at the bus stop in the freezing cold, you just want to go home. But the Transit Windsor bus just passes you by because it's jam-packed with St. Clair College students.

It's a frustrating and demoralizing experience that's happened repeatedly since the start of January for daily Transit Windsor rider Lisa Bassett, caused by a sudden explosion in ridership on the three South Windsor bus routes serving the college's main campus.

"My bus pass is \$95 a month," said Bassett. "That's a lot of money to get passed every day."

Compared to January of 2017, ridership last month was up 43.7 per cent on the Dominion 5, 49.5 per cent on the Dougall 6 and 39.4 per cent on the South Windsor 7. Most of the extra riders are going to and from the college, according to a recent Transit Windsor report that highlights this "significant increase in student ridership."

"The buses are packed every single day," said Bassett, who takes the Dominion 5 daily between her home in the Riverside Drive/McKay Avenue area to her job at a South Windsor daycare near Dominion Boulevard and Grand Marais Road. The problem usually happens on the ride home in the afternoon.

Several weeks ago on a very cold day, she was waiting at her stop along with an elderly woman in a wheelchair when the packed bus passed them. The shivering woman was forced to call for a taxi. Bassett said she was shocked and disgusted by how the woman was treated.

On another occasion a woman at her stop remarked she changed her work schedule so her shift ended at 5 p.m. instead of 4 p.m. so she could avoid getting passed, but the bus passed them anyway.

Last Friday, she was waiting with a girl at her stop when the bus passed, and the girl remarked, "That's the second one that's passed me," said Bassett, who added she's also seen mothers with baby strollers and toddlers passed by. "It's ridiculous, there's no reason people should be waiting out in the snow for an hour."

Transit Windsor officials are meeting with St. Clair College to discuss the situation, according to the bus service's executive director Pat Delmore.

"The buses are leaving St. Clair full, so we've been adding extra buses whenever possible," Delmore said.



Transit Windsor has been fielding complaints about buses filling up with students at St. Clair College's main campus, shown here Feb. 13, 2018, and then bypassing them on stops along the rest of the route. Nick Brancaccio / Windsor Star

St. Clair's vice-president of international relations Ron Seguin said the surge in bus use is directly linked to the [college's strategy to attract international students](#). Their numbers have risen from 300 a few years ago, to almost 2,500 currently. And international students don't drive. They rely on public transit to get to and from their apartments, which are primarily located in the downtown area, Seguin said.

"The numbers are dramatic," he said, forecasting that figure will rise to 5,000 in the coming years. "It's good. There's a lot of people in town renting things, buying things. The economic benefit is quite dramatic."

Seguin said the college is eager to talk with Transit Windsor about increasing its service to St. Clair. "It's going to be required," he said, especially as the number of international students continues to increase. He expects there will also be increased demand for better bus service at night and on weekends.

Delmore said Transit Windsor needs to study times when ridership is high to map out a strategy that could include adding express buses. He said if a bus passes a rider because it's full, an extra bus is added to the route if one's available.

"It's a good problem to have," he said of the full buses. "It's frustrating, we know, to a rider who may be bypassed, but we're working on solutions."

Transit Windsor noticed a jump in ridership at the start of school in September, when ridership was up between 16.5 per cent and 22.7 per cent on the three routes compared to September of 2016. But the five-week strike by college faculty caused numbers to tank starting in mid-October, followed by the January surge.

Year-end statistics for Transit Windsor show a 3.4-per-cent increase in overall ridership, from 6.5 million individual trips in 2016 to 6.73 million in 2017. That's a significant improvement, said Delmore, considering ridership is rising two per cent nationally, and is stagnant for most transit services similar in size to Transit Windsor.

The overall increase can be credited to a 14.4-per-cent rise in ridership among students, following the September 2016 adoption of a UPass system by University of Windsor students,

who all pay \$66 each semester in exchange for universal bus passes. [Rising ridership translates into more money for the transit system from the province, which this year is providing Transit Windsor with \\$3.8 million in gas tax funding.](#)

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A new student bus pass program is proving a huge success for Transit Windsor, but others are complaining that buses are bypassing them at stops along their routes because they are full. Here, students at St. Clair College's main campus prepare to board. Nick Brancaccio / Windsor Star



All aboard. Transit Windsor is having a banner year due to new student bus pass programs. Here, students file onto the Dominion 5 at St. Clair College's south Windsor campus on Tuesday. Nick Brancaccio / Windsor Star

# St. Clair College Ranks First In Canada For Female Enrolment In Computer Programs

WindsoriteDOTca News - Wednesday February 14th, 2018



St. Clair College’s Computer Networking programs, which are Cisco Network Academy certified, are ranked number one in Canada for having the largest enrolment of females in the programs.

The program has 50 female students enrolled, and represents 23% of the student population in these programs. The national average is 13%. The College is also ranked number two in total enrolment in computer networking programs in Canada for 2017.

“Having Cisco as a partner has definitely elevated the reputation of these programs. Students know if they want a higher education that leads to great careers in the information technology sector, this is the place to come,” said Computer Networking program coordinator Ruth Susannah.

# Local roundup: Saints Kennedy set to become all-time leading scorer in OCAA women's basketball

Windsor Star - February 14, 2018

The disappointment for Shannon Kennedy wasn't in failing to put her name in the record books at home.

The fifth-year standout for the St. Clair Saints needed 22 points on Sunday to become the all-time leading scorer in OCAA women's basketball history. Instead, Kennedy finished with 19 points and 10 rebounds in a loss to Niagara.

"I was more disappointed that we lost," the 22-year-old Kennedy said. "Twenty-one was the only number in my head. We needed to win by 21 to secure a home (playoff) spot."

The St. Joseph high school product now sits at 1,341 career points, which is just two-points back of Jessica Brown, who set the OCAA record last year for Redeemer.

With three games left to play, Kennedy, who is 16th in OCAA scoring this season with an average of 14.9 points per game, knows she will set the mark and likely when the Saints (10-7) play Humber (18-0) on the road Saturday in Toronto.

"I know I'm going to break it," Kennedy said. "I'm proud of myself for doing it.

"I don't know what it's going to feel like, but we've talked about how we want to get it done (early in the game), get it over, celebrate the moment and focus on winning the game. The goal is still an (OCAA) medal this year."

# Premier Kathleen Wynne In Windsor Today

AM800- CKLW – February 15, 2018



Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne speaks at the Art Gallery of Windsor on October 20, 2018. (Photo by AM800's Peter Langille)

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne says she's "optimistic" about talks to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement.

U.S. President Donald Trump has hinted at scrapping NAFTA in recent months, a move that would have a significant impact on Windsor's auto-industry.

Wynne told AM800's 'The Afternoon News' that the trade talks are creating a cloud of uncertainty over Windsor's economy. "The auto industry is doing well in Windsor. Windsor has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, things are going very well, but not everybody is sharing in that and it that's what creates some uncertainty."

Based on her conversations with government officials, Wynne says there's reason to be optimistic. "I've met with business leaders and with folks in the White House to make it clear that we understand how integrated our economies are and how there are good jobs and workers who depend on that relationship here in Ontario and in the United States."

"Everyone involved is aware of how important open trade is for the economy on both sides of the border," says Wynne. "There were a number of us who were a bit nervous at the end of November, we weren't sure exactly what was going to happen, whether the White House would make a move that would really undermine NAFTA, but that hasn't happened. I know there are many business leaders and elected officials in the states who are getting their message through to the White House."

In a recent interview with AM800 News, Mayor Drew Dilkens pointed out 35 of 50 U.S. states call Canada their number one customer.

Wynne will tour the Skilled Trades Regional Training Centre at St. Clair College this afternoon and then [hosts a town hall meeting](#) at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts tonight. The doors open at 6pm with the town hall meeting set to begin at 7pm.

# Computer Programs Attracting Female Students At St. Clair College

AM800 CKLW – February 15, 2018



Photo courtesy of St. Clair College's Instagram page

St. Clair College is being nationally recognized.

The college has been named number one in the country for female students enrolled in certified computer programs.

"We were thrilled to hear from our partner Cisco Networking Academy that our Computer Networking programs were ranked number one in Canada for the number of female students enrolled in the programs," says Director of Marketing Ann Hetherington. "There are 50 female students enrolled, which represents 23% of the student population in the computer programs."

Hetherington says in 2017, the college was ranked number two in total enrolment for computer networking programs in Canada but that ranking may change this year. "We're hearing that we might eclipse that number one position for Canada this year because we've had a tremendous in take of students into these two programs and a good majority of them are international students."

She says the college is thrilled to see international students benefiting from these programs. "I think students are realizing that there are some highly marketable skills within these programs."

The national average for females enrolled in the programs is 13%.

Hetherington believes the program is attracting students because of the Cisco Network Academy certification.

The college has had the certification for 12-years.



# Kathleen Wynne in town to host a town hall meeting



Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne speaks to media at Legislative Assembly of Ontario in Toronto on Thursday Jan. 25, 2018. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Frank Gunn

CTV Windsor - Thursday, February 15, 2018

Premier Kathleen Wynne will be in Windsor today for a tour of St. Clair College and to host a town hall meeting.

The Premier's visit and meeting come at time when trade talks are heating up between the U.S. and Canada on NAFTA and on the heels of Ontario's recent response to Buy American policies south of the border.

Wynne will be at St. Clair College at 3 p.m. to tour the Skilled Trades and Regional Training Centre.

At 7 p.m. the town hall meeting will start in the Centre for Arts at St. Clair College.

Doors open at 6 p.m.

A live stream of the event will also be available [here](#).



Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne answers questions during a townhall meeting at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts in Windsor, February 15, 2018. Photo by Mark Brown/Blackburn News.

## Premier Addresses Caboto And Auto Industry At Windsor Meeting

Blackburn News - February 15, 2018

Ontario's premier got an earful from Windsor-Essex residents during a townhall meeting.

Premier Kathleen Wynne answered questions on a variety of subjects during the meeting, which was the latest in a series taking place across the province.

Hundreds listened Thursday night at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts, which was the alternative venue for this meeting. The townhall was initially slated to [take place at the Caboto Club](#) in Windsor but an outcry over the club's all-male membership prompted Wynne and her staff to change venues.

Wynne briefly addressed the controversy, saying while the private club had a right to set its rules, it was all about making everyone feel welcome.

"This was a meeting that was open to everybody," said Wynne. "It needed to be a meeting where everybody who wanted to come felt comfortable. We changed the location because there were some people who said they weren't comfortable about having it at a club with an all-male board. That's their prerogative."

There were other issues relating to Windsor-Essex discussed at the meeting, as well. One man questioned the premier about how the recent labour law changes in the province did not include the local auto industry, asking her if it was politically motivated for a county completely represented by the NDP. Wynne said the labour changes were geared toward hard-working Ontarians who are having trouble getting ahead.

"It was really about people who were being treated the way they should not be treated and not have fair workplaces," said Wynne. "That's not the case for the vast majority of autoworkers who are under contract and who have a different kind of workplace."

Wynne also addressed a question about environmental concerns still lingering over the site of the new Windsor-Essex mega-hospital. She pointed out that although the issue surrounding the place itself was settled, it should not deter people to express their worries at the local level.

“Those decisions need to be made locally and I implore all the local representatives to make sure they include people with concerns in the consultation,” said Wynne.

Others in attendance had questions ranging from resources for vulnerable sectors of the population, to mental health assistance to amalgamation.

Among the elected officials in attendance were Windsor West MPP Lisa Gretzky, Essex County Warden Tom Bain and Windsor Councillor Rino Bortolin.

# Here's what Windsor asked Kathleen Wynne during her town hall

**Residents asked questions on topics including affordability, water security and health care**

[CBC News](#) - Feb 15, 2018



Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne speaks with residents of Windsor-Essex during a town hall at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts on Feb 15, 2018. (Dan Taekema/CBC)

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne was challenged by questions on topics ranging from marijuana sales to mental health supports from a crowd of more than 100 during a town hall in Windsor Thursday.

The premier hosted the event at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts and spoke with attendees for an hour and a half.

Affordability, water security and the wellbeing of wildlife along Matchette Road were covered, along with healthcare coverage and support for the LGBTQ community.

# Kathleen Wynne in Windsor to host a town hall meeting

CTV Windsor - Thursday, February 15, 2018

Premier Kathleen Wynne is in Windsor today for a tour of St. Clair College and to host a town hall meeting later in the evening.

The Premier's visit and meeting come at time when trade talks are heating up between the U.S. and Canada on NAFTA and on the heels of Ontario's recent response to Buy American policies south of the border.

Wynne visited St. Clair College at 3 p.m. to tour the Skilled Trades and Regional Training Centre.



Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne at St. Clair College in Windsor touring the regional training centre on Feb. 15, 2018. (Chris Campbell / CTV Windsor)

At 7 p.m. the town hall meeting begins at the Centre for the Arts at St. Clair College's downtown campus. The town hall will be moderated by former Unifor national president and long-time labour advocate, Ken Lewenza.

"I'm going to treat it like a membership meeting, where I have a lot of experience," Lewenza told CTV News. "We're gonna give people the opportunity to ask their questions. Even when we have opposing views, we respect each others opinions."

According to Wynne's office, the town halls forums have drawn out more than 1,000 people of all ages across Ontario, discussing a range of issues, from the minimum wage to health care to international trade. Wynne says all questions are welcome.

"I believe personal connections are key to any healthy democracy — there is no replacing that face-to-face engagement when it comes to truly understanding someone's issue or concern," Wynne said in a release.

"Through these in-person conversations, people across Ontario have reminded me how passionate and informed they are about the issues affecting their lives and communities. That's what motivates me, and it's why I look forward to continuing the conversation in Windsor, and hearing ideas from people in Southwestern Ontario about how we can work together to build a fairer, better province for everyone," she said.

Doors open at 6 p.m.

# More Than 100 People Make Their Way To Premier Kathleen Wynne's Open House

[AM800 CKLW](#) - Thursday, February 15th 2018



Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne fields questions during an open house at St. Clair Centre for the Arts in Downtown Windsor on Thursday February 15, 2018. (Photo by AM800's Gord Bacon)

More than 100 people from throughout Windsor-Essex gathered for Premier Kathleen Wynne's open-house at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts Thursday night.

Wynne fielded questions ranging from municipal amalgamation, to cannabis tax, and the new location of the pending Mega-Hospital — the location of which she told the crowd is still up in the air.

Sherri Taylor is a mother of five, three of her children have special needs. Taylor tells AM800 News, she was on hand to ask for more funding for therapies under the Ontario Autism Program.

"My one son was diagnosed with autism and under the OAP I should have access to therapy," she says. "Unfortunately there's only the one therapy that has been determined by the government to be necessary, so parents don't have the options that they need."

She says many therapies require several accompanying diagnosis to qualify.

"Not all of our kids fit in a box, I paid out of pocket and over the last two years I've paid \$30,000 for therapy for just one son, that doesn't count my other son that's also there as well, who's just started," says Taylor.

Taylor says her sons suffer from a sensory processing disorder that may not be accompanied by autism, and that needs to be recognized under the OAP.

"The government needs to understand that more and more kids are suffering from sensory processing disorder and it's affecting their everyday life, their success in school and it will affect their future," she says. "We need to have the government also fund that disability as well."

Lakeshore Mayor Tom Bain addressed issues with the Hwy. 3 by-pass, saying it's a dangerous situation. Wynne promised Bain a meeting with the Minister of Transportation.

# Wynne pressed on lack of local services, TPP at town hall

Windsor Star - February 15, 2018

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne walked into the lion's den for her town hall meeting Thursday at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts and there were several roars of displeasure about the direction of the province.

Venturing onto NDP turf, there isn't a Liberal MPP between Windsor and London, it was never going to be a relaxed evening for Wynne.

Among the most emotional exchanges came with LaSalle resident Mary Beth Rocheleau, who asked what the province would do to support families of adult children with disabilities.

Such children lose funding at 18 and must re-apply for support, but face lengthy waiting lists.

"Our children's 18th birthday should be cause for celebration not for crisis," Rocheleau told the premier.

"There's a four-year wait list for (the new renewed funding). In this area, there's a 25-year wait list for supported living.

"I'm 52 and I'm going to be dead before my son is in a supported home. I'll never see my son in a safe home."

Wynne promised to do more than the \$810-million investment already announced, but dodged any commitment on a timetable to eliminate the wait lists.

"She skirted around the question," Rocheleau said. "She recognizes the problem, but how is that going to help any kids?"

"People fear losing their homes paying for the support themselves."

Wynne has been criss-crossing the province since last fall holding these meetings and a few have gotten rather raucous. However, moderator Ken Lewenza Sr., who was never averse to a little table pounding and a few bellicose blasts in negotiating with auto companies or politicians as CAW president, was adept at allowing emotion to seep into the exchanges without lines being crossed.

Lewenza even facilitated scheduling meetings with the appropriate ministers to deal with the issues raised.

One such issue concerned the black shale sediment found in an increasing number of water wells in Chatham-Kent.

"No," said Kevin Jakubec, a spokesperson for Water Wells First of whether he was satisfied with trying to get a meeting with Environment Minister Chris Ballard.

“I met with her (Wynne) in July. It (water) has been like this for six years. No one should have to drink this (water looking like oil).”

Jakubec said the frustration is they’ve had testing done to show the shale absorbs toxic metals, but the ministry has disputed the findings.

The questions Wynne fielded were wide ranging from marijuana sales to pension protection to if Highway 3 will be widened.

One question of particular concern regarded the revised Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement and the auto industry.

“On TTP we have concerns about the impact on the auto sector in Ontario,” said Wynne, who has expressed that to the federal government.

“We need to see what provisions are in place before it’s signed. The response I’ve got is there are side letters and provisions opening markets. We want to see what access that provides.”

The meeting, which lasted 90 minutes and drew about 130 people, ended with a passionate question about mental health services not being available in the area.

“Why does it seem all mental health services end in London?” asked Dale Lee, a Windsor resident seeking help for her grandson.

Lee pointed out cuts to Maryvale’s funding have resulted in 54 beds being left empty while children are being forced out of town for services.

Wynne was sympathetic, but offered little in the way of concrete solutions.

“No,” said Lee when asked if she was satisfied with the answers. “She gave the same answer she gave to everyone, ‘We’ll study it.’”

“I don’t think it’s enough to try and discuss a community’s issue in an hour and a half. Are we not worth more than that?”



# St. Clair College tops in female computer networking students

Windsor Star - 16 Feb 2018



*DAN JANISSE* Trushna Patel, left, and Annette Inja, computer networking students at St. Clair College, work in a lab class on Thursday.

Trushna Patel came to Windsor from India to study business administration at St. Clair College.

She had taken computer science and engineering back home but was still searching for the right academic fit.

She soon realized it wasn't business either.

"It was not my field," the 23-yearold said.

At the suggestion of faculty member Ruth Susannah, Patel sat in on a several computer networking courses and knew she had finally found her niche.

"I had a couple of trial classes and I found it so interesting," Patel said. "I feel like this is where I can showcase my skills."

She's not alone.

St. Clair College has been recognized as having the most female students of any Canadian institution offering computer networking programs through a partnership with global IT leader Cisco Systems.

Cisco Network Academies are offered at 211 Canadian learning institutions, including high schools, community colleges and universities.

St. Clair has offered CNA certified programs since 2006.

The school's 2017 class of first-year students featured 50 females, representing 23 per cent of student enrolment. That's almost double the national average of 13 per cent.

Instructor John Ulakovich has seen female numbers increase steadily over the past few years.

"I think there will be even more next year," he said. "We have some great female role models here at the college and I think that attracts female students to the program and having an industry partner like Cisco helps because they're recognized all over the world."

Ulakovich has also seen the number of international students increase through the efforts of program co-ordinator Susannah.

"Over the past few years, I've been going to India," said Susannah of the college's ongoing efforts to attract more international students. "The girls there don't get the opportunities that we get here."

By coming here "they get a life where they can make their own decisions and have a good future," she said.

The chance for advancement convinced 24-year-old Annette Inja to leave her home in India and study here.

She had worked for a small IT company there in network maintenance.

"It's been a great experience here working in all the hands-on labs," Inja said. "I love playing with routers and switches."

Students can earn a diploma after two years or take an advanced diploma three-year course.

They learn about programming, cyber security and cloud technology.

Cisco Academy students built the network that powered the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto.

"The learning is practical knowledge," Patel said. "It's actually done in a business environment."

Philippe Landry, the program manager for Cisco Networking Academy Canada, said he would be "hard pressed" to explain the high ratio of female students at St. Clair.

"Of course, this trend is widespread across many STEM fields in post-secondary institutions," he said.

# Local roundup: Saints look to advance to OCAA volleyball championships

The St. Clair Saints women's volleyball team is looking to take the next step.

Windsor Star - February 16, 2018

The St. Clair Saints women's volleyball team is looking to take the next step.

A year after finishing in fourth place while hosting the OCAA championships, the Saints are looking for better results this season.

"We feel like we have some unfinished business from last year after coming so close to being on the podium and falling short," Saints head coach Jimmy El-Turk said.

Step one comes Saturday when the Saints host a crossover playoff game at the SportsPlex against the Georgian Grizzlies. Game time is 7 p.m.

St. Clair (13-5) finished third in the West Division while the Grizzlies (9-9) placed sixth in the East Division. The winners advance to the OCAA championship.

"The ladies are excited for one more home game this season and a chance to get back to the OCAA championship," El-Turk said. "Georgian will be a tough test. They are a good serving team and play a style of volleyball that isn't really played in the West Division.

"If we can take care of the ball and serve effectively, I like our chances of advancing."

## **Saints men's volleyball**

The St. Clair Saints men's volleyball team will be on the road for an OCAA crossover game against the Fleming Knights at Saturday.

St. Clair (10-8) lost a tiebreaker with Niagara for fourth place in the West Division, which would have meant a home playoff game. Now, the Saints face a Fleming (10-8) team that was fourth in the East Division after going 9-2 over its final 11 matches. The winner advances to the OCAA championship.

"They've gone on quite the run," Saints head coach Rob Lynch said of the Knights. "They're big in the middle and we have block that middle and hit out of the left side at a consistent rate to win."

# Maker Faire Mini Version This Saturday

The Square - 22 February 2018

(WINDSOR, ON) – Organizers are calling the Windsor-Essex Mini Maker Faire, scheduled for Saturday at St Clair College, the, “greatest show (and tell) on Earth.” The event, say the organizers, will bring together, under one roof, the invention, creativity, and resourcefulness of local makers of things.

These makers often create unique and innovative products, either as hobbies, experiments, or projects.

Those who attend will find themselves in an event best described as, “part science fair, part county fair, and part something entirely new.”

Maker Faire is an all-ages gathering of tech enthusiasts, crafters, educators, tinkerers, hobbyists, engineers, science clubs, authors, artists, students, and commercial exhibitors. All of these ‘makers’ come to Maker Faire to show what they have made and to share what they have learned. – Maker Faire promotional

Initially as a concept in the San Francisco Bay area in 2006, the Faire has grown into a world movement. Last year there were over 190 independently-produced Mini Maker Faires, plus over 30 larger-scale Featured Maker Faires, in such cities as Tokyo, Rome, Shenzhen, Taipei, Seoul, Paris, Berlin, Barcelona, Detroit, San Diego, Milwaukee, and Kansas City.

Maker Faire’s prime purpose is to be forward-looking by showcasing makers known to be exploring new forms and new technologies. But it’s not just for the novel in technical fields. It also includes artisans showing off how their imagination has been put to the test in fields as diverse as science, engineering, art, performance, and crafts.

One of the advantages of the Faire is the ability to be a showcase of ideas, concepts, and inventiveness that doesn’t really have a home elsewhere, while also allowing the inventors to talk about what they do to fascinate those who attend.

The Mini Faire will run from 10am to 3pm on Saturday. There is no admission fee.

# Local companies aim to cash in on \$950M federal supercluster program

A bid by Windsor area companies wasn't selected for federal funding, but now many have joined a successful Toronto-based bid focused on advanced manufacturing.

Windsor Star - February 22, 2018

A group of Windsor business owners held a series of meetings last year to tap into a new federal program that would bring together the country's best minds in research, academia, technology and manufacturing.

The Trudeau government planned to distribute \$950 million to five "superclusters" from across the country and the local group wanted in on it.

They were tool and die makers, auto parts manufacturers and mould makers. Working with the WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation, the business owners held low-key meetings and tried to stay under the radar. They quietly assembled their ambitious proposal, focusing on automotive manufacturing — their specialty.

Over the course of several months, discussions centred on whether the group's pitch would be too narrowly focused on the auto sector to prevail, said Stephen MacKenzie, the development corporation's CEO.

They knew the federal government's goal was to push Canada into the forefront of innovation — an area where the country has lagged globally. Canada was ranked No. 22 in the world — far behind countries like Sweden, Germany, South Korea, Japan and U.S. — in the annual Bloomberg Innovation Index released last month.

Those involved were well-aware there was a similar bid in the Greater Toronto Area that focused on advancing robotics and machining, MacKenzie said.



Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development announces proposals under the \$950-million Innovation Superclusters Initiative in Ottawa, Thursday, February 15, 2018. Fred Chartrand / THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nevertheless, the locally-backed auto parts industry proposal — called Building Canada's Advanced Automotive Supercluster — was among 50 submitted nationally by the July 2017 deadline. It was an expensive venture. The cost for assembling the bid was \$518,000, MacKenzie said.

“A lot of work went into it. It would have been great to be at the centre of something like that. It was a darn good proposal, too.”

Given the auto industry is one of Canada's top economic drivers, support for innovation is critical to compete globally, he said. The group's proposal detailed research being done at local tool companies and others in the region.

Several dozen companies involved with the proposal were also willing to contribute \$250 million in matching funds over five years to get the government money.

Unfortunately, the Windsor-based effort did not make the shortlist of nine announced in October by federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains. On Feb. 15, he revealed the five winning bids, which will cash in on the \$950-million federal supercluster program.

Even though their bid wasn't selected, the Windsor business and industry leaders are still rejoicing. When they didn't make the shortlist in the fall, six Windsor area entities joined the Toronto-area group, which is one of the five winners.

The Toronto-based advanced manufacturing supercluster has 140 partners — a coalition of industry and academic partners located primarily in Toronto, Hamilton and Kitchener-Waterloo.

In the coming weeks, there will be opportunities to benefit for more Windsor and Essex County companies — as well as research teams from the University of Windsor and St. Clair College.

“With what we have announced it's always possible for any similar business to get in the game and join the cluster,” said Karl Sasseville, the minister's press secretary. “That's the whole purpose of the initiative — to get the conversations started. The more the merrier in this situation.”

The largest chunk of the \$950 million in federal supercluster funding is likely going to the manufacturing group, Sasseville said.

Every dollar in federal funding will have to be matched by a \$1.50 from the companies involved. The companies and entities involved in the advanced manufacturing supercluster bid aren't being named by the government until agreements are signed, he said.

Jayson Myers, former head of Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, has been named CEO of the supercluster.

Bringing together the best research teams, technology firms — big and small — and manufacturing companies will help create thousands of new jobs in Ontario, Myers said in a telephone interview.

“The problem we will try to solve is lots of manufacturers in Ontario are looking at investing in advanced technology, but don’t know how,” he said. “We will help their business on where to go. On the other hand, there are lots of great research and start-up tech firms, but what they need are companies to work with. We will connect the dots.”

While it’s centred in Toronto, all those involved in the supercluster — from Windsor to Montreal — will be equal partners, Myers said.

“You have a lot of mould makers, die casters, robotics companies that are strong around the Windsor area,” he said. “They are very engaged with us already through their industry associations.”

The early focus will be advancing 3D printing, digital technology, robotics, machining and equipment improvements.

“This will be a Canada-wide supercluster on technology and manufacturing,” Myers said. “We will leverage all the technology and work being done. This is not a Waterloo or Toronto initiative.”

“This will be cross-sector and cross-technology,” he said. “There will be no attempt to exclude anyone.”

Myers expects to disclose the first research investments and the companies involved this summer.

The Canadian Association of Mold Makers, which includes numerous Windsor area tool and die shops, is one of the six partners in the supercluster, said chairman Jonathon Azzopardi.

The Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association and Laval Tool, of which he is president and CEO, are other local partners, he said.

Azzopardi is disappointed the Windsor-based auto sector bid failed.

“The auto industry is at the forefront of innovation every day,” he said.

Nevertheless, Windsor’s involvement in the advanced manufacturing supercluster is critical in the months ahead, given how this region has “the most to gain and the most to lose” when it comes to innovation in manufacturing and remaining competitive, Azzopardi said.

“We are closest and most integrated with the U.S.,” Azzopardi said. “They are our largest trading partner. Our ability to stay competitive (in innovation) will affect our ability to sell to (the U.S.). We are the front line of exports. If you can’t keep this region competitive other regions will suffer. There will be a ripple effect.”

He believes the new federal program will make a big difference in terms of jobs, but said much will be in the hands of the supercluster’s board and its decisions about which innovation projects and companies to support.

“Hopefully it will be equally dispersed on different industries,” Azzopardi said. “There are certain industries which can use this more than others. Auto manufacturing is highly competitive on a global scale and needs (innovation and research) to survive.”

Other superclusters selected for funding by the federal government are digital technology in British Columbia, protein industries on the Prairies, ocean-based industries in Atlantic Canada, and intelligent supply chains using artificial intelligence and robotics in Quebec.

Bains says the initiative will expand Canada’s economy by \$50 billion over the next decade and create more than 50,000 middle-class jobs.

Tony Faria, co-director of the Office of Automotive and Vehicle Research at the University of Windsor, predicts the university’s engineering school will soon find a way to get involved with the advanced manufacturing supercluster.

The value of the superclusters is not the money involved, since \$950 million spread among five entities “is not that big,” he said. “It will be about the companies working together and synergies from that.”



# Local roundup: Saints women's volleyball team claims first medal in over 20 years

Windsor Star - February 25, 2018

The St. Clair Saints women's volleyball team earned its first OCAA medal in over two decades on Saturday.

Rallying from a two-set deficit, the Saints claimed the bronze medal with a five-set win over the Sheridan Bruins at Centennial College in Toronto.

St. Clair, which had not won a medal since 1997, took the match 3-2 by scores of 20-25, 27-29, 25-22, 25-22 and 15-8.

"It feels amazing," Saints head coach Jimmy El-Turk said. "I'm so proud of how we battled.

Setter Kimberley Quintanilla had 42 assists and six service aces, which included one on match point to clinch the medal for St. Clair. Te-Anna Stephenson had 22 kills and Julie Ann Milling had 12 digs.

# St. Clair Women's Basketball Heading To OCAA Championship Tournament

AM800 CKLW - February 25th 2018



St. Clair College women's basketball team (Photo courtesy of Saints Athletics via Twitter)

In college basketball playoffs...

The St. Clair women's team is moving on to the OCAA Championship Tournament after a 74-60 win over St Lawrence.

Jana Kucera led the Saints and all scorers with 21 points while adding five rebounds.

The women will play undefeated Humber on the road Friday at 3pm in the quarterfinals of the eight team championship bracket.

Meantime....

The season came to an end Saturday for the St. Clair men with a 83-63 loss to Seneca.



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Striking members of Ontario Public Service Employees Union Local 110 picket outside of Fanshawe College's Centre for Digital and Performing Arts in London, October 24, 2017. (Photo by Miranda Chant, Blackburn News)

## College Faculty Calls On Province To Reboot Talks

Blackburn News – London/ Sarnia/ Windsor October 24, 2017

The union representing striking faculty at Ontario's 24 public colleges is looking to the provincial government to light a fire under the College Employer Council to get them back to the bargaining table.

At a downtown rally outside of Fanshawe College's Centre for Digital and Performing Arts on Dundas St. in London on Tuesday, Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) Local 110 President Darryl Bedford questioned why, when the union is willing to talk, have negotiations not resumed.

"How come they [the College Employer Council] haven't come to the table? How come they have removed some of their contact information off of their website? I mean, where are they? What does it say when one group wants to negotiate and discuss the issues and the other one doesn't? It makes it impossible to get a deal," said Bedford.

Roughly 12,000 college professors, instructors, counselors, and librarians are now into their ninth day of the strike. They walked off the job on October 16, after talks between the union and the council broke off. At this point, no new talks have been scheduled.

Bedford said, since it appears the council isn't interested in negotiating, it is time for government intervention.

"We don't understand why [London North Centre MPP] Deb Matthews, who is the minister responsible, can't pick up the phone and call the council and say 'you're our agency, you're named in the legislation as the party responsible. Why aren't you going back to the table?'"

In an effort to catch the deputy premier's eye, college faculty will be marching from London's Victoria Park to Matthews' constituency office on Piccadilly St. on Thursday. Matthews serves as the minister for advanced education and skills development.



*Striking Fanshawe College faculty member Emma Wise speaks to a passerby at a rally in downtown London, October 23, 2017.*

Late last week, student union leaders, including Morganna Sampson of Fanshawe College and Nick Goran of St. Clair College, issued a similar call to provincial politicians through an open letter. It was addressed to several MPPs and Premier Kathleen Wynne.

“We respect the collective bargaining process which is a process between the faculty union and the College Employer Council. We know that the only solution to this strike is at the bargaining table; however, the bargaining parties have not met for the past week. I urge both parties to return to the table and find a solution that allows students to return to the classroom where they belong,” said Matthews in a written statement to Blackburn News London on Tuesday. “Students, domestic and international, are a top priority for our government, and we know they have real concerns about the impact a potential strike may have on their education. While the government has no direct involvement in the collective bargaining process, we are committed to doing everything we can to connect students to the resources they need to stay informed.”

Matthews added that she is optimistic the two sides will return to the table to reach a “successful, negotiated settlement that is in the best interests of all parties.”

Job security is a key bargaining issue for the union. It is asking for a 50/50 split of full time and contract positions and an increased role in academic decision-making. Currently, 68% of the faculty at Fanshawe are lower paid contract employees.

“Everyday I get a little more angry that they won’t even talk to us,” said Fanshawe faculty member Emma Wise, who fears union members will be ordered back to work by the province without any contract changes. “I live in poverty to do this job because it is so important for me and for society and because I love it,” said Wise. “I think that is what most of us feel like. It would be so sad to have this strike do nothing and have to go back with no changes what’s so ever.”

The College Employer Council has said it is waiting for the provincial mediator to call them back to the bargaining table.

# Colleges strike: Fanshawe faculty want to keep up pressure as strike drags on

[Jennifer Bieman](#), The London Free Press / Windsor Star - Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Nine days into the provincewide stalemate that's forced more than 12,000 instructors to the picket line, Fanshawe College's striking faculty are taking their fight uptown.

Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) Local 110 — which represents about 800 striking instructors at Fanshawe — is planning a Victoria Park rally Thursday as the strike drags into the double digits and the issues at the core of the job action remain unresolved.

“We just have to do what we have to do,” said Darryl Bedford, an information technology instructor at Fanshawe and OPSEU bargaining team member. “There's still a big need to keep the pressure on.”

The union and its supporters will meet in the park at 11:30 a.m. and walk to London North Centre MPP Deb Matthews office, who's also the minister of advanced education and skills development.

Thursday's London march comes a day after a planned rally outside Matthews' Queen's Park post, an event OPSEU president Warren (Smokey) Thomas is expected to attend.

Bedford said the union wants to get back to the bargaining table and is willing to negotiate a deal that works for everyone.

“We're open to discussing our position,” he said, “but if you're not even at the table, how can we even have that discussion?”

A representative from the College Employer Council said Monday the provincial mediator assigned to the case will call both parties back to negotiations when there's a reasonable chance a deal can be brokered. That just hasn't happened yet, he said.

Job security is a top concern for OPSEU, which is asking colleges to employ the same number of full-time instructors as the more precarious — and often lower-paid — contract positions.

Not a surprising demand in this day and age, said one observer.

“There's two opposite forces here. One is on the part of labour to secure more job security and stability,” said Nelson Wiseman, political scientist at the University of Toronto. “The other is the way our economy is evolving, where employers are moving toward the gig economy.”

Wiseman said if both sides can't reconcile these large macro trends and come to some kind of agreement within seven to eight weeks, it's likely the province will legislate faculty back to work.

“The government will step in if there's enough pressure,” he said.

It's happened before, most recently for OPSEU's 1984 college faculty strike, one chapter in a long history of post-secondary job action, from support services strikes to faculty walkouts.



In October 1984, college faculty represented by OPSEU walked off the job and were legislated back to work after 18 school days.

College faculty hit the picket lines again five years later, a strike that pushed students out of class for 20 days in 1989.

In March 2006, 8,900 college instructors and librarians spent 18 days on the picket line before agreeing to binding arbitration.

Though there's no telling how long OPSEU's fourth college faculty strike will last, labour relations researcher Johanna Weststar said the best outcome will come at the bargaining table.

"An arbitration award is not where we're going to see a fix to this issue . . . It ends the issue in that moment, but it doesn't make that problem go away," said Weststar, a professor in the department of management and organizational studies at Western University.

"Arbitrators don't usually come in and impose something super creative, they usually impose kind of the status quo because they're trying to be balanced."

College faculty across Ontario hit the picket line Oct. 16, cancelling classes for more than a half million students, including tens of thousands in Southwestern Ontario at Fanshawe's satellite campuses in Woodstock, St. Thomas and Simcoe, Lambton College in Sarnia, St. Clair College in Windsor and its Chatham campu

# OPSEU Wants Government To Get Back To Bargaining



Striking faculty members walk the picket line outside St.Clair College in Windsor (Photo by Kimberley Johnson)

AM800 CKLW – October 25, 2017

Today is Day 10 in the strike at Ontario's 24 community colleges including St.Clair College in Windsor.

[330 faculty members at St.Clair, represented by OPSEU Local 138, hit the picket line October 16th.](#)

The union representing the workers wants the government to help get the College Employer Council back to the bargaining table.

OPSEU says it's willing to talk but negotiations have not resumed.

Phillip Aylesworth is a full-time IT professor and says everyone is still in good spirits.

"I would like management to come back to the table," says Aylesworth. "I think that's the most frustrating thing, that we're out here picketing and there aren't any talks going on. Our people are ready to talk at anytime and they're not, they're not even coming to the table. Yesterday was brutal with the winds and it got quite cold toward the evening, but that's what we're going to do. I was on strike 11 years ago and we were off in March and this is a little better than March."



OPSEU Local 138 President Bernie Nawrocki says the province should help restart talks.

"The government, in my opinion, should be directing the management bargaining team to sit face-to-face and try to negotiate a deal," says Nawrocki.

A rally is planned for Friday in Windsor that will feature OPSEU President Warren 'Smokey' Thomas along with the union bargaining committee chair.

Wages are one of the main issues behind the strike. No new talks have been scheduled.

# Chilifest in Windsor Cancelled

[AM800 CKLW - October 25, 2017](#)



Courtesy of @Michila

Chilifest in Windsor has been cancelled.

The event by the Windsor Professional Firefighters Association was scheduled for November 8 at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts in downtown Windsor.

But due to the strike by faculty members at the college, people attending the event would have been forced to cross the picket line.

Association Member Jeremy Soulliere says the union decided to support OPSEU and cancel the event for this year only.

"It was extremely difficult in the sense that the Chilifest is a really big fundraiser for us and it brings in a lot of money to our benefit fund which we in turn help out other charities," says Soulliere.

The event partially supports Sparky's Toy Drive.

"We want to support our union brothers and sisters at OPSEU and we don't want anyone crossing picket lines," he says.

Soulliere says the event will return in 2018 at the same location.

# Ongoing College Strike leads to cancellation of this year's Chilifest



CTV File Picture

CTV Windsor - Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Association Member Jeremy Souilliere says it was a difficult decision, but the association decided it would be best to cancel this year's Chilifest.

The event was schedule to go at the St. Clair Centre of the Arts on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Souilliere says his colleagues wanted to show support for OPSEU members at the college.

He expects Chillifest will return to the college next year.

The event is a fundraiser for the associations benefit fund for some charities and partially supports Sparky's Toy Drive.

Souilliere expects the Association will hold other events which will help make up some of the shortfall from the cancellation.

# 'We're ready to talk ... let's go!': College faculty rally on day 10 of strike

**College Employer Council says the final offer to the union is still on the table**

By Ieva Lucs, [CBC News](#) Oct 25, 2017



Ontario Public Service Employees Union members march outside the office of the minister of advanced education, Deb Matthews. (Chris Mulligan/CBC)

Day 10 of the Ontario college strike started with a rally outside the office of Deb Matthews, the advanced education minister, in downtown Toronto.

A section of Bay Street, south of Wellesley Street, was shut down Wednesday morning by hundreds of teachers and union supporters marching and holding signs that called for more academic freedom and a better plan for part time faculty.

"We just want the two sides to get talking as soon as possible," said John Kneller, who teaches film and television production at Sheridan College.

The labour dispute involving more than 12,000 professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians began last Monday, after the two sides failed to reach a new contract agreement. Some 500,000 students have been awaiting a return to school since the strike began on Oct. 16.

Don Sinclair, chief executive officer of the College Employer Council, said Monday that no new talks were scheduled and that he doesn't think the strike will end anytime soon. According to Sinclair, the final offer from the colleges that the faculty and staff overwhelmingly rejected is still on the table.



OPSEU members are calling on their employer to get back to the bargaining table. (CBC)

"We want them to come back to the bargaining table, and to bargain in good faith and not just muscle their way through," said Anne Lyden, an English instructor at Humber College.

"Our union has sent out a message saying, 'Come back and talk to us. We want to negotiate.' And they have not negotiated anything at all."

George Brown College teacher Judy Lashley was even more emphatic.

"Get them back to the table. We're ready to talk. We're ready! Let's go!" she said.

The union representing striking staff and faculty are demanding more full-time positions and an increased role in academic decision-making. The council has offered a 7.75 per cent salary increase over four years and has promised to improve the conversion of contract faculty to full-time positions.



George Brown College teacher Judy Lashley. (Chris Mulligan/CBC)

Both sides seem to agree that the ubiquity of precarious part-time work and academic planning are central to the dispute.

Eleven of the province's 24 public colleges have a reading week this week but picketing is continuing at all public colleges.

Some concerned students — the same who have collected more than 101,000 signatures in an [online petition](#) demanding a refund for days lost due to the strike — are speaking with several MPPs at Queen's Park on Wednesday. They are expected to make a statement following the meeting.

# Striking college faculty rally in Toronto; students press concerns with minister

Windsor Star - 26 Oct 2017- Print Edition



*THOMAS CAMPEAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS* Striking college faculty rally in Toronto on Wednesday, calling on the province to send college administrators back to the bargaining table. No talks are currently scheduled.

TORONTO Striking college faculty workers are calling on the Ontario government to pressure college administrators to return to the bargaining table in a labour dispute that's caused headaches for half a million students, but the province said it has no current plans to intervene.

At a rally outside the Ministry of Advanced Education's offices on Wednesday, the president of the Ontario Public Sector Employees Union, which represents the striking workers, said the province needs to urge the College Employer Council to restart talks.

As the funder of Ontario's 24 colleges, the government has the ability to get colleges to return to negotiations, Warren (Smokey) Thomas noted.

"The premier can say to the employer side ... get back to that table, open your mind up a little bit and do some of the things that the workforce is saying would make education better," he said. "A lot of these things cost no money."

The group of student council presidents, including ones from Fanshawe College in London and St. Clair College, are scheduled to sit down with Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews midday Thursday to get answers to their long list of concerns.

"We decided to get together and be proactive. Instead of waiting for government to do something," said Fanshawe student union president Morganna Sampson.

"The students are the ones who are feeling the impact. We're some of the biggest stakeholders."

Matthews agreed to the meeting after receiving an open letter signed by all eight student council presidents, which expressed concerns about international students and cancelled class time.

The strike involving more than 12,000 professors, instructors, counsellors and librarians began on Oct. 15, after the two sides couldn't resolve their differences.

The union wants an even split between full-time and contract faculty positions, but the colleges have said that would add costs of more than \$250 million each year.

Matthews said Wednesday the province needs to let the collective bargaining system work.

She added, however, that she shares the growing frustration students have with the labour dispute that has cancelled classes.

“This is really unfortunate that this is dragging ... without them actually talking to each other,” she said.

“If they were at the table, if they were hammering out the issues, I’d have a different opinion, but the fact that they’re not even finding a way to get to the table is very troubling.”

Don Sinclair, CEO of the College Employer Council, said the colleges are ready and able to return to the table.

A resolution could be found based on the council’s final offer to the union, he said.

Both the union and colleges said Wednesday there are currently no bargaining talks scheduled.



# Student leaders to meet with Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - Thursday, October 26, 2017



Morganna Sampson, president of the Fanshawe Student Union, says a strike at the college would be hard on the students. (MIKE HENSEN, The London Free Press)

Eight student leaders from Ontario's strike-shuttered colleges are heading to Queen's Park as the provincewide job action drags into its 11th day with no end in sight.

The student council presidents, including ones from Fanshawe College in London and Windsor-based St. Clair College, will meet with Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews at midday today.

"We decided to get together and be proactive, instead of waiting for government to do something," said Fanshawe Student Union president Morganna Sampson. "The students are . . . feeling the impact. We're some of the biggest stakeholders."

Student leaders requested the meeting with Matthews in an open letter Friday.

Sampson said Matthews responded almost immediately.

The group, Sampson said, is now asking for in-person meetings with Ontario's Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) executives and members of the College Employer Council, the group that bargains on behalf of Ontario's 24 public colleges.

"We just sent the letter out to the union and council today," said Sampson.

"The College Employer Council has been so quiet . . . We want to increase communication between OPSEU, the council and the student associations."

While the student group is in Toronto, members of OPSEU Local 110, which represents Fanshawe's 800 striking faculty members, plans to rally at Victoria Park in London and march to Matthews' constituency office.

No talks have been scheduled since more than 12,000 college instructors, counsellors and librarians walked off the job Oct. 16.

Among other concerns, OPSEU wants colleges to employ the same number of full-time faculty as the often lower-paid contract instructors, a move the colleges have said would boost annual costs by more than \$250 million.

Governments typically will give both sides time to reach an agreement, holding off on back-to-work legislation for as long as they can, said one labour relations researcher.

“It’s always a political hot potato because the government will have supporters of back-to-work legislation but there will definitely be detractors,” said Western University management and organizational studies professor Johanna Weststar.

“Back-to-work legislation does fundamentally violate a worker’s right to strike and that right to strike is becoming increasingly enshrined.”

Sampson said if there’s no resolution to the strike, the eight student leaders will be attending a rally planned by the College Students Alliance — an independent umbrella group for Ontario’s college attendees — next Wednesday. “We’ll be going to advocate for our students.”

# St. Clair student president meets with minister over strike

Windsor Star - October 26, 2017

St. Clair College Student Representative Council president Nick Goran was one of eight student leaders to have a meeting with Advanced Education and Skills Development Minister Deb Matthews Thursday regarding the ongoing college teachers' strike.

"It went really well," said Goran of the meeting at Matthews' Queen's Park offices.

"The main idea of the meeting ... was just to voice the concerns and to make sure the industry was aware of the concerns the students are facing. She listened really well and she provided feedback, when possible."

Goran and seven other student council heads wrote a letter to Matthews complaining about the plight of international students and cancelled class time.

The 12,000 teachers, instructors, counsellors and librarians went on strike Oct. 15 when the two sides could not come to an agreement over the use of part-timers and wage increases. There are no new talks scheduled.

Goran said one thing discussed — in the event of a future labour disruption — was that a committee be called to include student leaders, the ministry, the colleges and the teachers to monitor how the strike is impacting students.

"There is no committee that says this is a deadline that says when a student would lose their semester," Goran said.

"Obviously (this new committee) wouldn't be able to affect the strike but, if it ever happens again, a committee could be put in place."

Goran said Matthews made it clear that she is committed to the collective bargaining process and does not want to interfere.

"She really stated that she would like to keep the lines of communications open," said Goran.

"At the end of the day, it just comes down to both parties coming back to the table and coming to the best agreement possible for both parties."

# Community college workers hold rallies across the province to highlight their concerns

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News- Thursday, October 26, 2017

Striking workers at Ontario's 24 community colleges are taking their fight to the street, holding rallies across the province in a battle that underlines larger labour challenges.

As the strike nears the two-week mark — leaving half a million students in limbo — the union representing college instructors, counsellors and librarians is doubling down on its demands for a deal that balances full-time faculty and lower-paid contract teachers.

Their concerns mirror those in other industries as contract and precarious work becomes a growing trend.

Michael Kukhta, who lives in Oxford County and teaches part time at Sheridan College, said it can be hard to make ends meet with his unpredictable schedule.

"I do some renovation and construction work, I try to do consulting on the side. But it's a scramble," he said at Thursday's rally in Victoria Park.

Kukhta's hours fluctuate — usually with little warning.

"I found out a week before (the summer session) that I only had four hours a week," he said.

Thousands of instructors are living in fear their contracts won't be renewed, trying to make a living by piecing together several jobs, union leaders said Thursday.



*Striking Fanshawe College faculty and supporters march up Richmond Street to London North Centre MPP Deb Matthews' constituency office on Thursday. But Matthews, the advanced education minister, was scheduled to meet with student leaders at Queen's Park. (DEREK RUTTAN, The London Free Press)*

JP Hornick, head of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union bargaining team, told workers gathered in Victoria Park Thursday that their efforts were "not a strike, (but) a social movement."

Collen McCauley teaches marketing at Fanshawe three hours a week. She prefers the shorter hours because she also runs a small business.

But with a part-time contract, she lacks seniority and doesn't get benefits.

"It's the same thing that's happening in a lot of private companies. People want equal pay and they want to be able to live," she said.

As Hornick led McCauley and hundreds of other striking workers on a march from Victoria Park to MPP Deb Matthews' constituency office Thursday, the advanced education minister was scheduled to meet with student leaders from the province's public colleges at Queen's Park.

No talks are scheduled between the union and the College Employer Council, which bargains on behalf of Ontario's 24 public colleges.

Chief executive Don Sinclair took aim at OPSEU Thursday.

"Let's be clear, the union's created this mess. No one seems to be reading the offer we have on the table. The offer gives preference to colleges hiring full time," he said.

But the council won't agree to a 50/50 ratio of full-time faculty to contract instructors, saying it's too rigid.

"Their bargaining team knows where the settlement zone is and they need to move into it," Sinclair said of OPSEU.

College instructors want the public to know this fight isn't all about money.

"It's not an us versus them situation. We're all in this together," McCauley said of students and faculty.

"We're just looking for fairness."

# Striking College Faculty Frustrated At No New Talks

AM800 CKLW – Friday, October 27, 2017



Striking St. Clair College faculty rally (by AM800's Peter Langille)

Striking faculty at St. Clair College are making a show of solidarity in a noon hour rally.

They were joined by members of other unions, local MPP and senior OPSEU leaders.

Union President Warren "Smokey" Thomas urged them to hang in, this dispute will be settled and to stick to their principles.



OPSEU President Warren "Smokey" Thomas at St. Clair College (by AM800's Peter Langille)

Head of the union's bargaining committee - JP Hornick - says many of their demands are actually good for the colleges.



OPSEU bargaining committee chair J.P.Hornick (by AM800's Peter Langille)

She says it's a concern the colleges are telling students they only need to complete 80% of their curriculum:

"Students have paid 100% tuition, they don't need 80% of the outcomes" says Hornick. "We teach paramedics, we teach nurses, we teach engineers and pilots. I don't think there's any one of us in Ontario that would like to know those people are getting out of the colleges with less than what they're supposed to"

She is advocating the students get involved to restart talks by visiting the picket lines and calling the college presidents to put pressure on them.

Hornick says the college bargainers don't seem to have the students' interests in mind because the language they're proposing for the contract would decimate the system and lower the quality for the students.

Hornick says even though both sides have indicated a willingness to return to the table, the mediator has not issued that call.



Rally of faculty at St. Clair College (by AM800's Peter Langille)

This is day 12 of the strike of the 12,000 faculty across the province affecting half a million students.

Thomas added that even once a tentative agreement is reached, the ratification process will still take 3-4 days.

# OPSEU leaders speak out at St. Clair College rally



CTV Windsor - Friday, October 27, 2017

Striking faculty members at St. Clair College in Windsor and Chatham are getting support from the union's leaders.

Members of other unions, politicians and senior leaders with the Ontario Public Service Employees Union joined the rally Friday to show solidarity.

"I think the semester is close to being in jeopardy, right now," says OPSEU bargaining committee chair J.P. Hornick.



Striking faculty members attend a rally at St. Clair College on Friday, Oct. 27, 2017. (Michelle Maluske / CTV Windsor)

The labour dispute has seen classes cancelled at Ontario's 24 colleges, affecting about half a million full-time and part-time students including more than 10,000 at St. Clair College.

Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews said last week that the province needs to let the collective bargaining system work.

But OPSEU Ontario President Warren "Smokey" Thomas says the rally is meant to pressure the government to kick start negotiations.

"We're just trying to pressure the government into exerting some influence," says Thomas.

More than 330 staff at St. Clair in Windsor and Chatham are on strike.



The strike involving more than 12,000 professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians across Ontario began on Oct. 15, after the two sides couldn't resolve their differences by a deadline of 12:01 a.m. the next day.

The union wants an even split between full-time and contract faculty positions, but the colleges have said that would add more than \$250 million costs each year.

Hornick adds they also want a share in decision-making.

“In post-secondary systems across Canada, faculty have the ability to make the decisions in their classroom, grading, evaluation methods, the resources you use. But the college faculty don't, the chairs or the deans can overturn decisions” says Hornick.

St. Clair spokesperson John Fairley says decisions about when to go back to the table are made by the council in Toronto. He adds all the local staff can do is start planning for when the strike ends, and that may include writing exams on weekends.

Students meantime are feeling like they are caught in the middle.

Sarah Malott is a first year nursing student at St. Clair College. She wants both sides to “just figure it out.”

“They've never given us a difficult time crossing the picket line but it's still annoying” adds Malott. “We're paying to be at the school, they should just figure it out honestly.”

OPSEU is planning a rally at Queen's Park in Toronto next Thursday.

There won't be any picket lines locally that day, because the union is encouraging all members to make the trip to Toronto.



Faculty at St. Clair College hold a rally on day 12 of the strike, October 27, 2018. (Photo by Maureen Revait)

## Still No Talks Scheduled In College Strike

Blackburn News - October 27, 2017

There's still no end in sight to the strike at Ontario's public colleges.

Striking faculty at St. Clair College held a rally Friday to voice their frustrations over the lack of negotiations.

Bargaining Chair J.P. Hornick says there have been no contract talks or plans to schedule negotiations since college staff went on strike almost two weeks ago.

"We feel that the college council is holding the students and the faculty hostage at this point, there's no reason why we can't be at that bargaining table engaged in negotiations," says Hornick.

Hornick says two major issues remain on the table; more job security for part-time faculty and more academic control in the classroom. Over 12,000 college faculty members across the province have been on strike since October 15.

# OPSEU: Colleges Holding Students Hostage

The Square - 27 October 2017



OPSEU chief negotiator JP Hornick was at a rally in support of striking St Clair College faculty in Windsor on 27 October 2017.

(WINDSOR, ON) – Into their second week of a work stoppage, striking faculty at St Clair College today held a rally to demonstrate their resolve and solidarity. Joining the teaching staff were students at the college along with supporters from other Windsor union locals and both OPSEU president Warren (Smokey) Thomas and chief negotiator JP Hornick.

The union is attempting to negotiate a new contract for faculty and support staff, but talks are at an impasse.

“We’re still in the same position as when the strike started,” Hornick said. “We called the mediator to see if (the colleges) are ready to move from the position they’ve held since July, which has been not to negotiate, but to try and stonewall. They replied with, ‘No. They’re not changing their position.’”



Well over 200 union members, students, members of the public, and striking college faculty were in attendance at a rally at St Clair College in Windsor on 27 October 2017.

More than 12,000 faculty at 24 colleges across the province have been on strike since October 16. Ontario’s College Employer Council, negotiating on behalf of the government, has said that OPSEU’s demands are too costly. The union responds that many of the issues have no cost attached to them and that negotiations can’t happen if CEC isn’t willing to be at the table.

“Even on the no-cost items surrounding academic freedom, collegiate governance, better security for the partial load in the form of one-year contracts rather than four-month to four-month contracts, they refuse to negotiate on any of those issues,” Hornick told media. “This has become clear that College Council and administrators are holding on to power and profit rather than looking out for the best interests of the students or the faculty.”



St Clair students voice their concerns during a rally at St Clair College in Windsor on 27 October 2017.

Classes are currently cancelled at the colleges, including St Clair, and the Liberal government has recently said it will not seek to legislate the teachers back to work. Hornick said that the students’ semester is very close to being in jeopardy as the strike approaches week three.

“Students are justifiably frustrated and concerned and honestly we feel for them. We feel the College Council is holding both the students and the faculty hostage at this point,” said Hornick. “There’s no reason we can’t be at that bargaining table. We’ve also seen incredible student support. More than I’ve seen at any other labour dispute in Ontario.”



OPSEU president Warren (Smokey) Thomas addresses the crowd at a rally in support of striking St Clair College faculty in Windsor on 27 October 2017.

Smokey Thomas wants to see the sides return to bargaining before students lose out on their education.

“When the faculty go back, they know, they’ll work really hard to make sure that nobody will be disadvantaged,” said Thomas. “There is some suffering. It’s called collateral damage. It’s extremely unfortunate, but the employer did put us in the position.”

On the cost issues, OPSEU is attempting to secure job security and equal pay for equal work for its members. The issue for union negotiators is for a 50 per cent split between full-time and part-time faculty while currently it is around 75 per cent.

“I recognize that organizations do need part-time workers, some people just want to work part-time, and sometimes there’s not enough work to make that person full-time,” Thomas said. “But you need some rules around how you treat those part-time workers. So, that’s the crux of the battle here. How are you going to treat your workforce?”



OPSEU members striking at St Clair College on 27 October 2017

OPSEU is planning a rally to be held on November 2 at Queen’s Park with members being bussed in from across the province, in order to put more pressure on Deb Matthews, Ontario’s Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, to get both sides back to the bargaining table.

“We’re just trying to pressure the government into exerting some influence,” said Thomas. “I appreciate that they’re not thinking legislation, but they can exert some influence as they are major funders of the colleges. I don’t think it’s a great stretch to settle the strike.”



OPSEU chief negotiation JP Hornick addresses the crowd at a rally in support of striking St Clair College faculty in Windsor on 27 October 2017.



An OPSEU member conveys the disconnect on the college's side of the bargaining table, during a rally at St Clair College in Windsor on 27 October 2017.



OPSEU president Warren (Smokey) Thomas was at a rally in support of striking St Clair College faculty in Windsor on 27 October 2017.



Well over 200 union members, students, members of the public, and striking college faculty were in attendance at a rally at St Clair College in Windsor on 27 October 2017.



An OPSEU member demonstrates her support for the union's demand to bring parity to full- and part-time faculty, during a rally at St Clair College in Windsor on 27 October 2017.

# Striking faculty rally at Windsor's St. Clair College

Windsor Star - October 27, 2017

Frustrated with the province-wide strike by college faculty? Blame the College Employer Council, says the union representing people on the picket lines at St. Clair College and other campuses across Ontario.

Frustrated with the provincewide strike by college faculty? Blame the College Employer Council — the government's bargaining unit — says the union representing people on the picket lines at St. Clair College and other campuses across Ontario.

"Absolutely, I'm saying the colleges are stonewalling the negotiations," said J. P. Hornick, chair of the college faculty bargaining team, at a rally at St. Clair College on Friday.

"Bargaining can't happen when the other party is saying 'It's either this path or no path at all.'"

More than 100 members and supporters of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) gathered on campus to show their solidarity with college faculty — who entered the 12th day of their strike on Friday.

Hornick said the status of the dispute remains the same as when the strike began Oct. 15: The employers "refuse to negotiate."

"This is about the college council and administrators holding onto power and profit, rather than looking out for the best interests of the students or the faculty," Hornick said.



Striking faculty members rally on the St. Clair College campus on Oct. 27, 2017. Dalsen Chen / Windsor Star

Reached later Friday, Don Sinclair — CEO of the [College Employer Council](#) — fired back that OPSEU is responsible for the current situation: picket lines on 24 campuses and hundreds of thousands of students without courses.



“Let’s be clear — OPSEU created this mess. They’re the ones that pulled the pin on the strike. They’re the ones that left the bargaining table. The council never left,” Sinclair said.

According to Hornick, the two major issues for faculty members are the need for greater academic decision-making, and the need for greater job security.

“Right now, contract faculty re-apply for their jobs every four months,” Hornick said.

Sinclair said the College Employer Council has stated from the beginning of the dispute that academic control will not be negotiated — but job security can be discussed. “It’s tough to bargain it when (the union) is not at the table.”

As for the students — now in danger of losing the semester they paid for — Hornick said the faculty members feel for them.

“Students are justifiably frustrated and concerned,” Hornick said. “But we’ve also seen incredible student support — more than I’ve seen in any other labour dispute in Ontario.”

However, at Friday’s rally at St. Clair College, only a handful of students were in the crowd.

Hornick agreed that the semester is in jeopardy. “Starting next week, we’ll be in Week 3 (of the strike). We have college presidents starting to run around and tell students, ‘Don’t worry, you only need to complete 80 per cent of your outcomes.’ Except students have paid 100 per cent tuition.”

Hornick said students who are concerned about the situation should call the presidents of their respective colleges and tell them to urge the College Employer Council to negotiate in earnest.

Locally speaking, St. Clair College spokesman John Fairley said the college is developing a contingency plan that could include extending the semester in December and weekend exams — something St. Clair College hasn’t had before.

“We would not be trying to water down anything,” Fairley said. “We’d be looking at what will we do if we need to extend.”

As for when the semester will be “past the point of no return,” Fairley said St. Clair College isn’t prepared to put a date on it. “I don’t think that we’re there yet,” Fairley added.



OPSEU members rally in solidarity with striking college faculty on the St. Clair College campus on Oct. 27, 2017. Dalson Chen / Windsor Star

OPSEU represents about 12,000 college faculty members across the province.

OPSEU president Warren “Smokey” Thomas said it was never the union’s intention to use students as a bargaining chip.

“There is some suffering — It’s called collateral damage. It’s extremely unfortunate. But the employer did put us in a position where the team said, ‘That won’t ratify,’” Thomas said.

Windsor NDP members of provincial parliament Lisa Gretzky and Percy Hatfield joined the rally and expressed their support for striking faculty.

“Nobody out here wants to be on strike,” Gretzky said. “It is not just fighting for yourselves. You’re fighting for kids like mine. Next year, I’ll have a son going to St. Clair College. I want him to know that the faculty here are being treated fairly.

“There can be no bargaining process if the administration side will not come to the table.”

But Sinclair said it’s been made clear to both sides there will be no government intervention here: The council will negotiate when the mediator decides there is an opportunity for engagement.

“OPSEU knows what the settlement zone is,” Sinclair said. “They just refuse to go there.”



J. P. Hornick, chair of the college faculty bargaining team, speaks with media at a rally at St. Clair College on Oct. 27, 2017. Dax Melmer / Windsor Star



OPSEU members and supporters rally in solidarity with striking college faculty at the St. Clair College campus on Oct. 27, 2017. Dax Melmer / Windsor Star

# Striking OPSEU college employees rally at St. Clair

OurWindsor.ca - Oct 27, 2017



Striking OPSEU members rally at St. Clair College - Oct. 27, 2017 - Adam Gault

Striking Ontario Public Service Employee Union (OPSEU) college employees and their supporters from fellow unions gathered in solidarity Friday afternoon on the campus of St. Clair College.

Now nearly two weeks into the job action, full negotiations have yet to take place in resolving the issues surrounding the strike with claims from OPSEU bargaining representatives that college council representatives are making talks difficult at this time.

“The college council was making a bit of noise that they were waiting for an invitation back to the table. We called the mediator to check and see if that meant they were ready to move from their position they’ve held since July, which has been not to negotiate but to rather stonewall,” explained J.P. Hornick, the college faculty bargaining chair. “They replied they’re not changing their position, so we remain in the same place now that we have been.”

Hornick explained that the two main issues at the forefront of demands for the striking faculty are more freedom in academic decision making, and greater job security with equal pay for equal work.

“Right now, contract faculty reapply for their jobs every four months,” explained Hornick, adding that some college employees in areas like Toronto may end up working part-time at several different colleges.

As the strike now heads into its third week, frustration and anger can be felt in the student population as many wonder if their semester may now be in jeopardy.

“Students are justifiably frustrated and concerned, honestly we feel for them, we feel that the college council is kind of holding both the students and the faculty hostage at this point,” said Hornick.

“I’ve had some calls from students saying they’re mad as hell and they’re not going to take it anymore, I don’t blame them,” said Warren Thomas, President of the OPSEU. “Don’t chastise the workers, get after your MPP’s, the Liberal politicians that say it’s up to the college, get after college management. If there’s going to be refunds the college has got to figure that out, not the union.”

The job action involves more than 12,000 OPSEU college employees from all 24 colleges across Ontario.

OPSEU negotiators are looking for an even split between full time and contract positions, with colleges saying this would add an additional \$250 in costs per year.

# St. Clair College Mulling Weekend Exams Should Strike Continue

By [Adelle Loiselle](#) October 30, 2017 4:45am [@ALoiselleNews](#)

Officials at St. Clair College are considering contingency plans should the strike by faculty continue much longer.

The strike enters week three on Monday, and there are still no new talks planned between the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, which represents faculty, and the College Employers Council. So far, Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews has resisted [calls from the union to intervene in the dispute](#).



*Faculty members on strike at St. Clair College, October 16, 2017. (Photo by Maureen Revait)*

Director of Corporate Communications at St. Clair College, John Fairley says the next week or two will be critical.

“We’ve always talked about how week three and week four are very critical because if you get past those weeks, then some things are going to be changing,” says Fairley.

“Usually, we’re done in mid-December and then exams,” continues Fairley. “Maybe we continue an extra week. I don’t know. We may look at having exams on Saturdays and Sundays.”

He says it has been difficult for everyone at St. Clair, and everyone wants the strike to be over.

“It’s not an easy job for them [the faculty] to do. They know what they have to do as members of OPSEU,” Fairley says. “It’s hard for our support staff, our facilities people, and our administration who’ve got to drive by, in a lot of cases, friends and family of the St. Clair College family every day.”

About 12,000 [faculty members across Ontario walked off the job October 15](#) to protest how part-time sessional instructors now outnumber full-time faculty. The union wants a 50/50 split.

Fairley says part of the challenge is that so much hinges on how OPSEU members in Toronto vote.

“We make up probably 3-4% of all of the 24 colleges faculty,” he says.

Students at Ontario’s public colleges have never missed a semester because of a labour action, but the last strike in March 2008 lasted 18 days.

# Lingering strike forces St. Clair College to draw up contingency plans

As the strike by community college faculty enters its third week, St. Clair College officials are working on contingency plans that include lengthening the semester and rescheduling exams.

Windsor Star - October 30, 2017

As the strike by community college faculty enters its third week, St. Clair College officials are working on contingency plans that include lengthening the semester and rescheduling exams.

“We’re looking at different options if it goes more than three, four weeks,” said John Fairley, St. Clair’s vice-president of communications and community relations.

“We’ll have to see exactly what we’re dealing with before any decisions are made. Getting into the third week is definitely more concerning.”

Fairley said the college doesn’t have a date in mind on how long the strike has to go on to force modifications to the semester.

Extending the semester further into December or possibly the first week after Christmas break in January are options being considered by the college.

Currently, the final day of the first semester is Dec. 8. That first week of December is final exams week for the vast majority of students.

The second semester is scheduled to start Jan. 9 for students while faculty are scheduled to be back to work Jan. 2.

“We could push (final exams) into December closer to the 20th,” Fairley said. “The other option is to hold exams on weekends.”

“We’ve never done that, but it’s something other colleges have done and the university (of Windsor). That would give us the option of two more days.”

Fairley said the college’s extensive placement system should not be too badly affected in the first semester.

“The majority of placements aren’t until the spring, so at least we’re not up against that,” Fairley said. “If that were the case, it’s a whole different conversation.”

In the previous three strikes involving faculty — 1984, 1989 and 2006 — the work stoppages lasted an average of about three weeks.

Lost class time was made up by extending the school year into May once and a February reading week was cancelled one other time. Lab times were also extended for students on each occasion.

In the current strike, the two sides haven’t talked since the walkout began at Ontario’s 24 community colleges Oct. 16.



Faculty from St. Clair College remain on the picket line at the main campus on Oct. 30, 2017. More than 12,000 faculty are on strike resulting in the cancellation of classes for more than 300,000 students.

Among the key issues is OPSEU's desire to see more part-time teachers be made full-time staff, academic freedom and improved job security for sessional teachers.

"I would hope things start moving this week," Fairley said.

"We're only three to four per cent of faculty here in Windsor and Chatham. If it's growing louder in the GTA, where the bigger schools are, that'll have more affect in influencing negotiations to get going."

Fairley added that once a settlement is reached, it will not take long for classes to resume.

Scheduling will prove the main challenge to restore normal operations.

"We'll have to see what programs still have left to do," Fairley said.

"Once we have an agreement, it will only take a few days. The faculty has been out, but the facility has still been open. All the normal maintenance operations have been ongoing, so it's not like we have to start things back up again."

Despite picket lines around the college's two local campuses in South Windsor and downtown, Fairley said there have not been any incidents of concern.

He expects no conflicts at events hosted at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts in downtown Windsor.

"OPSEU has been sensitive to what the Centre for the Arts means," Fairley said. "I don't anticipate any problems."

"They (OPSEU members) have a presence during the day. They've not hurt any events at night like weddings or banquets ... There's no teaching going on then."

The only event cancelled at the Centre for the Arts was the Windsor Firefighters Chilifest.

"The firefighters are unionized and they didn't want to cross a picket line during the day to do the luncheon," Fairley said. "They will reschedule the event when the strike is done."

# No one on St. Clair campus to share Saints' celebration of national baseball title

Saints have lonely celebration for national baseball title

Windsor Star- October 31, 2017

Matt Bondy made a quick switch from a nationally honoured MVP baseball player Sunday to full-time landscaper Monday.

A business and marketing student at St. Clair College, Bondy is also an all-star third baseman for the Saints' baseball team which captured the Canadian College championship last Sunday in Oshawa.

Instead of returning to a hero's welcome on campus Monday, Bondy was helping out with his dad's landscaping business.

"It's probably our busiest time of the year," said Bondy. "We're still cutting grass, doing leaf clean up and burlap."

Normally, he doesn't work when he's going to school but Bondy hasn't had any classes for the past 2½ weeks due to a strike by 12,000 instructors at community colleges across Ontario.

Varsity sports have continued on despite the labour disruption.

"It was a little bit different," Bondy said of winning a national title and not having the feat recognized on campus beyond the staff still working at the college's SportsPlex.

Bondy went two-for-three with two RBI in a 3-2 Canadian final over Fanshawe College Sunday, earning him MVP honours for the championship.

"Normally they would have had a luncheon or something for them," Saints' manager Dave Cooper said. "With the kids going back to school it would be a chance for them to puff out their chest walking through the hallways. They're missing out on that."

Saints' athletic co-ordinator Ted Beale said the college will recognize the team at a future basketball home game.

"They kind of came back to a different feel on campus," Beale said. "The kids were probably looking forward to coming to school the next day. It's kind of an odd situation but what can you do?"

Fifth-year pitcher Kyle Breitner was also named a tournament all-star like Bondy. He tossed a complete game two-hitter in Saturday's semi-final and struck out 11. His final whiff gave him 300 career strikeouts but there's no chance to relive the moment with friends in the student lounge this week.

"There is a letdown," the 26-year-old from Mississauga said. "We just win a big championship and people know about it but you're not getting that same feeling of excitement to it. No congratulatory message from a teacher or someone else at school."

Instead, Breitner finds himself trying to pick up extra hours at his part-time job at The Beer Store.

Both he and his teammates hope the strike ends soon.

“I was definitely looking forward to graduating this year,” said Breitner who, switched programs halfway through his college career and is now finishing up in sport and recreation management. “If I lose a semester and have to go back to school in the fall, that just puts me behind in starting my life.”

While the baseball season is over, other varsity teams are just ramping up their seasons in volleyball and basketball.

The St. Clair men’s basketball team played their regular-season home opener last weekend. Coach Ricardo Tate has five out-of-town players on the roster but so far none have left Windsor to go back home during the strike.

“They’ve all been staying around, going to practice,” Tate reports. “The one great thing is that (the strike) doesn’t affect sports but that’s good and bad. At the end of the day they’re students and now they’re not getting the education they’re paying for.”



# Local College Faculty To Head To Queen's Park For Rally

AM800 CKLW – November 1, 2017



Faculty walk the picket line outside St.Clair College in Windsor. October 16, 2017 (

Several faculty members at St. Clair College Windsor will be picketing at a new location tomorrow. The local OPSEU members will be bussing up to Toronto for a huge rally at Queen's Park.

Speaking on AM800's the Lynn Martin Show, OPSEU Local 138 President Bernie Nawrocki says they want the government to order both sides back to the table.

Nawrocki says the message tomorrow is a simple one.

"We are hoping to convince the government to tell their bargaining team, the College Employer Council, to get back to the table and bargain with our members."

Nawrocki says the talks are at a stalemate.

"They refused to negotiate and the kinds of demands that they are proposing in the next agreement are things we can't accept."

The key issue, says Nawrocki, is fairness between part-time and full-time staff.

"Although part-time workers do a great job, we do want to see a number of full time members increased and that's what we are asking for."

Nawrocki says the College Employer Council is not addressing that key issue.

# Colleges, faculty to return to the bargaining table Thursday

For the first time since Oct. 15, talks will resume Thursday between the College Employer Council, which represents the province's 24 community colleges, and striking college faculty.

Windsor Star November 1, 2017

For the first time since Oct. 15, talks will resume Thursday between the College Employer Council, which represents the province's 24 community colleges, and striking college faculty.

On Wednesday the College Employer Council requested the provincially appointed mediator bring the colleges and OPSEU, which represents the 12,000 teachers, back to the bargaining table.

More than 300,000 students have been missing classes since the strike began Oct. 16.

Among the key issues is OPSEU's desire to see more part-time teachers be made fulltime, academic freedom and improved job security for sessional teachers.

## **College officials, striking faculty set to return to bargaining Thursday**

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - Wednesday, November 1, 2017

In the third week of the strike that's crippled Ontario's colleges, there may be a breakthrough – or at least hope for one.

The College Employer Council, the group that bargains on behalf of Ontario's 24 public colleges, has asked the provincially appointed mediator to bring the union that represents some 12,000 striking faculty back to the bargaining table Thursday.

"This strike has gone on for too long. We need to end the strike and get our students and faculty back in the classroom. We can reach a settlement quickly and have classes start again early next week," said Sonia Del Missier, chair of the council's bargaining team.

"We will focus our efforts at the table and work very hard to reach a deal that ends the strike."

Canadian Press reports that Deb Matthews, the London MPP whose cabinet portfolio includes post-secondary schools, announced in the legislature Wednesday morning that representatives of both sides, the striking faculty and the body representing the schools, will return to the bargaining table.

More than a half-million students provincewide have been pushed out of the classroom since Oct. 16, when faculty went on strike to protest what they say is the rise of often lower-paid, contract instructors.

Across Southwestern Ontario, tens of thousands of students are affected by the job action, including Fanshawe College's London, Woodstock, St. Thomas and Simcoe campuses, Lambton College in Sarnia, St. Clair College in Windsor and its Chatham site.

# Talks to resume Thursday in Ontario college strike



CTV - The Canadian Press - Wednesday, November 1,

**TORONTO** -- Ontario's advanced education minister says the two sides in a colleges strike that's now in its third week have agreed to go back to the bargaining table.

More than 12,000 college professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians went on strike Oct. 15, putting hundreds of thousands of students out of class.

There have been no talks since then, but Deb Matthews says she just received word that negotiations will resume Thursday.



The colleges' bargaining team said in a news release moments earlier that they were calling on the mediator to bring both sides back to the table.

They say they believe a settlement can be reached quickly and classes could resume early next week.

The Ontario Public Sector Employees Union, which represents the striking workers, didn't have an immediate response, but had scheduled a rally for Thursday to call on the colleges to return to the bargaining table.

# Bargaining in colleges strike to resume Thursday

**A provincial mediator calls the two sides in the labour dispute back to the table**

[CBC News](#) Nov 01, 2017



Faculty on the picket line in the strike against Ontario's 24 colleges (Kris Ketonen/CBC)

A mediator with the Ministry of Labour has called the two sides in the college teachers' dispute back to the bargaining table.

The ministry says negotiations will resume Thursday.

The announcement came just a few hours after the College Employer Council asked the mediator help restart the talks.

"This strike has gone on for too long. We need to end the strike and get our students and faculty back in the classroom. We can reach a settlement quickly and have classes start again early next week," said Sonia Del Missier, chair of the Colleges' bargaining team.

Del Missier added: "We will focus our efforts at the table and work very hard to reach a deal that ends the strike."

A representative of the the Ontario Public Services Employees Union, which represents 12,000 striking faculty, said it will issue a response later today.

The president of Local 110 of the Ontario Public Services Employees Union, Darryl Bedford told CBC News "we have accepted the invitation and are returning to the bargaining table tomorrow."

Classes for a half-million students have been cancelled since the strike began October 16

Outstanding issues include faculty contracts and the ratio of full-time to part-time faculty members.



St. Clair College Thames Campus strike. October 16, 2017. (Photo by Sarah Cowan Blackburn News Chatham-Kent).

## College and Faculty Back To The Bargaining Table

Blackburn News - November 1, 2017

Talks aimed at ending a strike by faculty at Ontario's public colleges are set to resume.

A mediator appointed by the Ministry of Labour has called the the College Employers Council and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union back to the bargaining table. The move comes after a statement issued by the council called for a resumption of negotiations, something the union has been repeatedly calling for.

The two sides are scheduled to meet on Thursday, November 2.

In a statement issued by the College Employer Council the chair of the bargaining team stated they will focus their efforts on reaching a deal.

"This strike has gone on for too long. We need to end the strike and get our students and faculty back in the classroom. We can reach a settlement quickly and have classes start again early next week," said Sonia Del Missier, Chair, Colleges' Bargaining Team.

No further commentary on bargaining will be provided.

Roughly 12,000 professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians from Ontario's 24 public colleges walked off the job in mid-October. Job security has been the key bargaining issue for the union. It is asking for a 50/50 split of full time and contract positions and an increased role in academic decision-making.

# **BREAKING: Talks To Resume In College Bargaining**

**WindsoriteDOTca News - Wednesday November 1st, 2017**



**The Ministry of Labour mediator has called the parties in the ongoing college teacher's labour dispute back to the bargaining table.**

**The parties will be returning to the table November 2nd, 2017.**

# St. Clair College Looking At Options In Faculty Strike

AM800 CKLW – November 1, 2017



Faculty walk the picket line outside St. Clair College in Windsor. October 16,

*Despite talks set to resume between Ontario's colleges and OPSEU*, St. Clair College has begun coming up with contingency plans in the event a strike by faculty continues much longer.

In a province-wide strike, 330 St. Clair faculty members, represented by OPSEU Local 138, walked off the job on October 16th to back contract demands.

Speaking on AM800's the Lynn Martin Show, College Vice President of Communications John Fairley says different scenarios are being discussed from prolonging the school year to having exams written on weekends.

Fairley says several options are on the table.

"Maybe instead of having everyone done by December 8th, maybe that gets a little prolonged in December, again we don't want anyone to lose their year."

Fairley says a lot depends on when talks resume and a deal reached.

"It depends on a lot of things, but would we go into exams after Christmas, which other people have done we could look at exams on weekends which we have never had I don't think here at the college, but the university has it and other colleges have Saturday and Sunday exams."

Fairley says students have a lot of questions about their school year, outside of the academic concerns.

"People have trips booked and Christmas plans, job possibilities and writing exams and housing to deal with."

No new talks are planned. The union says the key issues are fairness for contract faculty between full time and part-time instructors along with academic freedom.



# Stalemate turns to surprise at new college strike talks

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - Wednesday, November 1, 2017

After a 17-day stalemate that cancelled classes for more than a half million students and pushed 12,000 instructors to the picket line, the union and colleges are heading back to the bargaining table in an unexpected move that caught one labour analyst by surprise.

The College Employer Council, the group that bargains on behalf of Ontario's public colleges, has asked the provincially appointed mediator to restart talks Thursday with the union that represents the striking faculty.

"I was starting to think there would be back-to-work legislation soon," said Johanna Weststar, management and organizational studies professor at Western University.

"It seemed, up until this point, that the council was intent on waiting out the strike with likely the hope of back-to-work legislation being passed."

Neither side had spoken since faculty walked off the job Oct. 16.

The quick move from no talks one day to formal bargaining the next might be a sign the council is under pressure by the province or students to get back to the table, said Weststar.

But with a negotiated end to the province's fourth college faculty strike since 1984 possible, and others that were resolved with binding arbitration or back-to-work legislation, Weststar said returning to bargaining has a much better chance of creating a meaningful, long-term solution.

"A bargained deal is a better deal because it does push the two sides to work through their points of disagreement, whereas an arbitrated deal does not do that," she said.

"The message that's being sent here is a good one."

Tens of thousands of students in Southwestern Ontario have had their classes cancelled by the job action, including ones at Fanshawe College's London, Woodstock, St. Thomas and Simcoe campuses, Lambton College in Sarnia and St. Clair College's Windsor and Chatham sites.

In a statement, council bargaining chair Sonia Del Missier said she's hopeful a settlement can be reached quickly enough for students to return to class by early next week.

"This strike has gone on for too long. We need to end the strike and get our students and faculty back in the classroom," she said. "We will focus our efforts at the table and work very hard to reach a deal that ends the strike."

En route to a Queen's Park rally for strike-weary students, Fanshawe Student Union president Morganna Sampson was encouraged both sides were finally talking again.

"They've taken a big step. We hope that the reason they're back is because they've heard the concerns of the students and now they're acting upon them," she said. "It's definitely great news."

And on the eve of the long-awaited talks, OPSEU bargaining team member Darryl Bedford said he's "cautiously optimistic" both sides can come to an understanding.

Even so, OPSEU is still going ahead with its planned Queen's Park rally Thursday and will keep its pickets running at Ontario's 24 strike-shuttered colleges until a deal is reached, Bedford said.

Among the union's chief concerns is job security and the use of oftentimes lower-paid, contract instructors by the college system. OPSEU was pushing for colleges to employ the same number of full-time as contract workers.

# Sides set to resume bargaining in colleges strike

Windsor Star - 2 Nov 2017 – PRINT EDITION

TORONTO Negotiations are set to resume Thursday in a colleges strike that has left 500,000 students out of class for more than two weeks.

More than 12,000 Ontario college professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians went on strike Oct. 15, including those at St. Clair College in Windsor.

There have been no talks since then, but Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews announced Wednesday both sides are returning to the table.

“This is an important step forward, but I’m going to continue to urge both parties to actually negotiate an agreement,” she said. “Students should be back in the classroom ... as quickly as possible.”

Matthews would not say why the mediator called both sides back to the table or if one of the parties’ positions had changed to break the current impasse.

“The mediator is hopeful that they can reach a resolution, which is why they’re back at the table,” she said. “I’ll leave the bargaining to the table but I’m hopeful they’re going to be able to find common ground.”

“I think they’re just ready to talk now. I have no new news.”

The colleges’ bargaining team said in a news release moments before Matthews’ announcement that they were calling on the mediator to bring both sides back to the table.

“This strike has gone on for too long,” Sonia Del Missier, the head of the bargaining team, said in a statement. “We will focus our efforts at the table and work very hard to reach a deal that ends the strike.”

Del Missier said she believes a settlement can be reached quickly and classes could resume early next week.

The Ontario Public Sector Employees Union, which represents the striking workers, said they are hopeful the colleges have changed some aspects of their position, since the mediator had said there wouldn’t be a return to the table unless one party’s position had changed.

“We want to hear what the council has to say and we’re ready to bargain if they’re ready to start addressing faculty issues,” said bargaining team chair J.P. Hornick.

“Realistically, the ball is in their court at this point. We had moved our position several times over the course of bargaining.”

The union has called for the number of full-time faculty to match the number of faculty members on contract, but the colleges have said it would add more than \$250 million in costs each year.

But Hornick said equally big issues are no-cost items, such as academic freedom.

The union had scheduled a rally for Thursday to call on the colleges to return to the bargaining table.

The colleges have put forward a four-year-agreement that offers a 7.75-per-cent pay increase.

Several hundred students gathered at the Ontario legislature Wednesday to urge the parties to get back to the table. But Joel Willett, president of the College Student Alliance, which organized the demonstration, said their message shifted when they discovered talks will resume.

“Now the pressure is on to get a deal done before the middle of next week,” he said. “If they don’t have a deal in place by the middle of next week, then we would ... demand that an arbitrator be brought in to make a deal happen.”

If they don’t have a deal ... by the middle of next week then we would ... demand that an arbitrator be brought in.

## Colleges Call For Supervised Vote To End Strike

WindsoriteDOTca News - Monday November 6th, 2017



The College Employer Council has asked the Ontario Labour Relations Board to schedule a vote on the colleges' offer.

In a news release the colleges say that OPSEU has stonewalled the bargaining process and refused to accept an offer that addresses their priorities.

“OPSEU’s insistence on continuing the strike is a terrible outcome for students and faculty,” said Sonia Del Missier, Chair, Colleges’ Bargaining Team. “We addressed all faculty priorities and the offer that is available for faculty right now – on the table – should have ended this strike.”

The colleges have requested that the strike be suspended. This will allow faculty and students to return to class, while the vote is being organized.

The Labour Board will determine the vote date. It is expected that the vote will take between five and ten days to organize.

The Colleges say that this length of time is why the union should suspend the strike and not harm students with another lost week of studies.

“An employer vote is never a preferred path, because a settlement should be reached at the bargaining table. But we have exhausted all efforts at the bargaining table and now our faculty will decide,” said Del Missier.

The union has yet to respond to the Colleges request.

# Ontario colleges ask for final offer vote to end four-week-old faculty strike

After three weeks away from the table, negotiations had resumed last week at the urging of Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews

**NP** The Canadian Press - November 6, 2017

TORONTO — Ontario's colleges have called for striking faculty to vote on a final contract offer after talks to end the four-week labour disruption broke down today.

The College Employer Council, which represents the province's 24 colleges, says it has asked Ontario's Labour Relations Board to schedule the vote.

It has also called on the Ontario Public Sector Employees Union, representing the 12,000 college workers, to suspend the strike in the eight to 10 days it will take to organize the vote.

OPSEU bargaining chair JP Hornick says the council has walked away from the talks when only one outstanding issue — a request on academic freedom — remained unsettled.

After three weeks away from the table, negotiations had resumed last week at the urging of Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews, who asked both sides to get a deal done.

The strike has cancelled classes at the province's colleges, impacting 500,000 full time and part time students.

# College strike talks break off with offer headed to union rank-and-file

The London Free Press/ Chatham Daily News - Monday, November 6, 2017



The strike of faculty at Fanshawe College continues in London. (MIKE HENSEN, The London Free Press)

Ontario's College Employer Council is throwing punches, accusing the union representing 12,000 striking faculty of refusing to accept an offer and calling on the province to force a vote on it.

The group – which bargains on behalf of Ontario's 24 strike-shuttered public colleges – said talks broke off with the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) in a statement released Monday afternoon.

The council has asked the Ontario Labour Relations Board to schedule a vote on the colleges' latest offer. The board will determine the vote date. Under Ontario labour law, the employer has one chance to force a vote on the rank-and-file membership.

The colleges have asked for the strike to be suspended, allowing faculty to return to class while the vote is being organized.

“OPSEU's insistence on continuing the strike is a terrible outcome for students and faculty,” said the council's bargaining chair, Sonia Del Missier, in a statement.

“We addressed all faculty priorities and the offer that is available for faculty right now – on the table – should have ended this strike.”

More than 12,000 instructors, librarians and counsellors hit the picket line Oct. 16 after the union and colleges failed to reach a deal.

Among other issues, OPSEU is concerned about job security and what it says is the increasing use of often lower-paid, contract instructors. The union had been calling for colleges to employ the same number of full-time instructors as casual or contract faculty – a proposal the council said would add \$250 million in costs.

Fanshawe College's London, St. Thomas, Simcoe and Woodstock campuses, Lambton College in Sarnia and St. Clair College's Windsor and Chatham sites have been shuttered by the strike.

With hopes of a resolution on the horizon, Fanshawe announced last week it is pushing its fall semester end date back by one week, from Dec. 15 to Dec. 22.

# Colleges Call For Supervised Vote And Suspension Of Faculty Strike

[AM800 News- Monday, November 6, 2017](#)



Faculty walk the picket line outside St.Clair College in Windsor. October 16, 2017 (Photo by Kimberley Johnson)

Striking members of OPSEU at community colleges will be forced to vote on the contract offer from the college council.

The head of bargaining for the college council says they're disappointed OPSEU has not accepted the offer of settlement.

As a result the Labour Board is being asked to conduct a supervised vote on the final offer.

In a release, the College Employer Council says it's settlement offer addresses the faculty priorities including enhancing full-time employment opportunities, better job security for partial load faculty and academic freedom.

The Council is also asking the faculty to suspend the strike and return to the classroom.

The two sides returned to the bargaining table last Thursday for the first time since the strike began late on October 15.

OPSEU has said it's seeking a pay hike and has been pushing the colleges to hire more full-time staff in place of contract teaching positions.

The union has yet to respond to the request



Faculty walk the picket line outside St.Clair College in Windsor. October 16, 2017 (Photo by Kimberley Johnson)

# Ontario colleges ask for final offer vote to end four-week-old faculty strike



Striking faculty members attend a rally at St. Clair College on Friday, Oct. 27, 2017. (Michelle Maluske / CTV Windsor)

CTV - The Canadian Press - Monday, November

Ontario's colleges have called for striking faculty to vote on a final contract offer after talks to end the four-week labour disruption broke down today.

The College Employer Council, which represents the province's 24 colleges, says it has asked Ontario's Labour Relations Board to schedule the vote.

It has also called on the Ontario Public Sector Employees Union, representing the 12,000 college workers, to suspend the strike in the eight to 10 days it will take to organize the vote.

OPSEU bargaining chair JP Hornick says the council has walked away from the talks when only one outstanding issue -- a request on academic freedom -- remained unsettled.

After three weeks away from the table, negotiations had resumed last week at the urging of Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews, who asked both sides to get a deal done.

The strike has cancelled classes at the province's colleges, impacting 500,000 full time and part time students.



# Negotiations break down as college strike enters 4th week

## Colleges call for striking faculty to vote on final contract offer

[CBC News](#) Posted: Nov 06, 2017 2:30 PM ET Last Updated: Nov 06, 2017 2:30 PM ET



Students at London's Fanshawe College and at 23 other Ontario colleges have been shut out of classrooms by a strike that began Oct. 16. Talks broke down between both sides on Monday. (Kate Dubinski/ CBC News)

Ontario's colleges have called for striking faculty to vote on a final contract offer, after talks to end the four-week labour disruption broke down today.

"We made significant moves to address all of their issues," said Sonia Del Missier, chair of the Colleges' Bargaining Team, on Monday. "That offer should have been accepted."

The College Employer Council, which represents the province's 24 colleges, said it has asked Ontario's Labour Relations Board to schedule the vote.

It has also called on the Ontario Public Sector Employees Union, representing the 12,000 college workers, to suspend the strike in the five to 10 days it will take to organize the vote.

"We'll advise our members to vote no, because there are things in there, should they be accepted, will cause long-lasting damage," said Darryl Bedford, president of OPSEU Local 110 representing faculty at Fanshawe College in London. "It's not an offer we can recommend."

## Job security, academic freedom main issues

Job security and academic freedom remain the main issues in the dispute.

The union said that up to 70 per cent of college instructors work on part-time contracts. Union officials want a 50-50 ratio of full to part-time staff – a demand the council has said would boost its \$750-million annual payroll by \$250-million.

The strike, affecting 500,000 students at 24 public colleges across the province, began Oct. 16.

After two weeks without talks, both sides returned to the bargaining table on Nov. 2.

# College Forcing Union's Hand

Blackburn News - November 6, 2017

Accusing the union representing faculty at Ontario's 24 public colleges of "stonewalling the bargaining process," the College Employer Council is taking steps to force a vote on its latest offer.

Talks between the council and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) broke off Monday afternoon, just five days after the two sides returned to the bargaining table for the first time since the start of October.

"OPSEU's insistence on continuing the strike is a terrible outcome for students and faculty," said council bargaining chair Sonia Del Missier in a statement. "We addressed all faculty priorities and the offer that is available for faculty right now – on the table – should have ended this strike."

The council has now asked the Ontario Labour Relations Board to schedule a vote on its latest offer. It's the council's one chance, under Ontario's labour laws, to take its offer directly to the membership with a vote.

While awaiting the vote, which could take up to ten days to organize, the council has requested the strike be suspended.

"An employer vote is never a preferred path, because a settlement should be reached at the bargaining table. But we have exhausted all efforts at the bargaining table and now our faculty will decide," said Missier.

Roughly 12,000 college instructors, counselors, and librarians walked off the job on October 16, cancelling classes for more than half a million students. Originally, job security has been the key bargaining issue for the union. It had been seeking a 50/50 split of full time and contract positions and an increased role in academic decision-making.

The council maintains it has tabled an offer that addresses faculty priorities, but the union is refusing to accept it. According to the council, the latest offer enhances full-time employment opportunities and rights for contract faculty, increases pay by 7.75% over four years, offers better job security, and guarantees academic freedom.

However, the language in the latest offer appears to be the new point of contention with the union.



*OPSEU Local 110 President Darryl Bedford. (Photo by Miranda Chant, Blackburn News)*

"They came with an offer that was virtually unchanged," said Darryl Bedford, OPSEU bargaining team member and Fanshawe College information technology instructor. "They are stuck on language that would prevent the union from challenging part time staffing, language that would undermine the positive effects of Bill 148 – equal pay for equal work."

Bedford said he wants Ontarians to know that the union came to the bargaining table in good faith.

“We were ready, willing and able to bargain and the union proposed very innovative solutions and got to the point where all of the cost items were dealt with. This is not a battle over money,” said Bedford. “This is about how our members do their work in the classroom, how our positions are protected now and in the future, and dealing with issues effecting the system such as precarious work. This was never about salary and benefits. This was about our working conditions and it’s disappointing that the college is not willing to meet us somewhere in the middle.”

Prior to talks breaking down, Fanshawe College had announced plans to extend classes and exams by one week from December 15 to December 22. College officials have also been encouraging students to continue their studies independently by completing homework assignments, continuing textbook readings, and research projects.

Ontario college students have never lost a year because of a strike. However, previous strikes at the province’s colleges, in 1984, 1989, and 2006, were resolved in about three weeks.

# College union won't suspend strike as vote from members looms

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - Tuesday, November 7, 2017



Picket line fires burn bright at Fanshawe College. (MIKE HENSEN, The London Free Press)

One day after talks with the union stalled and colleges vowed to take their final offer to striking workers, both sides will sit down with Ontario's Labour Relations Board Tuesday morning to hash out a plan.

Members of the College Employer Council – which bargains on behalf of the province's 24 strike-shuttered public colleges – and Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) officials are meeting with a board mediator to agree on next steps.

“The parties are going to attend at the board for a mediation to try to resolve the issues with respect to what happens next,” said Aaron Hard, Ontario Labour Relations Board solicitor.

“They're seeing if they can agree on the process.”

With the mediator, both sides will discuss how, where and when the final offer vote will take place, Hart said. If the union and council can't reach an agreement on how the vote will roll out, it will be up to the board to decide the best plan of attack.

“If they're not able to agree on the process, then the board would hold a hearing or take submissions, maybe in writing . . . and will make a determination about what happens next,” he said.

Hart was unable to comment on how long final offer votes typically take, instead saying each case has its own challenges and nuances.

More than 500,000 students across Ontario have been displaced by the job action, including tens of thousands of students at Fanshawe College, St. Clair College in Windsor and Sarnia's Lambton College.

In a statement Monday, the council requested faculty return to work while the vote is being organized. It also urged polling stations set up at campuses across the province so “the largest number of faculty are able to exercise their right to vote.”

Kevin MacKay, a member of the OPSEU faculty bargaining team, said the union won’t agree to suspend the strike in the lead up to the vote.

“That is something no group on strike would ever do, especially on an offer we can’t recommend,” he said. “The council can say a lot of things, but that’s a ridiculous thing to ask.”

OPSEU, in a statement Tuesday, also accused the council of ushering in a strike-prolonging vote instead of staying the course at the bargaining table.

It’s a tough situation, and one that might not work out so well for the colleges, said one labour history expert.

“The decision of the colleges to call for a vote through the labour board without the union is an indication they are playing hardball,” said Laurel MacDowell, labour history professor at the University of Toronto.

In an email, MacDowell said the legal provision was brought in by an anti-union government and plays to the idea that union leaders are agitators who manipulate workers.

“If the colleges think a direct vote through the board without any input from the union will work, they will get a surprise and it means they are fighting hard against the union,” she said.

# OPSEU to respond to colleges' move to hold vote for striking faculty



Striking college faculty rally in Toronto on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017, calling on the province to send college administrators back to the bargaining table. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Thomas campean

CP24.com - Tuesday, November 7, 2017

The union representing striking Ontario college faculty members is expected to hold a news conference Tuesday afternoon, a day after the college bargaining group announced they would take their latest offer directly to faculty members.

The college bargaining team announced Monday that they had addressed all the demands of the faculty and didn't understand why the union would not agree to their latest offer.

The college team said they would take their latest offer directly to faculty members in a vote that is expected to take anywhere from a week to 10 days to organize and called on the union to suspend the strike during that time.

For their part, union bargaining team members expressed surprise at the move and said they had believed that they were close to reaching a deal, with the final sticking point being language around academic freedom.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union said Monday that the deal the colleges want to put to a vote would damage college education for years to come.

OPSEU bargaining chair J.P. Hornick said Monday that she still believes a deal is possible if the colleges resume bargaining.

In a statement, the College Employer Council said they "remain at the table if the union wants to drop its final objections and agree to end the strike."

Commenting on the dispute Tuesday, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development Deb Matthews said only that the province wants to see students return to the classroom quickly.

"I know students are feeling the effects of this strike deeply, and I share their concern. However, I am unable to comment further on the process of the (Ontario Labour Relations Board)," Matthews said in the statement.

She said the government wants "to see students back in the classroom as quickly as possible to continue their education."

Faculty members at Ontario's 24 colleges have been on strike since Oct. 16, leaving 500,000 students out of the classroom.

# College strike: Faculty union says colleges rejected its last-ditch offer

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - Tuesday, November 7, 2017



The union representing the province's striking college faculty is firing back at the council that represents the colleges, accusing the group of rejecting a last-ditch resolution the union tabled after talks broke off.

The College Employer Council on Monday asked to be allowed to take its final offer to Ontario Public Sector Employees Union (OPSEU) rank and file members – the latest twist in a weeks-long strike that's cost more than a half million students 17 days of class.

"Yesterday, after the College Employer Council pulled the plug on negotiations and called for a vote on their latest offer, the faculty bargaining team put forward a new proposal aimed at settling the strike immediately," said OPSEU bargaining chair JP Hornick.

"This morning, I am sorry to say, council rejected that proposal outright," she said in a statement released Tuesday afternoon.

In a statement of its own Tuesday morning, the council said it is giving the union a solution to end the strike, as both sides meet with a provincial Labour Relations Board mediator to hash out next steps for the member vote.

"Colleges responded to the union this morning through the mediator and proposed a possible solution to end the strike that has entered its fourth week," the council said in a statement.

"We won't be providing specific comments about the proposed solution but need OPSEU at the table to get a deal and end the strike."

Both sides must agree on a plan of attack for the vote, which the union said is unnecessarily prolonging the strike.

In the meantime, even with a proposed solution on the table, the council said its proceeding with vote preparation.

“The parties are going to attend at the board for a mediation to try to resolve the issues with respect to what happens next,” said Aaron Hart, Ontario Labour Relations Board solicitor.

“They’re seeing if they can agree on the process.”

With the mediator, both sides will discuss how, where and when the final offer vote will take place, Hart said. If the union and council can’t reach an agreement on how the vote will roll out, it will be up to the board to decide the best plan of attack.

“If they’re not able to agree on the process, then the board would hold a hearing or take submissions, maybe in writing . . . and will make a determination about what happens next,” he said.

Hart was unable to comment on how long final offer votes typically take, instead saying each case has its own challenges and nuances.

More than 500,000 students across Ontario have been displaced by the job action, including tens of thousands of students at Fanshawe College, St. Clair College in Windsor and Sarnia’s Lambton College.

In a statement Monday, the council requested faculty return to work while the vote is being organized. It also urged polling stations set up at campuses across the province so “the largest number of faculty are able to exercise their right to vote.”

Kevin MacKay, a member of the OPSEU faculty bargaining team, said the union won’t agree to suspend the strike in the leadup to the vote.

“That is something no group on strike would ever do, especially on an offer we can’t recommend,” he said. “The council can say a lot of things, but that’s a ridiculous thing to ask.”

OPSEU, in its statement Tuesday, also accused the council of ushering in a strike-prolonging vote instead of staying the course at the bargaining table.

It’s a tough situation, and one that might not work out so well for the colleges, said one labour history expert.

“The decision of the colleges to call for a vote through the labour board without the union is an indication they are playing hardball,” said Laurel MacDowell, labour history professor at the University of Toronto.

In an email, MacDowell said the legal provision was brought in by an anti-union government and plays to the idea that union leaders are agitators who manipulate workers.

“If the colleges think a direct vote through the board without any input from the union will work, they will get a surprise and it means they are fighting hard against the union,” she said.



# Contingency plan in place at St. Clair College due to strike



CTV Windsor - Tuesday, November 7, 2017

St. Clair College is letting students know about a contingency plan that is in place as the strike enters its fourth week.

The strike at Ontario colleges, which involves college professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians, began Oct. 15.

## Here are some of the date changes at St. Clair:

- The college's drop date (without academic penalty) will be moved from Nov. 14 to a proposed date of Dec. 11.
- Classes will be extended to Dec. 22.
- The Holiday Break will be from Dec. 25 - Jan. 1. The college will be open on Dec. 27 - 30 to access services (e.g. Library, Tutoring and Open Computer Labs).
- Fall classes will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018.
- Exams will be scheduled in Jan. 2018 (actual week to be determined).
- The January semester will be delayed accordingly but total semester duration will be 14 weeks (includes March Break).
- March Break (March 12 - March 16) will continue as planned, with the exception of the Collaborative Nursing program, which is scheduled Feb. 19 - Feb. 23.

College officials say due to changes to the academic calendar, contingency plans will support students who have prior travel commitments. The contingency plans will be made available once the work stoppage has concluded.

# St. Clair College extends fall semester due to lingering strike

With no assurance the college faculty strike will be resolved anytime soon, St. Clair College announced plans to extend the fall semester Tuesday.

Windsor Star - November 7, 2017

With no assurance the college faculty strike will be resolved anytime soon, St. Clair College announced plans to extend the fall semester Tuesday.

The college will recover three weeks of class time by extending the fall semester by two weeks to Dec. 22 and resuming it after Christmas Break beginning Jan. 2.

“We wanted to get some information out about what the academic calendar will look like based on the information we have today,” said John Fairley, vice-president of college communications and community relations.

“We’re into the fourth week of the stoppage and people have a lot of questions. We want to give them a chance to plan.”

The Christmas Break will now run Dec. 25 to Jan. 1. The college will be open Dec. 27-30 for students to access services such as the library, tutoring and open computer labs.

Originally the semester was scheduled to end Dec. 8 with the second semester beginning Jan. 9.

Exam week, which was scheduled for Dec. 4-8, will now be moved to a yet to be determined week in January.

The second semester will begin after exam week and will last 14 weeks.

There are no plans to eliminate March Break (March 12-16).

The college will also change its drop date for individual courses, without academic penalty, from Nov. 14 to Dec. 11.



Striking OPSEU members walk the picket line at the St. Clair College Main Campus on Nov. 7, 2017. Nick Brancaccio / Windsor Star

Fairley acknowledged the radical changes to the academic calendar will play havoc with those who had made travel plans during the month-long break between semesters.

“Due to the changes, contingency plans will support students who have prior travel commitments,” Fairley said. “The contingency plans will be made public once the work stoppage has concluded.”

The strike by 12,000 faculty at Ontario’s 24 community colleges has forced the cancellation of classes for 500,000 full- and part-time students.

The College Employers’ Council, which represents the colleges, walked away from talks Monday and requested the Ontario Labour Relations’ Board organize a vote on the offer.

The Labour Board met Tuesday with the both sides and ordered a faculty vote to be held from 9 a.m. Nov. 14 through 10 a.m. Nov. 16. The vote will be conducted by electronic ballot to ensure the maximum number of faculty can vote.

The College Employers’ Council had requested OPSEU, which represents the faculty, suspend the strike until the vote is completed. Union officials rejected that request and are recommending their membership vote down the contract offer.

“It (holding a vote) guarantees the strike will continue and it virtually guarantees that hundreds of thousands of college students will lose their semester,” said JP Hornick, chair of the faculty bargaining team.

“Realistically, it will be the end of week five before the vote results are even known.”

The only issue remaining unresolved is academic freedom.

Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development Deb Matthews is opting to let the voting process play out before commenting on when the government might introduce back-to-work legislation.

“Through all of this, our focus is on students and their learning,” Matthews said.

“We want to see students back in the classroom as quickly as possible to continue their education. I understand that the College Employer Council has requested a vote on the employer’s last offer through the Ontario Labour Relations Board. I know students are feeling the effects of this strike deeply and I share their concern.

“However, I am unable to comment further on the process of the OLRB.”

The lingering strike is also resulting in some calls for colleges to refund tuitions.

“We’re under the provision of the ministry — anything like full or pro-rated refunds — that’s not our decision,” Fairley said.

“That’s one for Toronto to decide.”

# St. Clair College To Implement Contingency Dates Due To Faculty Strike

[AM800 CKLW](#) Tuesday, November 7th 2017



Striking faculty members walk the picket line outside St.Clair College in Windsor (Photo by Kimberley Johnson)

A contingency plan is now in place at St. Clair College as a strike by faculty continues.

Classes will be extended until December 22 with a holiday break from December 25 to January 1, 2018.

College Vice President of Communications John Fairley says the holiday break has been shortened.

"The classes will be being taught up to December 22, so everyone knows that and then when the holiday break would be in December up until between Christmas and New Year's [Day] and then during that time the college will be open, which we usually just shut down," says Fairley.

The college will be open on December 27 - 30 to access the library, tutoring and open computer labs.

Exams will be in January, but a hard date has not been set.

Fall classes will resume on January 2, 2018.

"We would have library tutoring, open computer labs if people were to want to come back during that — they don't go away and they still want to get caught up on things. Then the Fall classes would resume on Tuesday, January the 2nd," says Fairley.

When it comes to a "sell by" date to save the school year, Fairley tells AM800 News — he doesn't really want to think about that right now.

"I'm going to believe in the process and negotiations and everything, so I'd rather have no comment on that," says Fairley. "I think that our goal from our faculty's point of view and everyone at St. Clair College is to not lose the year."

Fairley says they wanted to give out these dates so people could plan around the holiday time frame.

The college's drop date without academic penalty will be moved from November 14 to a proposed date of December 11. The January semester will be delayed, but the total semester will be 14 weeks.

March Break is still set for March 12 - 16 and will continue as planned.

Faculty are set to vote on the college's supposed "final offer" on November 14 after the [College Employer Council issued a request to the Labour Relations Board](#) to conduct a supervised vote. The [union is recommending](#) members reject the offer.

Workers have been on strike since October 16.

# Contingency plan in place at St. Clair College due to strike



CTV Windsor - Tuesday, November 7, 2017

St. Clair College is letting students know about a contingency plan that is in place as the strike enters its fourth week.

The strike at Ontario colleges, which involves 12,000 college professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians, began Oct. 15.

More than 330 staff members at St. Clair in Windsor and Chatham are on the picket lines, affecting more than 10,000 students.

The Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) has ordered a faculty vote to be held from 9 a.m. on Tuesday Nov. 14 through 10 a.m. on Thursday Nov. 16. The vote will be conducted by electronic ballot and ensure that the maximum number of faculty can exercise their right to vote.

## Here are some of the date changes at St. Clair as part of its contingency plan:

- The college's drop date (without academic penalty) will be moved from Nov. 14 to a proposed date of Dec. 11.
- Classes will be extended to Dec. 22.
- The Holiday Break will be from Dec. 25 - Jan. 1. The college will be open on Dec. 27 - 30 to access services (e.g. Library, Tutoring and Open Computer Labs).
- Fall classes will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018.
- Exams will be scheduled in Jan. 2018 (actual week to be determined).
- The January semester will be delayed accordingly but total semester duration will be 14 weeks (includes March Break).

- March Break (March 12 - March 16) will continue as planned, with the exception of the Collaborative Nursing program, which is scheduled Feb. 19 - Feb. 23.

College officials say due to changes to the academic calendar, contingency plans will support students who have prior travel commitments. The contingency plans will be made available once the work stoppage has concluded.

OPSEU says it thought a deal was close when negotiations continued over the weekend. That was until the College Employer Council on Monday called on staff to vote on a final offer.

The Council says its offer addresses all union concerns, but OPSEU claims the issue of academic freedom is not resolved.

Balloting information for next week's vote will be sent directly to faculty in the coming days.

"We are still over a week away from the vote results being known and we again request that the strike be suspended for the sake of 500,000 students. The suspension will allow faculty and students to return to class and not lose another week of classes," said Sonia Del Missier, Chair, Colleges' Bargaining Team.

"The colleges remain at the table, but we can't just rely on bargaining to resolve the strike – and our students can't wait. The faculty vote is another path to end the strike if bargaining is not successful," said Del Missier.

In the meantime, students from St. Clair College are holding a rally on Wednesday to call for an end to the strike.

## St Clair Updates Strike Contingency

By: [Ian Shalapata](#) 7 November 2017

(WINDSOR, ON) – As an update to the St Clair College students and their families, school management is providing the dates which are part of the current Contingency Plan and regarding the academic calendar.

- The College's drop date without an academic penalty will be moved from November 14, to a proposed date of December 11.
- Classes will be extended to December 22.
- The holiday break will be from December 25 through to January 1. St Clair will be open between December 27 and 30 for students to access services like the library, tutoring, and open computer labs.

Due to changes to the academic calendar, contingency plans will support students who have prior travel commitments. The contingency plans will be made available once the work stoppage has concluded.

- Fall classes will resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.
- Exams will be scheduled in January 2018, with the actual week to be determined.
- The January semester will be delayed accordingly, but total semester duration will be 14 weeks, and includes March Break.
- March Break will be from March 12 through March 16 and will continue as planned, with the exception of the Collaborative Nursing program, which is scheduled for February 19 to February 23.

[For further updates visit the St Clair College website.](#)



# The Saure

## Colleges By-Passing Negotiations

By: [Ian Shalapata](#) 7 November 2017

(TORONTO, ON) – In a strange twist, the College Employer Council has by-passed negotiations with OPSEU representatives and is directly making an offer to striking faculty. Additionally, CEC has requested that the strike be suspended, and students and faculty be allowed to return to classrooms, while the vote is organized by the Labour Board.

“OPSEU’s insistence on continuing the strike is a terrible outcome for students and faculty,” said Sonia Del Missier, the chair of the CEC bargaining team. “We addressed all faculty priorities and the offer that is available for faculty right now – on the table – should have ended this strike.”

Another benefit to suspending the strike would be to allow the vote to be carried out at the schools, giving the maximum number of faculty a chance to vote.

For their part, OPSEU says CEC should try to work out a deal at the bargaining table rather than calling for the vote.

“Rather than continue to bargain, the colleges have called a vote that, in itself, could easily keep faculty and students out of their classrooms for another two weeks,” said JP Hornick, chair of the faculty bargaining team. “We have said all along that faculty have a better plan for the colleges, and we do.”

CEC suggests that OPSEU has been stonewalling the bargaining process and refuses to take the current offer to their membership.

“We need to end this strike and get students back in the classroom,” said Del Missier. “We have asked the Labour Board to schedule a vote and let our faculty decide.”

Hornick said the only issue in dispute now is a no-cost item about faculty making decisions about what’s best in their classrooms. She says that CEC has insisted on keeping serious concessions in to undermine the progress that had been made at the table.

“Our objective since we began bargaining in July has been to improve education quality for students and fairness for faculty,” said Hornick. “Today, our better plan is this: If the colleges come to the table now and bargain a settlement that our team can recommend, we can have faculty back in the classrooms tomorrow and hold the ratification vote after.”

It is expected that it will take the Labour Board five to ten days to determine the vote date and organize.

Highlights of management’s four-year offer include wage increases of 1.75%, 2%, 2%, and 2%, colleges will give preference to creating full-time jobs instead of partial-load or sessional jobs, and enhancing priority hiring rights for partial-load employees to improve their job security.

[More highlights are available online.](#)

# St. Clair College shortens holiday break in response to staff strike

**March Break has not been affected**

[CBC News](#) Nov 07, 2017



Striking faculty members at St. Clair College walk the picket line on Oct. 16, 2017. (Dan Taekema/CBC)

Students at St. Clair College will have a shorter break over the holidays as the ongoing staff strike has forced the school's administration to adjust its academic calendar.

- [Mediator calls parties in Ontario college strike back to bargaining table](#)
- [Sessional instructor feels 'exploited,' college strike drags on](#)

As the strike stretched into its fourth week Tuesday, the college released its contingency plan.

The holiday break will now run from Dec. 25 to Jan. 1, with some college services, including the library and computer labs, open from Dec. 27-30.

Fall classes will continue on Jan. 2 and exams will be scheduled sometime during the first month of 2018.

## Drop course deadline extended

The semester meant to start in January will be delayed, but will still run a total of 14 weeks, explained college spokesperson John Fairley in a media release.

March break — scheduled to take place from March 12-16 — won't be affected.

Students will also be able to drop courses without academic penalty until Dec. 11, not Nov. 14 as previously scheduled.

# College Vote Set For Next Week

Blackburn News - November 7, 2017

Ontario's colleges have confirmed that a vote on a contract proposal is set for next week.

The College Employer Council says that the Ontario Labour Relations Board has ordered a vote to take place next Tuesday through Thursday, November 14 to 16.

The vote will be conducted electronically to allow as many faculty members to participate as possible.

The council is still urging the faculty union to suspend the strike at least until the vote is tabulated and allow students to return to the classroom.

"We are still over a week away from the vote results being known and we again request that the strike be suspended for the sake of 500,000 students," says college bargaining team chairperson Sonia Del Missier in a statement. "The suspension will allow faculty and students to return to class and not lose another week of classes."

Faculty at all 24 of Ontario's colleges walked off the job October 16 in a dispute over wages and job security. The two sides have resumed talking after the colleges rejected the union's latest offer Tuesday. The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), which represents the faculty, says students are at risk of [losing an entire semester](#).

Some colleges have announced revised contingency plans as the strike drags on. St. Clair College, for example, announced it will [extend the semester](#) to December 22, allow a week-long holiday break, then resume the fall schedule right after the new year.

Faculty will receive balloting instructions over the next few days, according to the OLRB.

# St. Clair College Updates Contingency Plan

Blackburn news - November 7, 2017

With no end in sight to the college faculty strike, St. Clair College has updated its contingency plan for students.

In an emailed statement Tuesday, the college says it is extending its “drop date” for withdrawing from classes without penalty.

“The drop date is where someone were to drop a class and not be penalized academically for it, that they wouldn’t get an F or something that would hurt their grade average on their transcript,” says John Fairley, vice president of communications. “What we thought of doing, because we’re coming up to the November 14th date that is prudent, to us, to extend that date, given that it’s very fluid what is happening. Something could change, but we felt we’d be more comfortable with not putting it so close to everything going on, as quickly as it’s moving right now.”

The college says the winter break will be from December 25 to January 1. The college will be open on December 27-30 to access services like tutoring, the library, and open computer labs.

Fairley says exams will be scheduled in January but an actual week has yet to be determined.

The college says the January semester will be delayed accordingly but the total semester duration will be 14 weeks, including the March Break. Fairley says the March Break from March 12 to March 16 will continue as planned, with the exception of the Collaborative Nursing program, which is scheduled for February 19 to February 23.

# Loss Of Semester ‘Virtually Guaranteed’

Blackburn News - November 7, 2017

As another union proposal aimed at ending Ontario’s college faculty strike was struck down Tuesday, the head of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) bargaining team warns students are virtually guaranteed to lose a semester.

The union, which represents over 12,000 instructors, counselors, and librarians at Ontario’s 24 public colleges, said it put forward the new offer Monday. But the new pitch, made after negotiations between the two sides broke down, was rejected by the College Employer Council less than 24 hours later.

“This is a terrible move, and a terrible mistake,” said JP Hornick, chair of the OPSEU faculty bargaining team, in a statement. “It guarantees that the strike will continue, and it virtually guarantees that hundreds of thousands of college students will lose their semester.”

Just five days after the two sides resumed talks, the council claimed on Monday that the union was “stonewalling the bargaining process” and it wanted to take its latest offer directly to faculty. The council asked the Ontario Labour Relations Board to schedule a vote directly with the membership. That vote will be held November 14 to 16 through an electronic ballot.

“Realistically, it will be the end of week five before the vote results are even known,” said Hornick.

The union is urging its members, who have been on the picket line for 23 days, to reject the council’s “take it or leave it” offer.

The council, which negotiates on behalf of the colleges, issued its own statement Tuesday claiming it has given the union a solution to end the strike.

“Colleges responded to the union [Tuesday] morning through the mediator and proposed a possible solution to end the strike that has entered its fourth week,” read the council statement. “The colleges are not negotiating in the press. If OPSEU is sincere about getting 500,000 students back in the classroom, then OPSEU should be at the bargaining table rather than making press announcements.”

The council offered no details into what the possible solution entails.

College faculty walked off the job in mid-October, cancelling classes for more than half a million students. Originally, job security was the key bargaining issue for the union. It had been seeking a 50/50 split of full time and contract positions and an increased role in academic decision-making. But while the council has offered enhanced full-time employment opportunities and rights for contract faculty and a 7.75% pay increase over four years, it refuses to bend on new contract language around academic freedom. The union has stated the language would give faculty greater say in how courses are delivered and evaluated.

Previous college strikes, in 1984, 1989, and 2006, were resolved in roughly three weeks, sparing students a lost academic year.

## College Vote Set For Next Week

WindsoriteDOTca News - Tuesday November 7th, 2017



The Ontario Labour Relations Board has ordered a faculty vote to be held from 9am on November 14th through 10am on November 16th. The vote will be conducted by electronic ballot and ensure that the maximum number of faculty can exercise their right to vote.

“We are still over a week away from the vote results being known and we again request that the strike be suspended for the sake of 500,000 students. The suspension will allow faculty and students to return to class and not lose another week of classes,” said Sonia Del Missier, Chair, Colleges’ Bargaining Team.

“The colleges remain at the table, but we can’t just rely on bargaining to resolve the strike – and our students can’t wait. The faculty vote is another path to end the strike if bargaining is not successful,” said Ms. Del Missier.

# St. Clair College Releases Contingency Dates

WindsoriteDOTca News - Tuesday November 7th, 2017



While classes remain suspended at St. Clair College, the college has provided an update to their St. Clair College contingency plan pertaining to the academic calendar.

The College's drop date without academic penalty will be moved from November 14th, 2017 to a proposed date of December 11th, 2017.

Classes will be extended to December 22nd, 2017, and the Holiday Break will be from December 25th to January 1st. The College will be open on December 27th – 30th to access services.

Due to changes to the academic calendar, contingency plans will support students who have prior travel commitments. The contingency plans will be made available once the work stoppage has concluded.

Fall classes will resume on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2018 and exams will be scheduled sometime in January 2018.

The January semester will be delayed accordingly but total semester duration will be 14 weeks, with March break taking place from March 12th to March 16th.

# College strike: faculty vote slated for next week

Vote will take place between Nov. 14-16

By Julia Whalen, [CBC News](#) Posted: Nov 07, 2017 2:03 PM ET Last Updated: Nov 07, 2017 5:22 PM ET



JP Homick, left, and Warren "Smokey" Thomas, right, speak at a press conference Tuesday in Toronto. (CBC)

The Ontario Labour Relations Board has scheduled a vote next week for college faculty who have been on strike since Oct. 16.

A spokesperson for the College Employer Council (CEC), which represents the province's 24 colleges, told CBC Toronto the vote will take place between Nov. 14 and Nov. 16.

"We're trying to get a bargaining deal — we're continuing to do that — but we've reached the point where we're in the fourth week of the strike and we have to have some resolution for our students," said David Scott. "That's why we called for the faculty vote, and that's why we've asked the union to suspend its strike until the vote takes place."

The CEC asked Ontario's Labour Relations Board Monday to schedule the vote.

The news comes just hours after the Ontario Public Sector Employees Union, representing the 12,000 college workers, held a news conference. Warren "Smokey" Thomas, president of OPSEU, said the union believed a deal was close after negotiations continued over the weekend.

"Then Monday morning, without any notice to us, the government dropped the bombshell of saying they were going to ask the Ministry of Labour to conduct a vote, which they get to do once during the bargaining cycle," Thomas said to reporters at the Chelsea Hotel in downtown Toronto.

"We made significant moves to address all of their issues," said Sonia Del Missier, chair of the colleges' bargaining team, on Monday. "That offer should have been accepted."





Sonia Del Missier, chair of the colleges' bargaining team, said Monday the colleges 'don't understand' why OPSEU has not accepted the latest offer. (Radio-Canada)

At Tuesday's news conference, the union maintained it would advise members to vote no.

"I thought we were close to a deal," Thomas told reporters.

"I think their actions yesterday morning going to the Ministry of Labour and walking away from the table, it just pulled that curtain and really accentuates one of the major problems in the college system today: that is, a management team that is stuck in a bygone era ... They won't let go of even of a little bit of that righteous control they have," said Thomas.

The OPSEU president said the union is asking the colleges to return to the bargaining table while the Ministry of Labour organizes the vote.

The CEC, however, said it remains at the table.

"Colleges responded to the union this morning through the mediator and proposed a possible solution to end the strike that has entered its fourth week," the council said in a statement.

"The colleges are not negotiating in the press. If OPSEU is sincere about getting 500,000 students back in the classroom, then OPSEU should be at the bargaining table rather than making press announcements."

## **One sticking point: academic freedom**

JP Hornick, chair of the faculty bargaining team, said the issue of academic freedom was only one piece left to negotiate. That's the ability for faculty to make decisions in their classrooms on a day-to-day basis.

Hornick said late Monday, the faculty bargaining team provided a revised offer to the CEC, which that council rejected.

"If you had stayed at that table Sunday night or this morning, we would have a deal by now and students would be on their way back to their classrooms."

The colleges' bargaining team said Monday it has addressed the issue of academic freedom.

Voting will take place between 9 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14 and 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 16. The vote will be conducted by electronic ballot to ensure the maximum number of faculty can take part.

A vote of 50 per cent plus one is all that is required to accept the deal and end the strike.

The strike, affecting 500,000 students at 24 public colleges across the province, began Oct. 16. The week of Oct. 23 was a reading week for 11 colleges.

## Students call for refund

Meanwhile, dozens of Seneca College students protested on Newnham campus Tuesday calling for a tuition refund.

"We're international students, so we pay much more than domestic students," said Yelena Stebaryuk. "And we're just living here and doing nothing."



- "We demand someone to teach us," said Gabriel Shifferaw. "We're the little guys here who need to have a voice." (Jon Castell/CBC)

Others said it's not only the wasted money that drove them to rally — it's the wasted time.

"We've been away from college for almost a month," said Ehsan Hosein Khani. "I forgot everything about what I've learned so far. It's not fair for us."

"We demand someone to teach us," said Gabriel Shifferaw. "We're the little guys here who need to have a voice."

# College students demand refund amid faculty strike

'Our kids are on the street, the teachers are on the street not being paid and the college has got our money'

By Jason Viau, [CBC News](#) Nov 08, 2017



Betty Sylvain, a St. Clair College student, is worried about her education as the faculty strike carries on with no end in sight. (Jason Viau/CBC)

College students in Windsor are demanding the schooling they paid for, not a "butchered education."

A group of students, who have been out of class since Oct. 16, have planned a rally of their own Tuesday alongside their striking teachers at the main campus of St. Clair College. Many of them are fed up with the dispute and unhappy with the contingency plan.

- [St. Clair College shortens holiday break in response to staff strike](#)

"We can't stand for that," said Betty Sylvain, a first year accounting student at St. Clair College. "All we ask for is we pay for 15 weeks and we'd like to get what we paid for."

"Now it's putting everything up in the air." - *Betty Sylvain, student at St. Clair College*

As a single mother who uses student loans to pay tuition, she feels cheated in many ways.

"I'm [putting myself in debt] to sit at home while you guys can't figure it out and that is unacceptable," said Sylvain.

## Students unhappy with contingency plan

Since her five-year-old son often gets the same holiday breaks as she does, Sylvain is angered by St. Clair College's contingency plan announced on Monday. It means a shortened holiday break spanning from Dec. 25 until Jan. 1, instead of time off from Dec. 15 to January 8.

"Now it's putting everything up in the air," said Sylvain. "When I go back to school on January 2, I will have to put him in daycare."

As the strike heads into its fourth week with no end in sight, the contingency plan also means a crammed timeline for student learning. Fall classes will bleed into the winter semester, with those exams expected to happen in the first month of 2018.

## College asks students to be patient

St. Clair College is asking students to be patient as the bargaining process plays out.

- [Mediator calls parties in Ontario college strike back to bargaining table](#)

"There's all sides to this," said St. Clair College VP of communications John Fairley. "Our students are our number one focus here at St. Clair College and we know our faculty care about our students, administration cares about our students."

"Our kids are on the street, the teachers are on the street not being paid and the college has got our money." - *Tony Procopio, parent of St. Clair College student*

Even parents are getting involved in the dispute.

Tony Procopio has a son enrolled in St. Clair College's travel and tourism program. Tuition was paid using money set aside many years ago earmarked for his son's education. Procopio describes it as a bit of a "crisis in the pocketbook" for himself, but more of a vacation for his young son. He believes students should be getting some sort of refund for missed class time.



Tony Procopio's son is a student at St. Clair College and he's concerned how the strike will affect his education. (Dan Taekema/CBC)

"Which is money that's going into the college's pocket for doing nothing. Our kids are on the street, the teachers are on the street not being paid and the college has got our money."

## Tuition refund?

But Fairley said it's not as simple as St. Clair College cutting thousands of cheques. The Ministry of Education handles the money and would have to make that decision.

"It would not be at our level that we would do anything," said Fairley.

To fix the problem in the future, Procopio is proposing an idea. He believes students should pay half of their tuition upfront and the remainder after courses are complete.

"That would give them lots of incentive to come back to the table," said Procopio.

# Low Turnout For Student Rally At St. Clair College

AM800 CKLW – November 8, 2017



Ashley Ouellette (left) is frustrated the college faculty strike has dragged on for more than three-weeks. November 8, 2017 (Photo by AM800's Kimberley Johnson)

The turnout was low but the frustrations are high at a so-called 'student rally' at St. Clair College.

Students had scheduled a rally Wednesday morning from 8am to 5pm to voice their opinions of the 3-week strike by faculty members, but only a handful of students showed up.

First-year office administration student Ashley Ouellette says if the strike ends soon, a contingency plan put in place by the college will work.

But she fears if the strike drags on, she will lose her semester.

"I'm pretty frustrated and anxious about losing our semester and being out of class for a month, that's a quarter of our semester," she says. "I'm also frustrated with the council because I feel they didn't have to force this vote and it is putting us back."

At this point, she feels there is a good chance students may lose out on their semester.

"I feel that if the talks break down that we are not going to be back and I'm worried about losing the semester at this point."

A supervised vote for St. Clair College faculty is set for November 14th.

The College Employer Council requested the Labour Relations Board to hold the vote on its final offer.

OPSEU is recommending its members reject the offer.

330 workers at St. Clair College have been on strike since October 16.

# College Staff To Vote Next Week

8 November 2017

(WINDSOR, ON) – Ontario’s Labour Relations Board has confirmed a vote date has been set for striking Community College staff, including those at St Clair College. A vote on the latest offer from the College Employment Council will be held on November 14 through November 16. It will be conducted by electronic ballot to ensure that the maximum number of faculty can exercise their right to vote.

With the strike now in its fourth week, government negotiators are calling on the members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union to return to work.

“We are still over a week away from the vote results being known and we again request that the strike be suspended for the sake of 500,000 students,” said Sonia Del Missier, the lead government negotiator. “The suspension will allow faculty and students to return to class and not lose another week of classes.”

Del Missier said that, despite the government being ready to negotiate, bargaining should not be relied upon to resolve the strike.

“Our students can’t wait,” she said. “The faculty vote is another path to end the strike if bargaining is not successful.”

OPSEU is having no part of calling off the strike. In fact, it claims the latest offer is regressive.

JP Hornick, chair of the faculty bargaining team for OPSEU, said the offer has, “serious concessions.”

From her side of the table she claims the vote call is, “... nothing short of outrageous that the colleges have refused to continue bargaining and have instead called for a vote on their final offer.”

Hornick believes the most recent negotiations have pushed both sides, “further apart,” and the offer is much worse for faculty and students than what the colleges had already agreed to verbally over the course of the negotiations.

“It significantly undermines the provisions we were able to negotiate to protect against the abuse of contract faculty,” she said. Hornick senses the vote on the final offer will fail saying the, “... final offer cannot form the basis for a negotiated settlement. All they have done is hardened the resolve of faculty on picket lines across this province and made us more determined than ever to get a collective agreement that addresses our proposals about education quality and fairness for faculty.”

OPSEU President Warren (Smokey) Thomas wants the colleges to, “... negotiate, not dictate,” at the bargaining table.

“We want the students, back in class as soon as possible, but dragging out the strike by calling a vote that will not likely be completed until late next week, at the earliest, is not the way to do that,” he said. Thomas says the CEC walking away from bargaining is, “... just a big power play by Council.”

A stumbling block, Thomas says, is the Colleges wanting to control the education process.

“They refuse to give up any control at all, and they refuse to share the power to make decisions on academic matters with the people who know most about it – faculty.”



OPSEU Local 138 president at St. Clair College Bernie Nawrocki, far left, speaks with picketing faculty at the main Windsor campus, November 8, 2017. Photo by Mark Brown/Blackburn News.

## College Faculty Pressing On

Blackburn News - November 8, 2017

Striking faculty at Ontario's 24 colleges continue to walk the picket lines as negotiations remain at a stalemate.

The head of the bargaining team for the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) had warned Tuesday that the current work stoppage could result in over half a million students losing a semester of school. The impasse has led the Ontario Labour Relations Board to force a faculty vote on the latest contract offer by the College Employee Council, which represents the colleges.

At St. Clair College in Windsor, union members continue to have informational pickets at the school's main entrances. Bernie Nawrocki, president of OPSEU Local 138 at the college, says a forced vote is not what they were hoping for.

"We would have rather had both teams remain at the table and bang out an offer," says Nawrocki. "Obviously that didn't occur and we're a little disappointed that the council waited until now to bring their offer to us because they had that opportunity all along."

With over three weeks of classroom instruction wiped out because of the strike, the union says the students are feeling the heat too. Striking faculty at St. Clair College's main campus tell BlackburnNewsWindsor.com that a student rally was supposed to happen earlier Wednesday morning at the college but it did not materialize.

Nawrocki says he is well aware of the students' concerns, including lost tuition and increased room-and-board expenses.

"Some of the students are asking for compensation for lost time and increased costs," says Nawrocki.

The strike is forcing colleges to redo their contingency plans. St. Clair College, [for example](#), is cutting short its holiday break by extending the fall semester to end on December 22 and resuming right after the new year. The start of the winter 2018 semester would be delayed.

The College Employee Council says it has provided a proposal to end the strike and on Monday accused the union of [stonewalling](#). College bargaining chairperson Sonia Del Missier says the proposal is fair and would have likely put students and faculty back into the classrooms and labs.

“OPSEU’s insistence on continuing the strike is a terrible outcome for students and faculty,” said Del Missier in a statement Monday. “We addressed all faculty priorities and the offer that is available for faculty right now – on the table – should have ended this strike.”



# St. Clair College students plan another rally



CTV Windsor - Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Students at St. Clair College have planned another rally to share their voice in the ongoing college faculty strike.

It will be held at Noon on Thursday at the Windsor campus.

Only a handful of students attended a failed attempt at a rally on Wednesday.

## Photos



Students rally at St. Clair College in Windsor, Ont., on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017. (Bob Bellacicco / CTV Windsor)

“The thing that upsets me the most is that the students are the ones that are forgotten” says student Pedro Moro. “We’re the ones who pay both of them. This is all on our dime and I feel like we really haven’t had much of a voice in all of this.”

Some students decided to join faculty on the picket lines.

The strike at Ontario colleges, which involves 12,000 college professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians, began Oct. 16.

More than 330 staff members at St. Clair in Windsor and Chatham are on the picket lines, affecting more than 10,000 students.

The Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) has ordered a faculty vote to be held from 9 a.m. on Tuesday Nov. 14 through 10 a.m. on Thursday Nov. 16.

OPSEU is recommending its members reject the College's 'final offer.'

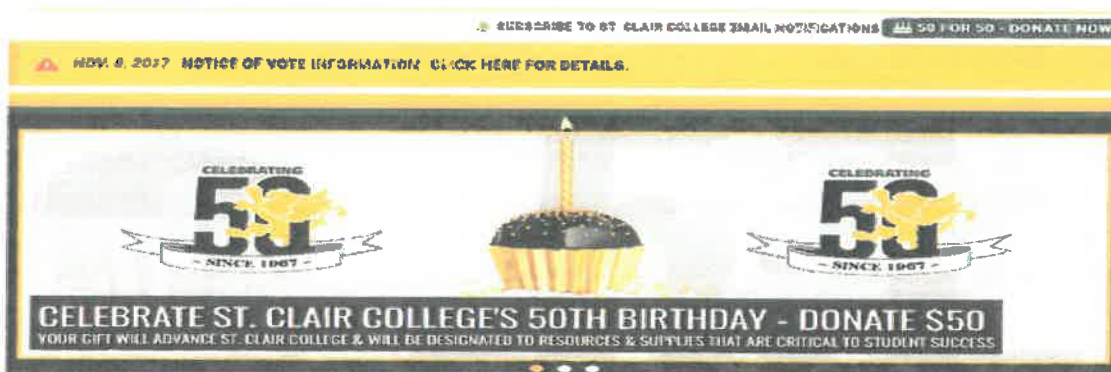
St. Clair College has released its contingency plan for students as part of the strike.

Here are some important dates.

- The college's drop date (without academic penalty) will be moved from Nov. 14 to a proposed date of Dec. 11.
- Classes will be extended to Dec. 22.
- The Holiday Break will be from Dec. 25 - Jan. 1. The college will be open on Dec. 27 - 30 to access services (e.g. Library, Tutoring and Open Computer Labs).
- Fall classes will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018.
- Exams will be scheduled in Jan. 2018 (actual week to be determined).
- The January semester will be delayed accordingly but total semester duration will be 14 weeks (includes March Break).
- March Break (March 12 - March 16) will continue as planned, with the exception of the Collaborative Nursing program, which is scheduled Feb. 19 - Feb. 23.

# St. Clair College pulls 'insensitive' ad asking for donations during faculty strike

By Jason Viau, [CBC News](#) Posted: Nov 09, 2017 5:11 PM ET Last Updated: Nov 09, 2017 5:17 PM ET



This ad has been pulled from St. Clair College's website after a student complained it was ill-timed due to the ongoing labour dispute. (St. Clair College)

St. Clair College has pulled an ad asking for donations and apologized to students for the insensitivity during the ongoing faculty strike.

The banner on the college's main web page encouraged people to donate \$50 in recognition of the institution's 50th birthday. It's been circulating since January and was scheduled to come down next month.

But it's the timing of the ad that has St. Clair College student Laurie Wills upset. She emailed top administrators Thursday afternoon, expressing her outrage. At first, she thought it was a joke.

"I feel that the college has received every tuition dollar of this semester as a donation already," said Wills.



Striking faculty members at St. Clair College walk the picket line on Oct. 16, 2017. (Dan Taekema/CBC)

The Ontario Labour Relations Board has scheduled a vote next week for college faculty who have been on strike since Oct. 16. About 500,000 students haven't been able to return to class during the four-week strike.

## College apologizes

Within an hour, VP of communications John Fairley responded, apologizing for the "discomfort."

"We weren't sensitive enough to what's going on in the community and obviously with our students," said Fairley. "One student is the same as every student, so if it bothered them maybe there's others that felt the same way."

The ad was removed late Thursday afternoon, but Fairley said the college has plans to put it back up once the labour dispute is resolved.



This ad has been pulled from St. Clair College's website after a student complained it was ill-timed due to the ongoing labour dispute. (St. Clair College)

## The Square

# Thomas Takes Aim At College Presidents

By: [Robert Tuomi](#) - 10 November 2017

(WINDSOR, ON) – In the harshest condemnation so far in the strike by 12,000 community college faculty, Warren Smokey Thomas is accusing the presidents of the province’s 24 colleges of being on a “destructive path.” Thomas, the president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union which represents the strikers, is pointing the finger at the presidents by saying they are prolonging the strike and must, “... move off the destructive path they are on.”

He added that it is time for the presidents to, “... start caring about the well-being of students and the faculty who teach them. Any fair-minded person watching the faculty strike right now can see who’s being reasonable and who’s not.”

The motivation behind the strike is a fight by college faculty for job security and equal pay for contracted instructors; a fight, in essence, for full-time jobs. A number of issues are being dealt with by the union, including trying to prevent the presidents from expanding the pool of precarious workers and dodge their equal-pay obligations.

“College faculty believe faculty and students should be included in decisions about the way programs and courses are delivered,” Thomas said. From his position in the union he senses the, “... presidents want dictatorial control so they can cut money from the classroom and line their own pockets with double-digit salary increases. The faculty’s even-handed approach makes work less precarious and education better. The presidents’ scorched-earth approach will destroy morale for years to come.”

Because of this, Thomas warned that both faculty and students will pay the price, arguing the presidents, represented by the College Employer Council, have pursued a cheap labour strategy for decades.

“In this day and age, precarious work cannot be part of anybody’s business model,” Thomas said. He added that the colleges are operating with an, “... increasing reliance on contract faculty and stiff resistance by the colleges to allowing contract faculty to have a voice through unionization.”

Without disclosing data to support his claim, Thomas calculated that, over the last 10 years, the colleges have spent millions of public dollars on anti-union lawyers to frustrate union drives and keep contract faculty down.

Next week, the faculty will vote on the latest and final contract offer from the CEC.

# Province announces 'hardship fund' for students caught in college strike

Ontario's Liberal government announced Friday it will help students struggling financially due to the faculty strike at community colleges.

Windsor Star - November 10, 2017

Ontario's Liberal government announced Friday it will help students who are struggling financially due to the faculty strike at community colleges.

Advanced Education and Skills Development Minister Deb Matthews has instructed colleges to establish funds out of the savings they accrue from not paying their faculty to support students finding themselves in financial hardship.

"All students are struggling with continued uncertainty," Matthews said in a released statement.

"They are worried about how to pay for unexpected costs like additional rent or cancelling long-standing travel plans to be home with family.

"That is why I am requiring that colleges establish a dedicated fund with all the savings from the strike. The fund will be used to support students who have experienced financial hardships as a result of the strike."

The strike by 12,000 faculty is entering its fifth week and has resulted in cancelled classes for 500,000 full- and part-time students in Ontario.

Faculty will vote Nov. 14-16 on the College Employer Council's latest offer. The council represents the 24 colleges in Ontario.

OPSEU, the union representing faculty, has urged its membership to reject the offer. Academic freedom is considered the key stumbling block remaining in negotiations.

College Employer Council CEO Don Sinclair wasn't available for comment on Matthews announcement. John Fairley, St. Clair College's vice-president of communications, also offered no comment on the plan.

"This is an issue for Toronto to sort out," said Fairley, who also declined to comment on how much the college is saving in not paying faculty salaries.

Matthews' announcement was also vague on how much the colleges need to set aside and who will qualify for financial assistance.

Matthews said she plans to meet with student leaders and their provincial associations along with the colleges to try and flesh out a plan.

"We need to work out the details together, and we will do it quickly," Matthews said.

"This is a challenging time for everyone, but particularly for students. I look forward to working directly with student leaders and colleges on how we can lessen the impact of the strike on students. They deserve our support."

# Fund being created for students experiencing financial hardship due to Ontario college strike

Fund made up by staff's unpaid wages and savings from not operating schools, Advanced Education Minister says

CBC News - The Canadian Press - Nov 10, 2017



Ontario's 24 colleges will establish the dedicated fund with all the savings from the strike, made up of unpaid wages to striking staff and other savings from not operating the schools. (Chris Young/Canadian Press)

The Ontario government has ordered the province's colleges to create a fund to help students who may be experiencing financial hardship because of a faculty strike that has cancelled classes for a month.

Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews says she has heard from students who are worried about how to pay for unexpected costs that could arise as a result of the labour disruption, like having to pay additional rent or cancelling travel plans.

Matthews says Ontario's 24 colleges will establish the dedicated fund with all the savings from the strike, made up of unpaid wages to striking staff and other savings from not operating the schools.

She says she will work with students and the colleges to establish the parameters of the fund.



Ontario Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews has ordered 24 striking colleges to create a fund to help students having to pay additional rent or cancelling travel plans. (Chris Young/Canadian Press)

Earlier this week, Ontario's Labour Relations Board set dates for a vote on the College Employer Council's final offer to striking faculty — balloting will take place online from Nov. 14 - 16.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union, which represents the 12,000 striking college professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians, has called on its members to reject the offer.

The strike began on Oct. 15 and has left 500,000 full time and part time students out of class.

Matthews says she has met with student leaders and agrees that the fund must be established quickly to help students.

"This is a challenging time for everyone, but particularly for students," she said in a statement issued Friday afternoon. "So, in the coming days, I look forward to working directly with student leaders and colleges on how we can lessen the impact of the strike on students. They deserve our support."

The ministry could not immediately say how large the fund would be, but colleges reported \$5 million in savings after an 18-day strike in 2006.



# Province Orders Strike Affected Colleges To Create Student Hardship Fund

AM800 CKLW - Friday, November 10th 2017



Striking faculty members walk the picket-line outside St.Clair College in Windsor on October 25, 2017. (Photo by AM800's Kimberley Johnson)

The Ontario government has ordered colleges to create a fund to help students who may be facing financial hardship because of a faculty strike that has cancelled classes for a month.

Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews says she has heard from students who are worried about how to pay for unexpected costs that could arise as a result of the labour disruption, like having to pay additional rent or cancelling travel plans.

Matthews says Ontario's 24 colleges — including St. Clair College — will establish the dedicated fund with all the savings from the strike, made up of unpaid wages to striking staff and other savings from not operating the schools.

# Province orders colleges to ease financial impact of faculty strike on impoverished enrollees

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - November 10, 2017

Their term is now extended into January.

They've missed 20 days of class.

They don't know when they're going back.

They've had enough, but the province is taking a big step to help them.

Fanshawe College students took to the streets Friday in London, calling for an end to the nearly five-week-long faculty strike that's cancelled classes for a month at Ontario's 24 community colleges and, in Fanshawe's case, has now pushed their fall term into the new year.

The protest came as the province ordered the colleges to create a fund from strike savings to help students who may be experiencing financial hardship because of the strike and are worried about how to pay for unexpected costs, such as extra rent or cancelled travel plans, because of the disruption.

"This is a challenging time for everyone, but particularly for students," Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews of London said in a statement.

"So, in the coming days, I look forward to working directly with student leaders and colleges on how we can lessen the impact of the strike on students. They deserve our support."

Matthews said the colleges will establish the dedicated fund with all the savings from the strike, made up of striking staffers' unpaid wages and other savings from not operating the schools.

In an email Friday, administrators at London-based Fanshawe — which also has campuses in Woodstock, St. Thomas and Simcoe — said students can expect to have the first semester extended into 2018, a move that also will delay the start of the next semester.

It was unwelcome news for the dozens of students who braved the cold at the school's Oxford Street campus rally, organized by second-year nursing students Michelle Wright and Bethany Baglieri.

"What happens to the new applicants that are coming in? We're pushing them back," said Baglieri.

"This is affecting future students now, as well."

Other students, signs in hand, chanted, "Let us learn" and waved at traffic to get their message out.

Similar demonstrations took place at campuses across Ontario, including one at Lambton College in Sarnia.

Provincewide, more than half a million students have been sidelined by the strike. That includes tens of thousands in Southwestern Ontario, at three colleges in seven cities.

"We hope to make a change," Baglieri said. "Maybe we can influence one person, make them see how this is affecting our lives."

Talks between the College Employer Council, which bargains on behalf of the colleges, and Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) broke off Monday, five days after both sides returned to the table.

In a bid to break the stalemate, the colleges approached the Ontario Labour Relations Board to trigger a direct vote by the 12,000 striking faculty on a final offer, bypassing the union bargaining team.

The voting on the council's final offer begins next Tuesday, almost a month to the day since faculty walked off the job, and concludes Thursday.

"We just want back to class," said first-year Fanshawe student Riley Jones. "Whether it's (back-to-work) legislation, faculty voting 'yes' — anything."

OPSEU, which accuses the colleges of prolonging the strike by triggering a forced vote, is calling on its members to reject the offer.

Besides Lambton and Fanshawe, affected schools in Southwestern Ontario include Windsor-based St. Clair College, which has a satellite campus in Chatham.

The province couldn't immediately say how large the strike fund to help students would be, but colleges reported \$5 million in savings after an 18-day strike in 2006

# Ontario colleges strike: As the walkout enters its fifth week, the cost — bills and missed opportunities — are piling up for 500,000 students

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily news - Sunday, November 12, 2017



Zack Fulmer is a Fanshawe College student suffering financial hardship due to the college teachers strike in London. (DEREK RUTTAN, The London Free Press)

Forget break.

Think costly and stressful.

As the strike in Ontario's 24 community colleges enters its fifth week, students are starting to add up the numbers about the hit they've taken since the walkout by 12,000 faculty members began a month ago.

Rent, groceries, getting around — bills are piling up for what's essentially been dead time for many students, who've now been out of class almost as long this semester as they were in, with some schools — including London-based Fanshawe College — already moving to extend the fall semester into the new year.

Add to that other threatened domino effects from the strike, such as not being able to move on to other courses or jobs, as expected, and some students are seeing red.



*Merisa Buragina is a Fanshawe College student suffering financial hardship due to the college teachers strike in London. (Derek Ruttan/The London Free Press)*

There's also the hard fact they've paid for education they're not getting — something that really stings for Merisa Buragina, a dental hygiene student in London who's paying out about \$13,000 a year in tuition.

Buragina, attending Fanshawe College, had planned to graduate in April and write a registration exam that would allow her to start working in May, but that's now been bumped to September.

"This means that I may not be able to start working until the end of 2018, which is hard when I have to pay off \$50,000 in loans," she said.

Buragina's course is a combination of lectures, clinical requirements and community placements. She's had to cancel appointments with her clients at Western University because her instructors have to supervise and they're on strike.

"My hope is that I can get back to school really soon because the lack of sleep and stress my classmates and I have been experiencing is almost worse than when we are in school," she said.

Buragina isn't alone.

Ontario has ordered its colleges to create a fund from unpaid wages and other strike savings to help students who may be experiencing financial hardship, but that's small consolation for those squeezed now.

Take Zack Fulmer, a second-year law clerk student at Fanshawe. He quit his part-time sales job earlier this year, as his course workload piled up.

Now, he no classes and his old job is no longer available

"At this point I have been scrambling to get a job, selling my personal belongings just to be able to make rent for the next couple months — that is assuming the next round of OSAP does come out in January, as scheduled," said Fulmer, referring to his student loan.

Some of the hardest-hits students are from other countries, who pay higher fees than Canadians.

"They have literally wasted our time and money," said Jaffar Madiyan, an international student from India at Fanshawe paying about \$8,000 in tuition.

"There is no authority or body to represent international students which makes us more hopeless," he said. Sometimes, just the break in the school routine is costly in itself.

Josselyn LeRoux is a single mother of two who lives near Mitchell.

Normally, she drives her kids to school in London and then goes to class.

"Being on strike means having no place to be every day, so I drive an extra two hours daily to go home, and come back again to pick up my kids. This means spending double on gas five days a week," she said.

Barring an unforeseen twist, it's unlikely classes will resume anytime soon. A forced vote is scheduled to run Tuesday through Thursday on a final offer the colleges made directly to the workers, bypassing their union bargaining team and going to the Ontario Labour Relations Board to trigger the vote.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), which represents the workers, has urged its members to reject the offer from the College Employer Council, which bargains on behalf of all of the schools.

Talks between the council and OPSEU broke off last Monday, five days after they had resumed.

In Southwestern Ontario, tens of thousands of students are affected at three colleges in seven cities.

Besides Fanshawe, which has satellite campuses in Woodstock, St. Thomas and Simcoe, other community colleges in the region include Windsor-based St. Clair, which has a Chatham campus, and Lambton College in Sarnia.

The strike by college professors, instructors, counsellors and librarians began Oct. 15 and has left 500,000 full- and part-time students out of class.

Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews of London, in announcing the hardship fund for students late last week, called the strike “a challenging time for everyone, but particularly for students,”

The province so far hasn't said how large the fund might be, but colleges reported \$5 million in savings after an 18-day strike in 2006.

### **By the numbers**

**500,000:** Students affected

**12,000:** Striking faculty members

**24:** Community colleges involved

**4:** Full weeks since the strike began

**3:** Colleges between London-area and Windsor, with operations in seven centres.

# Union Applauds Move to Help College Students

Blackburn news - November 13, 2017 5

The union representing striking college faculty is praising a plan by the province to help students.

As the strike enters its fifth week, Deb Matthews, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, has directed all of Ontario's 24 colleges to take the money they save saved as a result of the walkout and place it into a fund to help students who have been affected financially. This includes students at St. Clair College, Fanshawe College and Lambton College.

J.P. Hornick, chairperson of the bargaining team for the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), says the Liberal government is responding to a petition launched last week.

"Anything that will help students get through this difficult time is more than welcome, and we thank the minister for moving ahead with it," says Hornick in a statement.

Half a million students across the province have been in limbo since the strike began October 16. Key issues are wages and job security for contract faculty, as well as more input in academic decisions.

OPSEU President Warren "Smokey" Thomas says since the province is trying to treat students fairly, the colleges should make more of an effort to treat faculty fairly.

"It's important to remember that the fund the minister has announced is being paid for by faculty, not by the colleges," says Thomas in a press release. "I can't see why the colleges still refuse to bargain, still refuse to agree to no-cost items, and insist on clawing money out of the classroom through their demands for concessions."

Faculty is being asked this week to vote on a proposal offered by the colleges last week, but rejected by the union bargaining team. The vote has been imposed by the Ontario Labour Relations Board in an effort to end the strike.

Matthews has promised to work with everyone in an effort to make the relief fund work.

"I will work with students and colleges starting immediately to develop the parameters of the fund," says Matthews. "We need to work out the details together and we will do it quickly...I'm looking for the best ideas about how to make sure this reinvestment directly benefits students who have faced hardship."

# Ontario colleges reach out to union ahead of vote

[AM800 News – November 13, 2017](#)



Faculty walk the picket line outside St.Clair College in Windsor. October 16, 2017 (Photo by Kimberley Johnson)

With a supervised vote scheduled to begin on Tuesday, the Ontario College Employer Council has reached out to the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

The council has put its final offer on a website saying it will allow striking faculty members to see for themselves what's on the table.

The vote for faculty at Ontario's 24 colleges, including St. Clair College, begins on Tuesday and ends on Thursday.

The OPSEU members walked off the job October 16 to back contract demands which includes more academic freedom and a more balance ratio between full-time and part-time workers.

Talks broke down last week with the council asking the Ontario Labour Relations Board to schedule a vote on its final offer.

The union is recommending its members reject the offer.

The strike has affected 500,000 students across the province.



# Ontario colleges reach out to striking faculty ahead of vote on offer



CTV - The Canadian Press - November 13, 2017

TORONTO - Ontario's colleges have launched a [website](#) that they say will allow striking faculty members to see for themselves what's in their employers' latest contract offer ahead of a vote this week.

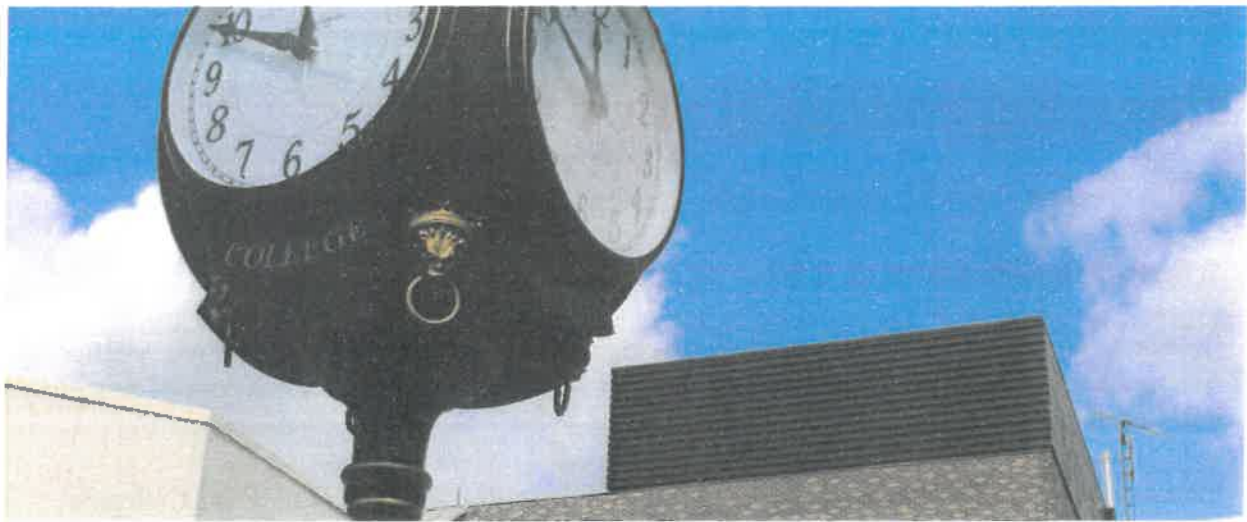
If the offer is accepted, the College Employer Council says 500,000 students affected by the strike -- which is now in its fifth week -- could be back in the classroom as early as next Tuesday.

Talks between the council, which represents the province's 24 colleges, and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, which represents the striking workers, broke down last week, with the council asking the Ontario Labour Relations Board to schedule a vote on its offer.

Sonia Del Missier, the chair of the colleges' bargaining team, says everything in the offer has been agreed on by both sides except for language surrounding academic freedom.

The union said last week its main point of contention has been the level of input college instructors have into the way courses are taught and evaluated, but also called the offer a step backwards. A spokesperson could not immediately be reached for comment Monday.

The faculty vote is scheduled to begin Tuesday and end Thursday.



St. Clair College with decorative clock, Windsor main campus. Photo by Mark Brown/Blackburn News.

## St. Clair College Cancels Fall Open House

Blackburn News - November 13, 2017

The ongoing faculty strike is forcing another college to cancel its fall open house.

St. Clair College announced Monday that their open house, scheduled for Saturday, is being cancelled due to the strike that is entering its fifth week.

The open house is a chance for prospective students to tour the campus, learn about the programs offered, and speak with faculty, current students and alumni about the programs.

At St. Clair, the open house takes place at the main south Windsor campus as well as the Chatham campus. The St. Clair Centre for the Arts and the MediaPlex in Windsor also hold open house events.

St. Clair is following suit of Lambton College, which postponed its open house scheduled for last weekend. Fanshawe College in London is also cancelling its event for Saturday.

Via Twitter, the college says they are working on an alternate plan for students to visit and they are reminding future students to call the campus to book a tour.

For the latest strike update from St. Clair College, click [here](#).

# Students express fear, frustration over lingering college strike

Students express fear and frustration over lingering college strike

Windsor Star - November 13, 2017

Operating on a tight budget as a single mother with two sons under the age of three, Mellie Young has been paying for child care she doesn't need for the past five weeks out of concern she will lose her spot.

Young, who is studying office administration for the health-care field at St. Clair College's Thames Campus, is among the hundreds of thousands of Ontario college students caught in the middle of a bitter, five-week strike between the College Employer Council (representing management) and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (representing faculty).

They are seeing thousands of dollars in tuition vaporizing, lives being disrupted and an enormous workload coming their way in a compressed curriculum that will be delivered at lightning speed.

"They're training us to be professionals, but after the strike starts they don't even talk for two weeks," Young said, "Where are the adults in all this? They holds us to one standard but they (two sides) act in a different way."

The two sides have negotiated for only four days in just over four weeks.

"We're wasting money and it's really stressful," Young said. "I looked at college as an investment in my future, but now that investment isn't paying back and is even costing me extra expense."

Essex resident Johannah DeVries, a first-year student in Fanshawe College's business marketing program, said living in residence costs more than \$8,200 and the mandatory meal plan adds another \$1,200. On top of that are DeVries' tuition and books.

"I want some type of a refund and students should have a voice in what happens (with the rest of the semester)," she said.

Younghoon Chung, a native of South Korea, was taking English as a Second Language classes in preparation for entering the automotive engineering program next fall at St. Clair.

He fears the lengthy pause in his education will force him to stay beyond his visa limitations.

"I have permission to be in Canada for two or three years, but I don't know what happens if I have to stay longer to finish school," the 23-year-old Chung said. "I'll have to hire a lawyer and that's more expense for my parents.

"They're already paying a lot for school, housing and food for me."

Chung hasn't considered going home yet but other international students haven't had that luxury.

“One of my friends, she went back to Korea,” Chung said. “It’s too long and there’s no plan (to resume classes). She was tired of wasting her time and money.”

While many students are hopeful their semesters will be saved, there are also those who feel too much time has been lost.

One of those in favour of starting again in January is Breanna Jordan, who’s in the registered practical nursing program at St. Clair’s Thames Campus in Chatham.

“We’re going to be nurses, what stuff can they really afford to leave out?” Jordan said. “Mistakes in the nursing profession can kill.”

Jordan said by the end of this week she’ll have missed 48 hours of her clinical hours in hospital settings. Students must have at least 80 clinical hours this semester.

“I’ve got 32 hours in the bank,” Jordan said. “How is the college going to find all this clinical time for students?”

Forty-three-year-old Sean Vizard can see the finish line of his final year in the business administration-human resources program, but he is also willing to push his graduation back from April to get the full value of his education.

“I’m worried about the workload going back, but I’m more worried they’re just going to give us a dumbed-down version,” Vizard said.

“Without the necessary time, are you going to take stuff out and will that cripple me somewhere when I go out to work?”

Mississauga native Aurora McClennan, who also believes students deserve at least a portion of their tuition refunded, expressed the fear teachers will try to shoehorn in a curriculum that can’t fit the remaining time frame.

“We’re all stressed over how much catch-up we’re going to have to do,” said McClennan, in the first year of St. Clair’s musical theatre performance program.

“Our program is already heavy. I’m concerned about keeping up.”

# Voting begins today for striking Ontario college faculty



CTV - The Canadian Press - November 14, 2017

A strike by faculty members at Ontario colleges drags on with both sides accusing each other of spreading misinformation ahead of a contract vote in the labour dispute.

The vote is set to begin today and end on Thursday

The dispute has left about half-a-million students out of class for a month.

Some 12-thousand Ontario college professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians haven't been at work since October 15th.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union, which represents the striking faculty, says the dispute is the longest strike in the colleges' history.

The colleges have said the latest offer includes a 7.75 per cent raise over four years, improved benefits, and measures to address concerns regarding part-time faculty.

But the union says the offer contains "serious concessions" that were not agreed to, and which would erode faculty rights and contribute to an unsustainable staffing model.

The council representing the province's 24 colleges says acceptance of the latest contract offer would mean students could be back in the classroom as early as next Tuesday.

# Striking Ontario college faculty to begin voting on latest contract offer

**If approved, colleges say students could be back in the classroom as early as next Tuesday**

CBC News - The Canadian Press Nov 14, 2017 5



College faculty walk the picket line outside Algonquin College in Ottawa. Voting begins on Tuesday and runs through Thursday for faculty members at Ontario's colleges who must decide whether to accept the latest contract offer or continue a strike that's now into its fifth week.

**(Adrian Wyld/THE CANADIAN PRESS)**

Voting begins on Tuesday and runs through Thursday for faculty members at Ontario's colleges who must decide whether to accept the latest contract offer or continue a strike that's now into its fifth week.

Some 12,000 college professors, instructors, counsellors and librarians have been off the job since October 15th, leaving about half a million students out of class.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union — which represents the striking faculty — says the offer contains serious concessions that were not agreed to.

The council representing the 24 colleges says if the contract offer is accepted, students could be back in the classroom as early as next Tuesday.



OPSEU Local 138 president at St. Clair College Bernie Nawrocki, far left, speaks with picketing faculty at the main Windsor campus, November 8, 2017. Photo by Mark Brown/Blackburn News.

## Voting Begins For Striking St. Clair College Faculty

Blackburn News - November 14, 2017

An imposed vote with the aim of ending the strike by college faculty begins Tuesday morning.

Faculty at all 24 of Ontario's colleges, including St. Clair College in Windsor and Chatham, are being asked to vote on a proposed settlement. If it passes, it will end the walkout.

About 12,000 members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) are on the picket line, and half a million college students across Ontario are affected.

The faculty walked off the job on October 16 over wages, job security and input into academic decisions.

The two sides had returned to the bargaining table last week with the hope of reaching an agreement. Each side had proposed an agreement, only to have it rejected by the other side. The Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) stepped in, and ordered a faculty vote on the latest offer by the College Employee Council, which represents the colleges.

The strike is having a profound effect on those at St. Clair College. Students fear lost classroom time will affect their ability to find employment in their field upon graduation. There have also been concerns about rising costs pertaining to housing and lost tuition.

Bernie Nawrocki, the president of OPSEU Local 138, which represents St. Clair College faculty, told BlackburnNewsWindsor.com [Wednesday](#) that an imposed vote was not what they had in mind.

“We would have rather had both teams remain at the table and bang out an offer,” said Nawrocki. “Obviously that didn’t occur, and we’re a little disappointed that the council waited until now to bring their offer to us because they had that opportunity all along.”

Because of the loss of over four weeks’ worth of classroom instruction, St. Clair College announced plans to extend the fall semester by one week ending December 22. The usual three-week holiday break is cut to one week, and the fall semester will resume right after New Year’s. The winter 2018 semester would be delayed and would run 14 weeks once it begins.

The vote, conducted by telephone and online, is set to open at 9am Tuesday and continue until 10am Thursday. Union members were to receive an email explaining voting instructions.

A website has been set up explaining the vote, and providing the latest offers from both the union and the College Employer Council. It provides voting information and answers frequently-asked questions about the process. The website is [www.collegevote.ca](http://www.collegevote.ca).



# Ontario colleges say faculty union misrepresenting their offer

Canadian Press/ Chatham Daily news - Tuesday, November 14, 2017



Members of the Fanshawe College faculty picket at the Oxford Street entrance to campus during the first day of their strike on Monday October 16, 2017. (MORRIS LAMONT, The London Free Press)

TORONTO -- Ontario's colleges and the union representing striking faculty members are accusing each other of spreading misinformation ahead of a contract vote in the labour dispute that has left half a million students out of class for a month.

Some 12,000 Ontario college professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians haven't been at work since Oct. 15.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union, which represents the striking faculty, said the dispute was the longest strike in the colleges' history.

"It's the only time in the history of the colleges the semester has been under threat," Kevin MacKay, a member of the OPSEU faculty bargaining team, said Monday. "And I'm telling you, if the strike doesn't end this week, the semester is under threat -- serious threat."

The council representing the province's 24 colleges said acceptance of the latest contract offer would mean students could be back in the classroom as early as next Tuesday.

Talks between the College Employer Council and the union broke down last week, with the council asking the Ontario Labour Relations Board to schedule a vote on its offer.

With the vote set to begin Tuesday and end Thursday, the council was reaching out directly to faculty to address what is called the union's "continued misrepresentation" of the contract offer. The council launched a new website -- [www.collegevote.ca](http://www.collegevote.ca) -- and posted an audio webcast on Monday in which it discussed the contents of the offer.

The colleges said the offer includes a 7.75 per cent salary increase over four years, improved benefits -- including extended pregnancy and parental leave, and a \$500 increase in coverage for paramedical services -- and measures to address concerns regarding part-time faculty.

Sonia Del Missier, the chair of the colleges' bargaining team, said all major issues in the offer have been agreed on by both sides except for language surrounding academic freedom.

But the union said the offer contains "serious concessions" that were not agreed to, and which would erode faculty rights and contribute to an unsustainable staffing model.

Among them are concessions around the process for hiring full-time faculty, provisions that would allow faculty to exceed overtime limits and make it harder to take professional development days, MacKay said.

"There's no way we agreed to those things," he said.

The union has said its main point of contention has been the level of input college instructors have into the way courses are taught and evaluated, and MacKay said the colleges' attempt to address the issue is worse than if they had done nothing.

"It's not about academic freedom at all, it's actually about all the ways in which you can get in trouble if you say the wrong thing," he said.

Del Messier, meanwhile, said the offer "enshrines academic freedom," which she called the only key issue still outstanding.

"From the union's perspective, they talk about academic control and they've really determined that it's got to be either (faculty) or (management). And from our perspective, it's not an either/or," she said.

"When we look at how the colleges set up programs and how they continue to ensure programs are relevant, you need the input of your key stakeholders," including employers, industry representatives and graduates, she said.

The Ontario government has ordered the colleges to create a fund to help students who may be experiencing financial hardship because of the strike.

Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews has said the government wants to see students return to the classroom as quickly as possible.

# Fanshawe College pickets sound off on strike vote

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - November 14, 2017

From the front lines of a weeks-long strike typified by uncertainty, there was a rare moment of clarity Tuesday, more than four weeks after faculty walked off the job.

On the Fanshawe College picket line, on the first day of a two-day vote on the colleges' final offer, faculty gave a resounding rejection to the deal.

The College Employer Council, representing Ontario's community colleges, triggered the final offer vote after talks broke down early last week, bypassing the union bargaining team and taking their proposed deal straight to striking faculty members.

The Ontario Labour Relations Board vote went online at 9 a.m. Tuesday and is running until 10 a.m. Thursday.

A vote for the council's final offer – tabled Nov. 6 after talks with Ontario Public Sector Employees Union (OSPEU) stalled – would end the weeks-long job action at the province's 24 public colleges.

A vote against the deal would keep faculty on the picket line until an agreement is reached.

The union has pushed members to reject the deal, saying it does not do enough to address the academic freedom and precarious work concerns -- the two key issues that sent faculty to the picket line.

The strike by 12,000 college instructors, librarians and counsellors has cancelled classes for a half million students provincially, including tens of thousands in Southwestern Ontario.

**We asked Fanshawe College striking faculty...**

**How will you vote?**



*Fanshawe College early childhood education instructor Janet Foster walks the picket line Tuesday morning. (Jennifer Bieman/The London Free Press)*

**Janet Foster, early childhood education**

“I see a contract that is going backwards, not forward,” said Foster, wearing a sandwich board that read ‘ask me why I voted no.’ “We’re not asking for the world, we’re asking for fairness.”

Though the student intake has increased from 200 to 600, Foster said the program has the same number of full-time instructors as when she started teaching 27 years ago. The balance is made up of part-time staff.

“The majority of them have other jobs. When I’m done class, I can stay around . . . I’m available to my students all the time,” she said, adding it’s often harder for her part-time colleagues to put in face-time with students.

“It’s about quality. You want to have quality programs.”



*Fanshawe College English instructor Jeff Miles on the picket line Tuesday morning. (Jennifer Bieman/The London Free Press)*

#### **Jeff Miles, English instructor**

“I have not voted yet,” said Miles, who has a good idea about which way he’s going to cast his ballot.

“We have been strongly encouraged by the union to vote ‘no.’ It would seem like a big waste of time to be on strike for four-and-a-half weeks and to vote on an agreement that was worse than the original offer . . . I think one would be wise to vote ‘no.’



*Fanshawe College information technology instructor and OPSEU bargaining team member Darryl Bedford shows the colleges' final offer faculty are voting on until Thursday. (Jennifer Bieman/The London Free Press)*

**Darryl Bedford, information technology instructor**

“I voted to reject,” said Bedford, who is critical of changes to workload limits and other clauses in the proposed contract.

“It is sneaky stuff,” said the OPSEU bargaining team member while walking the Fanshawe picket line Tuesday morning. “It has language they’re hoping people won’t look at. They’re hoping people won’t read it. This language, if it were to pass, undermines everything we’ve achieved in the bargaining process.”

**Francesca Ranalli, theatre arts**

“It’s not fun being out here. It’s not fun not having a salary and having children, those things are hard,” Ranalli said while walking the Oxford Street picket line Tuesday morning.

“But do I think that there’s a just cause? Yeah I do.”

Ranalli hasn’t voted on the deal yet, but said pushing for a stable and respectful work environment sets a precedent she hopes will shape the workforce her students are entering.

“It’s about standing up for how people are treated. . . . They’re ethical concerns,” she said.

# Striking college faculty begin two-day vote on latest offer

The Canadian Press / Windsor Star - November 14, 2017

TORONTO — Faculty at Ontario's colleges who have been on strike for about a month began voting Tuesday on a contract offer, as a potential class action lawsuit was launched on behalf of students.

Some 12,000 Ontario college professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians haven't been at work since Oct. 15, leaving hundreds of thousands of students out of class.

The College Employer Council asked the Ontario Labour Relations Board to schedule a vote on the offer it has put on the table, accusing the Ontario Public Service Employees Union of misrepresenting it.

The union has recommended its members reject the offer.

In the meantime, the provincial government has ordered the colleges to create a fund — using savings from the strike — to help students who may be experiencing financial hardship because of the strike. Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews estimated Ontario's 24 colleges have saved about \$5 million so far.

Matthews said she is “very, very concerned” about the students who are caught in the middle of a dispute that has “gone on way too long.”

“I am extremely disappointed that the two sides have failed to reach an agreement,” she said Tuesday. “I am extremely disappointed and students are paying the price. That's just not OK. That's not fair.”

Matthews said the process of the vote must unfold, and back-to-work legislation is not yet on the table.

“We can't just introduce back-to-work legislation because we want the strike to end,” she said. “You have to meet a certain threshold and we're not there.”

Law firm Charney Lawyers filed a proposed class action against the 24 colleges Tuesday, saying 14 students have come forward to potentially stand as representative plaintiffs.

The notice of action alleges the colleges breached contracts with students by failing to provide vocational training and a full term of classes. It seeks full refunds for students who choose not to continue with their programs and refunds “equivalent to the value of the lost instruction” for students who do want to continue.

The colleges have said the offer includes a 7.75 per cent salary increase over four years, improved benefits — including extended pregnancy and parental leave, and a \$500 increase in coverage for paramedical services — and measures to address concerns regarding part-time faculty.

The chair of the colleges' bargaining team said all major issues in the offer have been agreed on by both sides except for language surrounding academic freedom.

But the union said the offer contains “serious concessions” that were not agreed to, which would erode faculty rights and contribute to an unsustainable staffing model.

Voting is taking place starting Tuesday and closing at 10 a.m. on Thursday.

# Province Launches College Strike Website

The Square - 14 November 2017

(TORONTO, ON) – Starting today, 12,000 community college faculty are voting on the latest offer from Ontario’s College Employer Council. In an effort to stem, what the government says, has been a campaign of misinformation by the faculty’s union, the Council has set up, “a fact-filled website.”

The CEC is negotiating a new contract with the Ontario Public Sector Employee’s Union.

“We are launching this site in response to the union’s continued misrepresentation of the offer being voted on by faculty,” said Sonia Del Missier, the chief negotiator for CEC. “These union tactics are not fair to our faculty or the 500,000 students who are depending on the outcome of the vote.”

As head of the Colleges’ bargaining team, Del Missier said the faculty, “want to review objective information and make their decision based on facts.”

The new website is [College Vote](#).

Del Missier said the government has determined that many of the striking faculty members still have many questions.

“We know that faculty are looking for straight forward information that tells them exactly what is in the offer and what happens if the offer is accepted or if it is rejected,” she explained.

The government addressed thousands of faculty, students, and parents during an audio webcast Monday morning. It has been posted at College Vote along with a transcript from the call. The link has also been shared on college social media platforms.

Questions that remain among faculty members include the details of the government offer and the union’s claim that the offer does not contain agreed-to items. Other topics include salaries and benefits, what happens when the teachers return, the staffing ratios, and the meaning of a yes or no vote by the teachers.

A copy of the Union’s proposals is also available on the website.

# 'My whole future depends on it': International students in Windsor caught in college strike

**A pair of international students say the college strike has put their careers in jeopardy**

[CBC News](#) - Nov 14, 2017



Saurav Katara left his job with BMW in Germany to enroll in the International Business Administration program at St. Clair College in Windsor. (Chris Ensing/CBC)

As striking Ontario college faculty members vote on a contract offer a pair of international students protesting the work stoppage at the entrance of St. Clair College are worried their future is slipping away.

Students have missed a months worth of classes while 12,000 college workers at 24 colleges across the province have been on strike over contract details.

"This is totally garbage for us," said Saurav Katara, who is enrolled in the International Business Management program.

Katara, who is originally from India, moved to Windsor specifically for the program after completing his Master of Business Administration.

"I was working for BMW, I left my job, I came for this program specifically," said Katara. "My company asked me when you get off with this plan in December come back and join us again."



Saurav Katara said that this has been a difficult time for all students at St. Clair College and across the province. (Chris Ensing/CBC)



He's already booked a ticket to rejoin the company, but if the semester is delayed anymore he's worried it will creep into February and impact his job.

"I was supposed to join a company back in Germany in February," said Katara, standing behind a row of students holding colourful signs protesting the college's contingency plans.

"If this strike goes for long I'm going to lose a lot of money, a lot of time."

Katara called the strike a loss for domestic and international students, specifically citing conversations he's had with friends who are single parents.

"If they have to be here on Christmas break it's going to be a very hard time for them," said Katara.

## Future unclear

Nakkita Mongia stood by his side holding a sign asking people to think about international students during the strike.

"It's about opportunity lost," said Mongia, who is also enrolled in the same one-year program as Katara.

"I have plans to move to another province but I can go there only when I complete this. If I can't complete this, I can't go," said Mongia, who expected her program to be completed at the end of this semester.



International Students  
00:00 00:36

**International Students**0:36

"My whole future depends on it. If I miss the opportunity I waste my money, I waste my time."

There are roughly 40,000 international students enrolled at the colleges in Ontario.

St. Clair College boasted a record number of international students in 2015-2016 with 509 students enrolled at the school in the fall.



Striking members of Ontario Public Service Employees Union Local 110 picket outside of Fanshawe College's Centre for Digital and Performing Arts in London, October 24, 2017. (Photo by Miranda Chant, Blackburn News)

## **Class Action Suit Launched On Behalf Of College Students**

Blackburn News - November 15, 2017

A Toronto-based law firm has filed a class action suit on behalf of students with regard to the ongoing faculty strike at Ontario colleges.

The suit, filed by Charney Lawyers in Toronto, alleges the colleges have breached their contract with students.

It is asking for a tuition refund for students, as well as a refund for other expenses, such as meal plans or extra rent and accommodation costs.

For more information, you can go to [www.collegefeesclassaction.com](http://www.collegefeesclassaction.com).

# College Students Seek Refund In Proposed Class Action Lawsuit

[AM800 News – November 15, 2017](#)



Faculty walk the picket line outside St.Clair College in Windsor. October 16, 2017 (Photo by Kimberley Johnson)

Ontario college students who have been out of class for about a month due to a faculty strike are seeking a tuition refund.

A proposed class action lawsuit has been launched by students affected by the labour dispute.

Law firm Charney Lawyers out of Toronto filed the lawsuit against the province's 24 colleges as 14 students came forward as potential plaintiffs.

About 12,000 Ontario college faculty, including 330 at St. Clair College in Windsor, have been off the job since October 16, leaving thousands of students out of class.

The notice of action alleges the colleges breached the contracts with students by failing to provide vocational training and a full-term of classes.

The lawsuit seeks full refunds for students who choose not to continue with their programs and refunds for each week of missed classes.

# Class action lawsuit filed against colleges



Students rally at St. Clair College in Windsor, Ont., on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017. (Bob Bellacicco / CTV Windsor)

The Canadian Press – CTV - November 15, 2017

Voting on a proposed contract by striking faculty at the province's 24 colleges continues today.

The vote on the College Employer Council offer to the 12,000 professors, instructors, counsellors and librarians began yesterday and is to end tomorrow morning.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union is recommending the faculty reject the offer.

Meanwhile, law firm Charney Lawyers has filed a proposed class action against the colleges, saying 14 students have come forward to potentially stand as representative plaintiffs.

# Fanshawe College student spearheads class-action lawsuit against colleges over strike

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - November 15, 2017

As they close in on their fifth week out of class, strike-weary students have a message for colleges: pay up.

Now, they're getting ready to force the issue in court.

After being approached by a group of Fanshawe College students, Toronto-based law firm Charney Lawyers filed a proposed class action against the colleges Tuesday, the latest twist in a weeks-long saga that's cancelled classes at Ontario's 24 colleges.

"It's not fair to us. The students aren't, obviously, being taken into consideration," said Caitlin Foulon, the first-year Fanshawe student spearheading the legal action.

"We wanted to get this done and show them we mean business."

What started as talks between Foulon and her classmates has turned into much more.

The class-action lawsuit involves students from each of Ontario's strike-shuttered colleges.

Students have paid for an education they're not receiving, because of the job action that began a month ago.

The potential lawsuit is seeking damages for breach of contract and breach of the Ontario Consumer Protection Act.

The firm filed a notice of action and is preparing to file a statement of claim against the colleges within 30 days, senior partner Ted Charney said.

"I felt badly when the students came to me," he said. "They need somebody to act as a voice for them and to provide these colleges with a gentle reminder that they have to take into account the students' best interest."

The law firm launched a dedicated website for its potential class action late Tuesday. More than 5,000 students signed up to participate overnight.

"We're getting one every 10 seconds. I suspect by the end of the week it will be closer to 30 or 40,000 registrations," Charney said.

In the potential class action, one named plaintiff will stand in as a representative for their college's student body, he said.

The exact damages sought remains to be seen and depends on how long the strike lasts and what colleges offer to compensate students.

"We are waiting to see how this all plays out," Charney said.

“If they (the colleges) make a reasonable proposal, and it looks like it’s a fair shake for all the students, then likely the class action won’t have to go ahead.”

Foulon said the students are not out to get rich, but just want what’s owed to them: a reimbursement of their tuition costs, textbook and course materials and living expenses incurred because of the strike.

After missing 23 days of class because of the strike, student-led rallies, online petitions and social media campaigning, Lambton College student Jade Flay felt it was time to take concrete action against the college system.

“We just want accommodations with our money, because we feel like we’ve been played a bit,” said the first-year paramedic student who’s representing the college’s students in the legal action.

The lawsuit comes just days after Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews ordered colleges to create a program, using money saved from the strike, to help students facing financial hardship.

Last week, the colleges asked the Ontario Labour Relations Board to trigger a vote on its final offer with striking faculty represented by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, bypassing its bargaining team.

The two-day electronic vote began Tuesday morning and will wrap up Thursday at 10 a.m.

OPSEU has called on its members to reject the offer, insisting it does not do enough to address precarious work and academic freedom — two issues at the heart of the strike.

Some 12,000 college professors, instructors, counsellors and librarians walked off the job Oct. 16, leaving more than a half million students out of class.

In Southwestern Ontario, Fanshawe College’s London, Simcoe, St. Thomas and Woodstock campuses, St. Clair College’s Windsor and Chatham operations and Lambton College in Sarnia have all been shuttered by the strike.

A grassroots student group, Ass to Class, is staging co-ordinated rallies at each college Thursday at noon to encourage both the colleges and union to reach a deal.

# College Strike Vote Today

[AM800 News – November 15, 2017- 9:32 AM](#)



Pickets continue to march at the Cabana entrance to St Clair College during the OPSEU strike. (Photo by AM800 Peter Langille)

The results of a key vote that could end Ontario's 5-week-old college strike are expected today.

Faculty members have been voting online and by telephone on the colleges' final offer since Tuesday.

Voting ends at 10am.

The results will then be shared with the College Employer Council, OPSEU - the union representing the workers - and then the public.

The union is recommending rejection saying the offer includes too many concessions.

# Ontario college strike vote results expected today



Striking faculty members attend a rally at St. Clair College on Friday, Oct. 27, 2017. (Michelle Maluske / CTV Windsor)

The Canadian Press / CTV - November 16, 2017

TORONTO - The results of a key vote which could end Ontario's nearly five-week-old college faculty strike are expected today.

College faculty have been voting online and by telephone on the final offer from Ontario's 24 colleges since Tuesday.

Voting ends at 10 a.m. and the results of the balloting will be shared with both the College Employer Council, which bargains on behalf of the colleges, and the Ontario Public Sector Employees Union, which represents the 12,000 workers and then made public.

The union has recommended its members reject the offer.

The strike, which involves college professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians, began Oct. 15 and has left some 500,000 students out of class.

Talks between the colleges and the union broke down on Nov. 4 prompting a request for the final offer vote.



# College faculty vote to reject contract offer

Windsor Star - November 16, 2017

The community college faculty strike will continue after teachers voted to reject the latest contract offer from the College Employers Council (CEC) Thursday.

The CEC had used its one-time option to force OPSEU, the union representing the 12,000 faculty members, to present the contract for voting.

The 32-day strike is the longest faculty strike in the college system's history. It's caused classes for 500,000 full and part-time students to be cancelled since Oct. 16.

With no end in sight to the dispute, the next step remains unclear with growing fears over the complete loss of the first semester.

The provincial government had been hesitant to talk of legislating faculty back to class before the results of the vote were known.

St. Clair College has already announced significant changes to the academic calendar to make up some of the missed class time.

The month-long Christmas break will be pared to just one week. Students will attend classes up until Dec. 22 and will return a week earlier to resume classes Jan. 2.

Exam week will also be pushed back into a yet-to-be announced week in January. That will also force the start of the second semester to be pushed back.

# Striking Ontario college faculty reject offer that would have ended job action



Striking faculty members attend a rally at St. Clair College on Friday, Oct. 27, 2017. (Michelle Maluske / CTV Windsor)

The Canadian Press - CTV - November 16, 2017

TORONTO - Ontario's striking college faculty have voted not to accept an offer that would have ended the nearly five-week job action.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union, which represents the 12,000 workers, had recommended the colleges' contract proposal be rejected.

The strike, which involves college professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians, began Oct. 15 and has left some 500,000 students out of class.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne says she will meet with college and union representatives today to discuss how the situation can immediately be resolved.

She says she is looking at all options, but she is hopeful the parties can reach an agreement.

Talks between the colleges and the union broke down on Nov. 4, prompting a request for the final offer vote.

## College Deal Rejected

WindsoriteDOTca News - Thursday November 16th, 2017

Posted at 11:13am



The strike at St. Clair College continues after College faculty voted to reject the latest deal from the College Employer Council.

# Ontario college faculty reject contract offer as provincewide strike continues

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - November 16, 2017



Striking college workers (file photo)

The longest college faculty strike in Ontario's history is dragging on at least a little longer.

Striking workers rejected the colleges offer, the result of a two-day vote by union rank-and-file members.

Premier Kathleen Wynne said Thursday morning she is meeting with both the College Employer Council and Ontario Public Service Employees Union to discuss next steps. She says she is looking at all options, but she is hopeful the parties can reach an agreement.

Bypassing the union's bargaining team, the Council approached Ontario's Labour Relations Board last week to force a vote on its final offer with striking workers. The electronic vote started Tuesday and wrapped up Thursday morning.

Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) brass called on their members to reject the council's offer, saying it didn't do enough to address precarious work or academic freedom – the two issues at the heart of the strike.

Classes were cancelled for more than a half-million students when some 12,000 college instructors, librarians and counsellors walked off the job Oct. 16.

In Southwestern Ontario, Fanshawe College's London, Woodstock, Simcoe and St. Thomas campuses, St. Clair College's Windsor and Chatham sites and Sarnia's Lambton College have all been shuttered by the weeks-long job action.

In a Facebook post Thursday, OPSEU said its voter turnout was 95 per cent and 86 per cent of votes cast were against the colleges' offer.

- with files from the Canadian Press

**By the numbers...**

12,152 – Total voters

10,477 – Votes against college offer

1,663 – Votes for the college's offer

24 – Class days cancelled

24 – Colleges shuttered by the strike

500,000+ – Students displaced by job action

\$5 million – Estimated cost savings to colleges because of strike

# College strike continues as faculty members reject latest contract offer

**Premier plans to meet with both sides of labour dispute to get students back to class**

[CBC News](#) Nov 16, 2017 11:00 AM



Saurav Katara left his job with BMW in Germany to enrol in the International Business Administration program at St. Clair College in Windsor. (Chris Ensing/CBC)

Striking Ontario college faculty members have rejected the latest contract offer from their employer.

Eighty-six per cent of members who voted rejected the Nov. 6 offer, according to a media release from the Ontario Public Service Employees Union bargaining team for the faculty.

Bargaining chair JP Hornick said the decision to reject the deal shouldn't come as a surprise.

"It was full of concessions and failed to address our concerns around fairness for faculty or education quality," he said, adding the union is calling the college employers back to the bargaining table.

More than half a million students have missed a month of classes since the strike involving 12,000 staff members from 24 colleges across the province began.



Striking faculty members at St. Clair College walk the picket line on Oct. 16, 2017. (Dan Taekema/CBC)

As news of the rejected deal broke, Premier Kathleen Wynne released a statement saying the strike has gone on for too long.

"It's not fair," she wrote.

Wynne plans to meet with representatives from both sides of the labour dispute Thursday in hopes of ending the strike and getting "students back to class where they belong."

# St. Clair College Isn't Ready To Call It A Semester

Blackburn News - November 16, 2017 12:28pm

It obviously is not the result officials at St. Clair College had hoped for, but the director of corporate communication says there is still hope the semester will be saved.

"[It's] not part of my vocabulary right now," says John Fairley. "This was not the week that ends the semester. We feel that we'll have a way out of this for our students."

About 10,000 students will have to wait even longer to resume classes after their [faculty rejected the latest offer](#) by the College Employer's Council.

"We know there's a lot of frustration from students," admits Fairley. "It certainly hasn't gone the way [we] wished it had gone. We thought there would be a resolution quicker than this, but it is what it is."

The result is not entirely unexpected. The faculty's union, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, did recommend members reject the offer after the Ontario Labour Relations Board imposed the vote last week.

Individual results are not available for each college, but overall 86% of members who cast a ballot voted no.

"This is our family. This is our brand; what St. Clair College is all about whether it's Chatham-Kent or Windsor-Essex," says Fairley. "There's just differences in the family right now."

College officials are meeting with the different student governments at its campuses Thursday to discuss the results and the plan to move forward.

St. Clair released a [contingency plan](#) back earlier this month, and Fairley says so far, it has not changed.



# College Faculty Reject Latest Offer, Strike Continues

Blackburn News - November 16, 2017 11:13am

The strike at Ontario's public colleges will continue.

The union representing striking faculty says its members have rejected the latest offer from the College Employers' Council.

According to the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, 95% of eligible members cast ballots in a vote that saw 86% vote against the offer.

"No one is surprised that college faculty rejected the Council's forced offer. It was full of concessions and failed to address our concerns around fairness for faculty or education quality," said JP Hornick, chair of the faculty bargaining team for the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU). "We stand with hundreds of thousands of college students when we say 'enough already.'"

The union is again calling for a resumption of negotiations, and Premier Kathleen Wynne says she will meet with representatives from both sides Thursday to talk about ways to resolve the dispute.

"It is unfortunate that [the] Council extended our strike, and kept students out of class for an extra two weeks by calling for this vote," said Hornick, "but now that it's over, it's time to move on. With cooperation from [the] Council at the bargaining table, I believe we can settle this strike in short order."

OPSEU President Smokey Thomas congratulated faculty for standing up for a better college system.

"Calling for this vote was a bully move by [the] Council," he said. "Council's bargaining team should either settle this strike immediately or resign and be replaced by competent negotiators."

Earlier this week, a Toronto-based law firm launched a [class-action lawsuit](#) on behalf of affected students. It alleges colleges have breached their contract with students and demands a tuition refund and reimbursement of living costs incurred during the walkout.

About half a million college students across Ontario have been out of class since October 16.

# Province pushes back-to-work legislation to end college strike

The Canadian Press / Windsor Star - November 16, 2017 - 8:35 PM

Ontario's Liberal government is moving to introduce back-to-work legislation that would end a nearly five-week strike by college faculty, though opposition from the NDP means it may not happen quickly.

Premier Kathleen Wynne said unanimous support of the legislation would have meant students could return to class on Monday morning.

"We have said repeatedly that students have been in the middle of this strike for too long and it is not fair," she said in a statement. "We need to get them back to the classroom."

But the NDP blocked a government attempt to table the bill by refusing unanimous consent to allow the Liberals to do so Thursday evening after the normally scheduled time period for introducing legislation.

Some 500,000 students have been out of class since the strike by 12,000 college professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians, began Oct. 15. It is now the longest strike in colleges' history in Ontario.

Students at St. Clair College in Windsor were voicing frustration earlier Thursday after 95 per cent of Ontario faculty members participated in the three-day contract vote this week. Eighty-six per cent rejected the latest offer.

"We're just not a priority in this," said Alvee Rabbani, a first-year business student from Bangladesh. "We've invested a lot to be in class."

"The loss is ours. We're the ones suffering most."

Nick Goran, St. Clair College's student president, had met with school officials Thursday to discuss possible contingency plans if the work stoppage continued.

"Some students just want to start again in January," Goran said. "Other's don't because they already have commitments at the end of the school year or for university next year."

"It's difficult to plan because no one knows for sure when this will end."

St. Clair College vice-president of communications and community relations John Fairley said the college has already announced significant changes to the academic calendar to make up some of the missed time.

The month-long Christmas break will be pared to just one week. Students will attend classes up until Dec. 22 and will return a week earlier to resume classes Jan. 2. Exam week will also be pushed back into a yet-to-be announced week in January.

The legislature was set to reconvene Friday, when the Liberals will again try to introduce the legislation in the afternoon. If it is again blocked, they say they intend to sit through the weekend.

NDP House Leader Gilles Bisson said his party has never supported back-to-work legislation.

“In the end, the government has the tools,” he said. “It can do what it has to do in order to be able to pass this legislation over the weekend.”

Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews said with unanimous consent the legislation could have been introduced and sped through first, second and third readings Thursday night.

“We could have done it in 10 minutes and then students would know they’re back in the classroom on Monday,” she said. “It was very disappointing that the NDP decided to block it.”

The legislation would have to pass Friday for the province’s 24 colleges to prepare for classes to resume Monday, Matthews said.

The College Employer Council, which represents the colleges, said it supports the introduction of back-to-work legislation as soon as possible.

Wynne had asked the colleges and the union to return to the bargaining table Thursday after workers voted to reject a contract offer, but within several hours the two sides reached an impasse when they could not agree to binding arbitration.

The colleges have said the offer included a 7.75 per cent salary increase over four years, improved benefits and measures to address concerns regarding part-time faculty, with language surrounding academic freedom remaining as the only major outstanding issue.

Under the proposed back-to-work legislation, the strike would end and all outstanding issues would be referred to binding mediation-arbitration.

Wheatley resident Caitlin Foulon, a first-year student at Fanshawe College, is one of the 24 plaintiffs representing each college in a students’ lawsuit seeking tuition refunds for missed classes. She feels the damage to the first semester may be beyond repair.

“We’re (plaintiffs) pro faculty in what they’re seeking, but we’re disappointed we’re still not in the classroom after five weeks,” Foulon said.

“Realistically, the semester just needs to be cancelled. The contingency plans call for five or six weeks to be crammed into two weeks.

“It’s just not going to be a good learning environment or experience if that happens.”

# Liberals forcing end to Ontario's college strike as NDP fume

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - November 16, 2017 8:39 PM

Ontario's half-million college students could be back in class as early as Monday after the government pulled out the legislative hammer to end the longest strike in its college system and send the impasse to binding arbitration.

In a dramatic move Thursday, Premier Kathleen Wynne said the government is tabling back-to-work legislation after the two sides in the dispute failed to reach a negotiated deal or agree to arbitration.

"We have said repeatedly that students have been in the middle of this strike for too long and it is not fair," the premier said in a written statement. "We need to get them back to the classroom."

The decision came hours after the announcement of the union's rejection of the college's final offer, by 86 per cent, in a forced vote pushed by an umbrella group that bargains on behalf of the schools.

Wynne said she asked the two sides to try to reach a deal by a 5 p.m. Thursday deadline to return to work next week, but they could not.

Now, seven months from an election, the Liberals face the dicey political prospect of ordering a large wing of their own civil-service union, the 130,000-member Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), back to work.



*These students are among a handful on the picket line at the Fanshawe College in London Thursday as part of the #AssToClass protest as striking faculty continued to pound the pavement after rejecting the latest contract offer. (MIKE HENSEN, The London Free Press)*

Wynne called on both the Progressive Conservatives and New Democrats to support the legislation, so students can return to class Monday. But whether that will happen on exactly that time frame isn't certain, with one opposition party — the NDP — insisting students should go back under a negotiated deal and not by legislative force.

"I want students back in the classrooms Monday, and I want that achieved through a deal," NDP leader Andrea Horwath said, accusing Wynne of wanting to use back-to-work legislation "all along."

“She spent barely an hour at the table today, after doing nothing for five long weeks,” Horwath said in a statement.

In Southwestern Ontario, tens of thousands of students at three colleges in seven cities have been sidelined by the strike.

Besides London-based Fanshawe, which has satellite campuses in Woodstock, St. Thomas and Simcoe, the schools include Windsor-based St. Clair College, which has a campus in Chatham, and Lambton College in Sarnia.

News that Queen’s Park is moving to break the stalemate, and that students could be back in the classroom by Monday, was hailed by the Fanshawe Student Union president.

“That is phenomenal. That is great news to hear. I am so glad,” said Morganna Sampson.

She said Fanshawe students will immediately want answers to questions about accessing a hardship fund for struggling students that the province ordered colleges to create, from strike savings such as unpaid wages.

Then, the focus will turn to students anxious about finishing their first-term studies on time.

“Top of the list is graduating students this semester,” she said.

Doing so could be especially tricky for students who need a minimum number of placement hours, she said.

“The college is going to have to figure it out,” Sampson added.

Students have been out of class since the 12,000 teachers, librarians and counsellors began their strike Oct. 16.

Progressive Conservative leader Patrick Brown said his party will support the Liberals’ back-to-work legislation.

Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews of London said the legislation could have been passed Thursday — the legislature does not normally sit Friday — but the NDP wouldn’t give needed consent for the bill to move forward quickly.

“I said to the NDP, this is a crucial week. It is consequential,” Matthews told *The Free Press*. “They could definitely push it until late next week.”

Fanshawe said Thursday the fall semester could have two possible end dates. If the strike ends by Monday, the term would end Jan. 16. If the legislation is delayed into next week, the end date would be Jan. 23

“It’s all dependent on when we get the students back in the class,” Fanshawe spokesperson Elaine Gamble said.

Instructors would then be given a few days to tabulate and enter final marks.

An exact start date to the winter semester will be determined once students are back.

The colleges are represented in the contract standoff by the College Employer Council, which bargains on their behalf.

### **BY THE NUMBERS**

**500,000:** Students affected

**12,000:** Striking faculty members

**86%:** Union rejection of colleges' final contract offer

**24:** Community colleges involved

**5:** School weeks lost to the strike

**3:** Colleges between London-area and Windsor, in seven centres.

# College Talks Fail, Premier Announces Back To Work Legislation

AM800 CKLW - November 16th 2017



Faculty on strike at St. Clair College. November 16, 2017 (Photo by AM800's Teresinha Medeiros)

Contract talks between the union representing striking faculty at Ontario's 24 colleges and management have failed to reach an agreement.

Premier Kathleen Wynne says the two sides have reached an impasse in negotiations and they have not agreed to binding arbitration.

In statement released late Thursday afternoon, Wynne says her government is immediately tabling legislation that would end the dispute and return Ontario college students to the classroom "where they belong."

Under the proposed legislation, Wynne says "all outstanding issues would be referred to binding mediation-arbitration."

Wynne is calling on both opposition parties to unanimously support the legislation so students and faculty can return to class on Monday morning.

Meantime... NDP Leader Andrea Horwath has issued a statement saying:

"I will not support back to work legislation. I want students back in classrooms Monday, and I want that achieved through a deal...the premier has the ability to call the legislature back, and the NDP is prepared to sit through the weekend to debate this move."

Ontario PC leader Patrick Brown says his party will support the legislation.

"My message to the Premier is this: as her meeting with both sides failed to produce concrete results and a negotiated settlement, we will support back-to-work legislation to get students back in class on Monday. It is the right thing to do for students."

St. Clair College spokesperson John Fairley says the college is taking a wait and see approach.

He says if classes resume on Monday, the college will be ready.

"We have to put everything in gear but we had obviously the gears all oiled up for Monday," says Fairley.

# Ontario NDP blocks govt back-to-work bill aimed at ending college strike



St. Clair College staff and students speak out as the strike continues. Chris Campbell explains.

The Canadian Press – CTV - November 16, 2017 6:38PM

Ontario's New Democrats have blocked an attempt by the Liberal government to table back-to-work legislation today to end a nearly five-week strike by college faculty.

Premier Kathleen Wynne says unanimous support of the legislation would have meant students could return to class on Monday morning.

But the NDP blocked a government attempt to table the bill after the normally scheduled time period for introducing legislation this evening.



Students and staff picket at St. Clair College in Windsor, Ont., on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017. (Chris Campbell / CTV Windsor)

The Liberals will now ask the Speaker to reconvene the legislature Friday, when it normally does not sit, so the legislation can be introduced.

The Liberals say the House could sit through the weekend until the legislation is passed.

Wynne had asked the colleges and the union representing striking faculty to return to the bargaining table today after workers voted to reject a contract offer, but within several hours the two sides reached an impasse.



# College Faculty Reject CEC Offer

The Square - 16 November 2017



OPSEU chief negotiation JP Hornick addresses the crowd at a rally in support of striking St Clair College faculty in Windsor on 27 October 2017.

(WINDSOR, ON) – On a CBC broadcast at noon today, Ontario’s premier, Kathleen Wynne, who earlier said conciliation was out for the ongoing strike by community college faculty, says it is now on the table. Wynne spoke before the vote was announced, a vote that did not favour the government.

In a prepared statement, Sonia Del Missier, chair of the college bargaining team, acknowledged that the faculty of the province’s 24 schools, “have exercised their democratic right and by rejecting the offer have chosen to continue to strike.”

Del Missier called the result terrible, “for the 500,000 students who remain out of class. I completely sympathize with our students who have been caught in this strike for more than four weeks. This strike has gone on for too long, and we still need to resolve it and get our students and faculty back in class.”

Immediate action on her part will be to have the college bargaining team contact the provincially appointed mediator to seek his direction to the parties.

JP Hornick, chair of the faculty bargaining team for the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, is calling on the College Employer Council to come back to the table this afternoon and finish the job of negotiating a collective agreement.

Voting results say 86 per cent of faculty voted to reject the Council’s November 6 offer. Ninety-five per cent of the 12,841 people on the voters’ list voted.

“No one is surprised that college faculty rejected the Council’s forced offer,” said Hornick. “It was full of concessions and failed to address our concerns around fairness for faculty or education quality. We stand with hundreds of thousands of college students when we say ‘enough already.’”

The vote was a one-time option allowed under the Colleges Collective Bargaining Act.

“It is unfortunate that Council extended our strike and kept students out of class for an extra two weeks by calling for this vote,” added Hornick. She says she thinks the situation can be resolved in short order.

OPSEU president Warren (Smokey) Thomas congratulated faculty for standing up for a better college system by rejecting the offer.

“Calling for this vote was a bully move by Council,” he said. Thomas would like to see the college’s bargaining team, “either settle this strike immediately or resign and be replaced by competent negotiators.”

# Wynne government announces legislation to end college strike

Government will table legislation to end college strike, premier says

[CBC News](#) - Nov 16, 2017



Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne answers questions during CBC's Ontario Today on Thursday. (CBC)

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne's office said Thursday her government will table legislation that will end the province's college strike, after negotiations reached an impasse.

Wynne met with both the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) and the College Employer Council (CEC) on Thursday after union members overwhelmingly voted against a contract offer.

"I asked them to work together to find a path forward that would see students return to class by Monday," Wynne said in a news release.

"That's why we are immediately tabling legislation that would end the dispute and return Ontario college students to the classroom where they belong. Under the proposed legislation that we're introducing today, all outstanding issues would be referred to binding mediation-arbitration."

Wynne met with both sides earlier in the day and gave them a 5 p.m. ET deadline to reach an agreement, which they missed.

## Blocked by NDP

Because of the tight deadline, Wynne's Liberals needed to pass the back-to-work legislation immediately with unanimous support, but it was blocked by the NDP.

"It looks like Kathleen Wynne wanted to use anti-worker back-to-work legislation all along. She spent barely an hour at the table today, after doing nothing for five long weeks," Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said in a statement.

Horwath said she also wants to see students back in the classroom on Monday, but she wants to see a deal struck first.

The government will ask Ontario's Legislature to meet again on Friday at 3 p.m and "sit throughout the weekend until the legislation is passed," according to Kyle Richardson, press secretary for the province's attorney general.



OPSEU members rally outside the Labour Relations Board in Toronto on Thursday. (Mike Karapita/Twitter)

## Overwhelming rejection

The results of a two-day vote were made public late Thursday morning. According to OPSEU, the vote was 86 per cent against the offer, which the CEC issued on Nov. 6, one day after talks broke down. Ninety-five per cent of eligible voters cast a ballot, the union said.

"No one is surprised that college faculty rejected the council's forced offer. It was full of concessions and failed to address our concerns around fairness for faculty or education quality," JP Hornick, chair of OPSEU's faculty bargaining team, said in a statement.

The union said those concessions "undermined any possibility" of improving conditions for precarious workers. About 80 per cent of college faculty are part-time. An OPSEU representative said earlier this week the concessions focused on the process for hiring full-time faculty, including provisions that would allow faculty to exceed overtime limits and make it harder to take professional development days.

Hornick also said the issue of academic freedom — allowing faculty more leeway in decision-making in the classroom — remained a sticking point.

## Both sides respond

According to the CEC, the offer included a 7.75 per cent salary increase over four years, improved benefits — including extended pregnancy and parental leave — and measures to address concerns over part-time work.

It says OPSEU asked for a \$5,000 bonus for each striking faculty member.

"Today's bargaining should have been focused on getting students back to class, but OPSEU chose the path of signing bonuses for faculty and a dismissal of arbitration," said Sonia Del Missier, chair of the CEC bargaining team, in a statement.

At a news conference on Thursday night, Hornick said the union had asked for compensation for their members for the last two weeks of the strike. She said it would not be \$5,000 per person, but would range in amount from member to member.

"That is ridiculous for them to call it anything other than compensation for the extra time that they dragged this out. They let the clock run out rather than actually negotiate," she said.

OPSEU also called for the CEC to be disbanded.

"It's a 50-year-old management structure that's been broken for 49 of those 50 years," said Warren (Smokey) Thomas, president of OPSEU.

Students and faculty have been out of the classroom for almost five weeks after some 12,000 college faculty, including professors, instructors, counsellors and librarians voted to strike on Oct. 15. That left about 500,000 students in fear for their school year.

Talks between the two sides broke down on Nov. 5.

# 'Teachers are being greedy': College students react to faculty's decision to reject deal

Premier tabled back to work legislation Thursday night and urged both sides to support it

[CBC News](#) Posted: Nov 16, 2017 4:59 PM ET Last Updated: Nov 16, 2017 5:59 PM ET



St. Clair College students protest the ongoing Ontario college faculty strike on Nov. 16. International student Saurav Katara, right, said he won't be able to use the plane tickets he bought to travel home during the holidays. (Dale Molnar/CBC)

Students protesting the ongoing faculty strike at St. Clair College in hopes of saving their semesters had some harsh words for their teachers after the employees voted against a deal Thursday.

"I feel the teachers are being greedy," said Krista Seager. "They've gotten most of what they want ... sometimes you have to make an agreement and let one or two things go."

The second-year nursing student lives on campus, meaning during the five-week strike "a lot of my money is going to nothing."

Striking St. Clair faculty along the picket line cheered their membership's 86 per cent vote in favour of turning down the deal.

Sports and Recreation teacher Kevin Corriveau said he was "very happy" with what he called a "resounding no-vote against a forced offer."

He said staff all want to be back in the classroom doing "what we do best," but that members felt some of the concerns still aren't being met.



Faculty member Kevin Corriveau said he was happy members overwhelmingly voted to reject the latest offer. (Dale Molnar/CBC)

Betty Sylvain and Saurav Katara have been walking a picket of their own for the past few weeks. The students are protesting the work stoppage many feel is threatening their future.

Katara, an international student, was planning to wrap up his studies in December and had already purchased plane tickets for flights he now won't be able to make.

"The moment I saw the news the contract was rejected, I was one of the unhappiest people," he said. "Who is going to pay for my tickets and everything?"



Betty Sylvain, a St. Clair College student, is worried about her education as the faculty strike carries on with no end in sight. (Jason Viau/CBC)

Sylvain said the past few weeks have left students feeling alone.

"No one is fighting for us — that's why we're out on the side of the road in the cold," she said, adding at this point most students are looking for a fresh start.

"If you lose 40 per cent of something, I don't know how they're going to patch it up."

## **Premier tables back to work legislation**

On Thursday evening Premier Kathleen Wynne met with both sides of the labour dispute, but said they could not come to an agreement.

"We are immediately tabling legislation that would end the dispute and return Ontario college students to the classroom where they belong," she wrote in a statement. "Under the proposed legislation that we're introducing today, all outstanding issues would be referred to binding mediation-arbitration."

The premier urged both parties to support the legislation so students and faculty can "return to class Monday morning."

# UPDATE: NDP Blocks Legislation To End Strike At Ontario Colleges

Blackburn News - November 16, 2017 6:22pm

The Ontario NDP has blocked Premier Kathleen Wynne's attempt to table legislation to put striking college faculty back to work, and end the longest college strike in the province's history.

Wynne said in a statement that the government hoped to have the back-to-work legislation tabled Thursday evening, to return students to the classroom on Monday.

"Under the proposed legislation... all outstanding issues would be referred to binding mediation-arbitration," she said.

A tweet from the Ontario Liberal press secretary stated that the party intends to ask the speaker at the Legislature to reconvene the house at 3pm on Friday to try again to table the legislation, and they are prepared to sit throughout the weekend until it is passed.

The move to table legislation comes on the same day that it was announced unionized faculty had voted 86% against accepting the College Employer Council's latest offer. The council had asked the Ontario Labour Relations Board to take the vote directly to the 12,000 college instructors, counselors, and librarians at the province's 24 public colleges after talks broke down last week. However, OPSEU urged faculty to vote "no."

Following her party's move to block the Liberal, Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said "New Democrats will not support any legislation that takes away the rights of any workers in this province."

"The premier has the ability to call the legislature back, and the NDP is prepared to sit through the weekend to debate this move," said Horwath in a statement. "I want students back in classrooms Monday, and I want that achieved through a deal... Now that this has become a political problem for the Liberal party, [Wynne] is ramming through reckless back-to-work legislation."

However, Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown has said his party will support back-to-work legislation, despite blaming Wynne for the length of the work stoppage.

"My message to the premier is this: as her meeting with both sides failed to produce concrete results and a negotiated settlement, we will support back-to-work legislation to get students back in class on Monday," said Brown. "It is the right thing to do for students."

The strike, which is now in its fifth week, has cancelled classes for more than half a million students across the province.

Wynne said members of the College Employer Council and the faculty union, Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), agreed to try and find a solution by 5pm on Thursday.

"Unfortunately, we have heard from the parties that they have reached an impasse in negotiations and that they have not agreed to binding arbitration," said Wynne.

According to a statement released by the College Employer Council, OPSEU tabled new demands during talks on Thursday that included a \$5,000 return to work bonus for each striking faculty member. The council also said the union refused arbitration.

The council said it supports the government introducing back-to-work legislation “as soon as possible.”

OPSEU on the other hand, has urged the government to disband the College Employer Council, after the council refused to remove the “poison pills” in its offer and made no move toward a settlement. The union added that faculty offered to send a key bargaining item, academic freedom, to arbitration.

No Ontario college student has ever lost their semester because of a strike. However, previous strikes at the province’s colleges, in 1984, 1989, and 2006, were resolved in about three weeks.



# Will a lawsuit help Ontario students get their money back after college strike?

**Frustrated students seek tuition refunds as government tries to open classrooms by Monday**

[CBC News](#) - Nov 17, 2017



Students outside the St. Clair College campus in Windsor protest the college strike. The Ontario government is introducing legislation to force the colleges and the union into binding arbitration, sending students back to class by Monday. (Chris Ensing/CBC)

Frustrated and financially burdened students affected by the Ontario colleges strike are turning to the courts to try to get some cash back.

A class action was commenced on Tuesday that seeks to recover tuition money on behalf of the thousands of students at 24 colleges who have been out of class since mid-October.

Going down the lawsuit road could be a long and ultimately unsuccessful journey, but there could still be some benefits to it in the short term, say class action experts.

"Bringing that lawsuit has got the plight of the students some more press and that is inherently pressure, political or otherwise, potentially economic, on the colleges at least, maybe the union," said Jason Squire, head of the class action group at Lerner LLP in Toronto.

Pressure on the Ontario government to step in and force an end to the strike, now in its fifth week, ramped up Thursday when the latest [contract offer from the College Employer Council was rejected](#) by striking faculty, represented by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

Premier Kathleen Wynne met with representatives from both sides on Thursday afternoon, and several hours later her government announced it would introduce legislation to force them into binding arbitration and end the strike. The premier said she wants to see students back in class by Monday morning.

This will be the longest college strike in Ontario's history, and students have been demanding tuition refunds since it began. A petition they started says full-time students are owed \$30 per day of the strike based on the average tuition cost per semester.

## Legal action can send a message

The petition and now the proposed class action are helping draw attention to students' voices, said Joel Willett, president of the College Student Alliance.

"We encourage students to have that voice heard because we don't have that voice at the table in negotiations," said Willett. "We are being ignored."

Class action lawsuits can be used as pressure tactics and, according to lawyer Ranjan Agarwal, a partner at Bennett Jones, they are also used as deterrents.



Some 12,000 college staff across Ontario, including at College Boreal in Sudbury, have been on strike since Oct. 16. (Erik White/CBC )

"It's supposed to send a message to industry, government, defendants, whoever is on the other side, that the next time you should be alert to the fact that you may be causing harm and you may have to pay big dollars as a result," said Agarwal, who teaches class action law at the University of Toronto.

The class action is being proposed by Charney Lawyers in Toronto. None of the lawyers was available for an interview Thursday, but a website dedicated to the legal action says the claim alleges breach of contract and breaches of Ontario's Consumer Protection Act.

It claims that in exchange for a fee, colleges agreed to provide a full term of regularly occurring classes, among other services, and that means offering a specified number of classes over a specified period of time. The claim alleges the colleges haven't held up their end of the contract and have made false or misleading representations.

## Must be certified to proceed

Aside from tuition, the law firm says students also deserve to be paid back for meal plans and residence costs.

For the class action to proceed it has to be certified by a court. A judge has to essentially agree that as a group, students have been similarly affected and that one lead plaintiff can represent them.

If the class action is certified, the lawsuit proceeds. Agarwal said often the parties come to a settlement agreement. If they don't, the suit would proceed to trial, "probably years from now."

Convincing a judge to certify a class action is one challenge, and then winning the case is another, said Agarwal. It's debatable, for example, whether a "contract" exists between students and their school, he said.

Other class action lawsuits against schools because of strikes were unsuccessful and dragged on for months. In the fall of 2010, a judge denied the certification of a class action launched in January 2009 by York University

students following a three-month strike. The judge ruled the allegations that the school breached its duty and students suffered weren't backed up.



Ontario Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews has ordered the province's 24 colleges to create a fund to help students affected by the strike. (Chris Young/Canadian Press)

With this Ontario-wide strike there is a chance students could see some money back regardless of what happens with the class action. The government is requiring colleges to put their savings from the strike into a dedicated fund.

"The money is being set aside for students who have experienced real hardship," Deb Matthews, minister of advanced education and skills development, told reporters at Queen's Park Thursday. She wouldn't speculate how much the fund would be worth.

Matthews said details on how much students will be compensated and in what format are yet to be determined.

## **Fund set up to provide relief**

"We're consulting with students on that right now," Matthews said.

The colleges' contributions to that fund could actually help them avoid the class action lawsuit, said Squire.

In meeting the test for certification a judge can consider whether a class action lawsuit is the "preferable procedure," the lawyer said. Squire said the colleges may point to the hardship fund as evidence that they are managing the issue and therefore a class action isn't needed.

Whatever happens, Squire predicts students will be compensated for losing so much of their semester.

"Hook or crook, you've got to assume the students are going to get some kind of redress. The open question is whether they will be satisfied with it," said Squire.

# St. Clair College Confident Classes Will Resume Next Week

Blackburn News - November 17, 2017

With the provincial government taking action to send striking faculty at Ontario's colleges back to work, officials at St. Clair College are confident students will soon return to the classrooms.

Premier Kathleen Wynne [introduced back-to-work legislation on Thursday](#), which was quickly blocked by Ontario New Democrats before it could be tabled. The Liberals have stated that they will reconvene the house at 3pm on Friday to try again to table the legislation. Debate on the issue could last into the weekend, however, the PC party has stated they will support the legislation.

"I think they just need a majority, so with that I'm sure that the back-to-work legislation will pass," says John Fairley, St. Clair College's vice president of college communications and community relations.

If passed, the legislation would end a faculty strike that is now in its fifth week, and has cancelled classes for more than half a million students across the province.

"The most important thing is our students, and if back-to-work legislation gets our students back in the classrooms so they can continue their semester at St. Clair College in Chatham and Windsor, that's important to us," says Fairley.

Fairley says he is encouraging friends and family to let students know that classes could resume as early as Monday.

"Maybe some have gone home, maybe some have taken full-time jobs or part-time jobs, [or] have left the area," he says. "We need to get the word out that there's a possibility of school starting next week."

Any updates on the St. Clair College's plans for students returning to class, can be found at [StClairCollege.ca](http://StClairCollege.ca).

# Will Wynne Intervene In College Strike?

The Square - 17 November 2017

(WINDSOR, ON) – After striking faculty members at Ontario’s 24 community colleges, including St Clair College in Windsor and Chatham, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union is calling on premier Kathleen Wynne to dissolve the College Employer Council. In response, the Council says the union is demanding a \$5,000 strike bonus for each striking member.

The CEC, a unit of the Ontario government, is the bargaining arm for the colleges and is, says the union, a private club. “Today, after college faculty overwhelmingly rejected Council’s latest contract offer, we hoped real negotiations would ensue,” said JP Hornick, the chair of the OPSEU college faculty bargaining team.

Apparently that hasn’t happened.

Hornick says that after the vote results were released, she was involved in a joint meeting with Wynne, Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews, and the Council. At the meeting, reported Hornick, “it became clear that, of the three parties in the room, only two were concerned with saving the semester for hundreds of thousands of students. One of those parties, the College Employer Council, refused to accept that their approach to bargaining had failed, and refused to do anything to get our students back to class.”

Hornick says the Council would not remove the, “poison pills” in its offer and made no move toward a settlement, even when faculty offered to send a key item, academic freedom, to arbitration. Commenting on a government move to introduce back-to-work legislation, OPSEU president Warren (Smokey) Thomas laid the blame for it at the CEC’s door.

“When our team made a last-ditch effort to get students back in class on Monday, the colleges dug in even further,” he said. Thomas was stern saying if there was going, “to be legislation, it should include measures to disband the College Employer Council altogether. Council is a private club that is accountable to no one.”

The Council has not responded to Thomas and his union’s call. Instead it issued a press release revealing that the faculty’s union is asking for a return to work signing bonus.

The CEC alleges it would be funded by a student hardship fund that the government was setting up to use the savings from the strike to help students in financial difficulties from the work stoppage. The CEC, in a statement, said OPSEU tabled new demands for a \$5,000 return to work signing bonus for each striking faculty member, while refusing to agree to resolve the strike through arbitration.

“OPSEU’s actions at the table moved us further away from a settlement,” said Sonia Del Missier, the chair of the CEC bargaining team. She is firm in her belief that bargaining, “should have been focused on getting students back to class, but OPSEU chose the path of signing bonuses for faculty and a dismissal of arbitration.”

Del Missier explained that, in her view, OPSEU’s new demand for a \$5,000 return to work bonus for each striking faculty member would be diverted away from the student hardship fund that Matthews announced last week.

The colleges proposed that students return to classes immediately and all outstanding issues be sent to arbitration. The union refused to agree and instead demanded that the colleges accept the \$5,000 payment to faculty.

Matthews had suggested using a government task force on the future of Ontario colleges to help deal with outstanding issues and proposed sending an outstanding item of academic freedom to the force but, said the CEC, “again OPSEU refused.”

The CEC said it is in support of the government introducing back to work legislation as soon as possible.

# CEC Offers Arbitration While OPSEU Demands Signing Bonus

The Square - 17 November 2017

(TORONTO, ON) – The College Employer Council is reporting that OPSEU has tabled new demands for a \$5,000 return to work bonus for each striking faculty member. At the same time, OPSEU is refusing to agree to resolve the strike through arbitration.

“OPSEU’s actions at the table moved us further away from a settlement,” said Sonia Del Missier, the chair of the CEC bargaining team. “Today’s bargaining should have been focused on getting students back to class, but OPSEU chose the path of signing bonuses for faculty.”

OPSEU’s new demand for the \$5,000 bonus for each striking member would be diverted away from the student hardship fund that the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, Deb Matthews, announced last week.

The colleges have proposed that students should return to classes immediately with all outstanding issues to be sent to arbitration. The union refused to agree and, instead, demanded that the colleges accept the \$5,000 payment to faculty.

The payment would have amounted more than \$60 million across the system.

Minister Matthews has suggested using the government task force on the future of Ontario colleges. The CEC, to help deal with outstanding issues, proposes sending outstanding items of academic freedom to the government task force, but again OPSEU has refused.

The CEC has stated that the organization is in support of the government introducing back to work legislation as soon as possible.

# OPSEU Demanded \$5,000 Return To Work Bonus: College Employer Council

[AM800 CKLW](#) – November 17, 2017



Faculty walk the picket line outside St.Clair College in Windsor. October 16, 2017 (Photo by Kimberley Johnson)

The bargaining team for the College Employer Council has released some details about what prompted a break in talks with the union representing striking faculty at Ontario's 24 colleges, including St. Clair College in Windsor.

It says OPSEU tabled new demands for a \$5,000 return to work bonus for each striking member.

Chair of the Colleges Bargaining Team Sonia Del Missier says the union's actions at the table moved them further away from a settlement.

The payment would have amounted to more than \$60-million across the system.

Both sides returned to the table briefly Thursday after union members rejected the employer's last offer.

When they walked away from the table, the Liberal government announced it was tabling back-to-work legislation to end the dispute.

The NDP is not supporting it.

# St. Clair professor says future of college education is at stake

**'We expected that the College Employer Council was going to bargain in good faith. We did not see that'**

[CBC News](#) - November 17, 2017



St. Clair College professor Pat Papadeas is "disappointed" by the bargaining process in the Ontario faculty strike. (Kaitie Fraser/CBC)

After five weeks of an Ontario-wide strike, 86 per cent of faculty members who voted on their employer's last contract offer voted no.

"We expected that the College Employer Council was going to bargain in good faith. We did not see that, so we're extremely disappointed in the result," said St. Clair College professor Pat Papadeas, who also served on the Board of Governors for the college.

On Thursday night Premier Kathleen Wynne stepped in, meeting with both the union and the College Employers Council.

It's the first time that back to work legislation has been brought into the college system, said Papadeas. She expects that it will be passed this weekend, leaving faculty no further ahead than they were five weeks ago.

"This is not the way that anyone would expect to bargain," she said. "But the parties have been so far apart on the issues we'll see where this leads."

At the heart of the issue is the amount of part-time and sessional work on College campuses. Papadeas said the issue affects workers as well as the quality of education students receive.

"What is at stake is the quality of the future of college education in this province."



# Bill to end Ontario college strike expected to pass Sunday

## Ontario MPPs trade barbs in weekend debate aimed at getting classes resumed

The Canadian Press / CBC - Nov 18, 2017



Teachers and faculty staff of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union walk a picket line in Toronto. A back-to-work bill that would end an Ontario college faculty strike appears on track to

A back-to-work bill that would end a strike by college faculty in Ontario appears on track to be pushed through the legislature on Sunday.

The bill cleared another hurdle Saturday as the Liberals and New Democrats pointed fingers at each other over how the legislation has been handled.

The New Democrats have blocked swift passage of the bill since Thursday and Advanced Education Minister and Deputy Premier Deb Matthews told the House on Saturday that the NDP was unnecessarily delaying students' return to the classroom.

"I think we're going to see the NDP continue to block the return of students," Matthews told the media on Saturday. "We have 500,000 students in this province who are eager, ready, anxious to go back. And there is one person in the whole province who is standing in the way of that, and that's Andrea Horwath."

The accusation drew a sharp response from NDP Leader Andrea Horwath who accused Matthews of being irresponsible.

"For a cabinet minister, a minister of Crown, to suggest that any legislator should pass through legislation without even reading it, that is the height of irresponsibility and shameful," Horwath told reporters on Saturday. "I am disgusted frankly, by the tactics that minister is using. It is inappropriate."

Both sides in the debate expect the bill will be passed on Sunday and if that occurs, hundreds of thousands of students could be back in class by Tuesday.

Ontario Public Service Employees Union President Warren (Smokey) Thomas said the union tried to get the colleges' bargaining team back to the table.

But Don Sinclair, CEO of the College Employer Council, said his team didn't get the message.

"The colleges' bargaining team has not received any request from the provincially appointed mediator about bargaining this weekend," he said in a written statement.

The 12,000 professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians went on strike Oct. 16.

# Ont legislature in session this weekend to try to end the colleges strike

The Canadian Press – CTV - November 18, 2017

TORONTO -- A back-to-work bill that would end a strike by college faculty in Ontario appears on track to be pushed through the legislature on Sunday.

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The 12,000 professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians went on strike Oct. 15.

# Ontario politicians will debate college strike-ending legislation Saturday and Sunday

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - November 18, 2017



The picket lines were down Friday at Fanshawe College as striking teachers face a forced return to work, and the spectre of binding arbitration. (Mike Hensen/The London Free Press)

TORONTO - Ontario's governing Liberals failed again Friday to pass back-to-work legislation that would force the province's college teachers to return to classrooms after a five-week strike.

That's twice in two days the New Democrats blocked Premier Kathleen Wynne's plan to have instructors on the job again Monday.

"Honestly, it's unfortunate that the NDP is acting this way, but it's not a surprise. They are the type of party for union workers," Michelle Wright, a Fanshawe College student in her second year of the nursing program, said Friday.

"It's unfortunate that they can't see how destructive this is to students and their lives but again, it's the NDP — so it didn't really come as a surprise. What was a surprise is that (Ontario Premier) Kathleen Wynne stepped up and is actually attempting to do something. I'm just hoping the vote comes out in favour of us going back to class. We are all tired of how lengthy and uncalled-for this process has been and everyone wants it to end," Wright said.

The government will try again Saturday afternoon to pass Bill 178 when the legislature reconvenes for a rare weekend session.

The last time MPPs worked through the weekend was in April 2008 to end a strike by Toronto Transit Commission workers. The NDP can push passage of the bill until past the weekend, but the Liberal majority ensures it will be passed — the only question is how long it will take to ram it through.

The back-to-work legislation would end the strike and send all outstanding issues to binding mediation-arbitration.

"Basically, nothing is certain until the legislation is passed," Elaine Gamble, a spokesperson for Fanshawe College, said. The school's semester-completion plan depends on how quickly the back-to-work order can become law.

If the bill passes by Sunday, administrators are planning for a fall semester end date of Jan. 16. The winter session would begin Jan. 22. "Each program is a little different," as far as how it will accommodate the shortened semester, Gamble says.

Darryl Bedford, head of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union local for Fanshawe members, said the speaker will be able to keep the legislature open over the weekend. It's only a matter of time until the majority Liberals get their way.

"It would mean we would be able to go into the office on Monday," but not start classes until a couple of days later, he said of what would happen if Bill 178 is passed this weekend. "What the college put out is doable," he said.

"Anybody's who's teaching is going to have to figure out how to rearrange their course," Bedford said. "It will take a couple days just to sort that out. There's a lot of work to do in that couple days."

Fanshawe has 540 full-time and about 300 partial-load instructors.

Facing a forced return to work, and the spectre of binding arbitration, pickets put down their signs Friday.

Whitney Hoth, a teacher at Fanshawe College and union secretary, said 84 per cent of Fanshawe faculty who cast ballots this week on the final offer from the College Employer Council voted against it — a development even more significant because the same group voted against striking in the first place.

"The number tells you how people feel," he said. "People did understand that this was a strike in the interest of better education."

Classes for more than a half-million students at the province's 24 colleges have been cancelled since Oct. 16 when about 12,000 instructors, professors, librarians and counsellors went on strike over reducing the number of partial-load instructors and academic freedom.

In Southwestern Ontario, Fanshawe College's London, Woodstock, Simcoe and St. Thomas campuses, St. Clair College's Windsor and Chatham sites and Sarnia's Lambton College were all shuttered by the job action.

# **UPDATED: Striking college teachers returning to class after Ontario passes back-to-work legislation**

The Canadian Press / Windsor Star - November 19, 2017

More than 10,000 St. Clair College students will return to class Tuesday after Ontario passed back-to-work legislation ending a five-week teachers strike.

The Liberal government and Conservative MPPs joined forces to pass the legislation Sunday despite NDP objections.

The province's 12,000 college teachers, including 280 full-time and 580 part-time faculty at St. Clair, will report for work Monday. St. Clair College spokesman John Fairley said students will return to class Tuesday on their regular schedules for an extended semester that will end in January.

"We know it's not the bargained ending that our faculty wanted or our students or even the community in most cases," said Fairley. "But we are where we are and the family is back tomorrow together and our students are coming in. So we have to provide a great student experience for the end of the fall semester. Instead of the fall semester ending in December, we're just ending in January."

The current semester will be 14 weeks long instead of 15. It will end Jan. 15, with exams running from Jan. 16 to Jan. 20. The holiday break will take place from Dec. 23 to Jan. 2. The college will offer optional dates for exams and assignments for students with prior travel commitments.

The winter semester will run from Jan. 22 to April 20 with exams the following week.

While condensing the semester will save the school year, advocates say it will also be stressful for students trying to carry the workload.

"It's going to be a very busy rest of the semester for students," said Joel Willett, president of the College Student Alliance. "They have indicated to us that they are very frustrated."

The group is pushing for students who feel they won't be able to complete their semesters to be able to withdraw and receive refunds, Willett said.

The provincial government has ordered the colleges to create a fund — using savings from the strike, for example by not paying faculty wages — to help students who may be experiencing financial hardship because of the labour dispute. Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews has estimated that amount would be about \$5 million.

"This terrible chapter is over," she said.

Around 500,000 students have been out of class since the strike by 12,000 professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians began Oct. 15. The colleges have said they would need two days to restart classes, meaning students will be back on Tuesday.

The colleges welcomed the back-to-work legislation, saying all efforts at the bargaining table had been exhausted.

“The strike has been incredibly disruptive to students and we needed to end it,” Sonia Del Missier, the head of the colleges’ bargaining team, said in a statement.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union says it is looking at the possibility of a constitutional challenge to the legislation.

“On the face of it, it’s a violation, but there’s of course many wrinkles,” said president Warren (Smokey) Thomas. “We will challenge it in one form or another.”

Matthews lamented what she characterized as unnecessary procedural delays by the NDP in getting the back-to-work legislation passed.

The Liberal government first attempted to introduce and pass its back-to-work bill in one fell swoop Thursday evening, after restarted talks between the colleges and the faculty’s union reached an impasse.

But unanimous consent of all parties was needed, and the NDP refused, leading the government to introduce the legislation on Friday and debate it through special weekend sittings. If it had been passed Thursday, students would have returned to class Monday instead of Tuesday.

“For people who have classes on Monday it’s another week that the strike has been delayed, so it is real,” Matthews said. “It is a meaningful delay and completely unnecessary.”

But NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said she disagreed with that assessment. The NDP needed to do due diligence, she said, including actually reading the bill.

“There is no person, I think, in Ontario that would sign a contract without reading it, so there was no way that could have happened on Thursday,” she said. “I was not about to pass legislation that I hadn’t seen.”

Horwath slammed Matthews for letting the strike drag on for five weeks in the first place, but Matthews said the government let the two sides try to hammer out a deal for as long as they could.

“But when they came back and said, ‘There is not a glimmer of hope, we are in a deadlock,’ that was when we moved to save the semester for students,” she said.

The legislation sends all outstanding issues to binding mediation-arbitration.

The colleges have said their final offer included a 7.75 per cent salary increase over four years, improved benefits and measures to address concerns regarding part-time faculty, with language surrounding academic freedom remaining as the only major outstanding issue.

But the union said the offer contained “serious concessions” that were not agreed to, which would erode faculty rights and contribute to an unsustainable staffing model.

# Ontario college strike ends as back-to-work legislation passed

**Thousands of college students expected to return to class Tuesday**

[CBC News](#) - Nov 19, 2017

Hundreds of thousands of college students are expected to be back in class this week after the provincial government passed back-to-work legislation Sunday to end a five-week strike by Ontario college faculty.

The Liberal government first attempted to introduce the six-page bill Thursday evening after college faculty overwhelmingly rejected the College Employer Council's latest offer by 86 per cent.

But unanimous consent of all parties was needed, and the NDP refused, leading the government to introduce the legislation Friday. All parties agreed to a special weekend sitting to debate the bill.

It passed in Queen's Park Sunday afternoon 39-18.



NDP leader Andrea Horwath says while she's pleased students will be able to head back to class, she doesn't think this was the best option.

"For five weeks, Kathleen Wynne dragged her feet and didn't use the tools available to her and her minister to try to resolve this dispute earlier," she said after the vote.

But Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews says intervening earlier was not an option.

"There is a very high bar. Collective bargaining is protected. The Supreme Court has ruled that you have to have a very, very good rationale, that the academic year [must be] in jeopardy. Had we gone before that final offer vote, this absolutely would have been challenged," she told reporters at Queen's Park.

Nonetheless, Horwath insists that this legislation won't assist with the underlying issues that led to the strike in the first place.

"We still have a broken college system to deal with where 70 per cent of the faculty are not earning decent wages, in other words, 70 per cent are working part-time and contract work, which is not the best for students in terms of their quality of education," she said.

Warren "Smokey" Thomas, president of the union representing college faculty, says he agrees but would still call the strike a win, referencing a task force the government has agreed to establish that will look at issues like the college's staffing model and precarious work.



Ontario's striking college faculty voted to reject a contract offer from the College Employer Council on Thursday. (Martin Trainor/CBC)

"It's a victory in the sense we've got the task force, we've been able to highlight precarious work, equal work for equal pay," he said.

In a news statement released Sunday, the government says all outstanding issues are to be negotiated in binding mediation-arbitration.

"The College Employer Council and OPSEU have five days to agree on a mediator-arbitrator, or one will be appointed by the Minister of Labour," the statement reads.

## Plan to refund students

The colleges and their faculty have been back and forth trying to negotiate a deal for about five months.

The 12,000 professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians have been on the picket line since Oct. 16. Students from across Ontario's 24 colleges have been outspoken during the strike, calling for refunds for time loss.

Matthews said that is the plan.

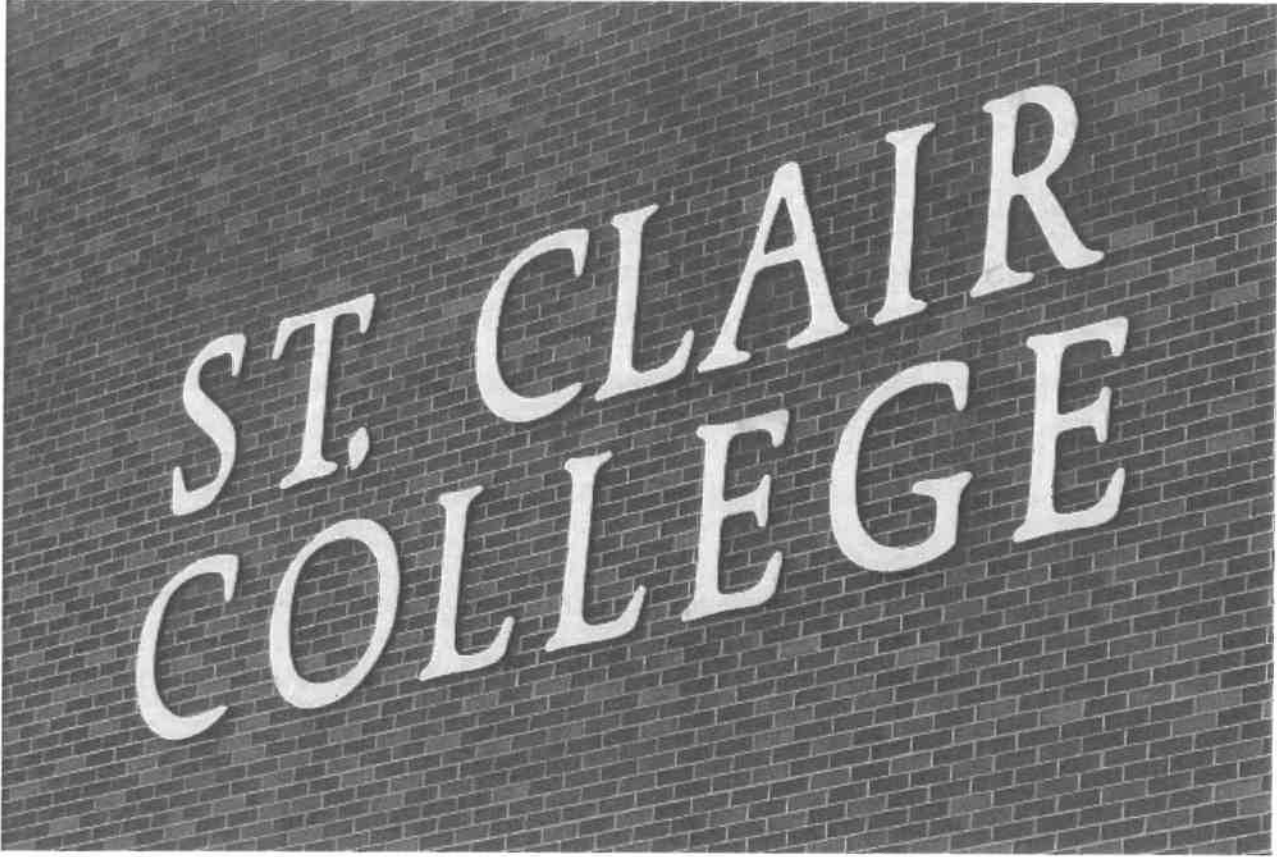
"So we have directed the colleges to set aside the net savings from the strike as they have not been paying faculty through the strike, and we will very soon be able to talk about how that money will be dispersed. It will be returned to students and those who are facing the greatest financial needs," she said.

The minister didn't say how much funds and what the timeline for a decision of refunds were.



## College Strike Over, Classes Start Tuesday

WindsoriteDOTca News - November 19th, 2017



The five-week strike at St. Clair College is over after Bill 178 was passed by the Ontario Legislature, forcing faculty back to work.

Faculty will return to St. Clair College on Monday, November 20th and classes will begin on Tuesday, November 21st.

# MPPs Vote To Send College Faculty Back To Work

Blackburn News - November 19, 2017

Striking college faculty can finally leave the picket lines and return back to classes now that the Liberal government's back-to-work bill has passed at Queen's Park.

About 12,000 college faculty are set to return to work on Monday, with over half-a-million students returning to their campuses starting Tuesday.

"All outstanding issues are to be referred to binding mediation-arbitration. The College Employer Council and OPSEU have five days to agree on a mediator-arbitrator, or one will be appointed by the Minister of Labour," a statement from the province says.

Despite objections from the NDP, the government's strong support from Progressive Conservative MPPs allowed the bill to pass and send striking college teachers and their students back to class.

"The Ontario PCs are relieved to know that college students will be heading back to the classroom early next week. Since day one, the Ontario PCs have been the ones standing up for students," says Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown.

Brown places the blame on the Liberal government for the strike being so drawn out.

"At the very beginning of the dispute, we called for the Wynne Liberals to step in and bring both sides to the table. The Liberals waited until the very last minute, and only once it became a massive political problem, to get involved. The reality is this strike reached record lengths because of a lack of leadership shown by Kathleen Wynne and her government," he says.

Ontario's Minister of Labour is defending the government's approach to the dispute.

"Our government respects and believes in the collective bargaining process. It is only in special circumstances that government intervention should occur," said Labour Minister Kevin Flynn. "Through all of this, our focus has been on students and their learning. We want to see students back in the classroom as quickly as possible so that they can continue their education while an agreement is reached."

The five-week long strike is considered the longest in the province's history.

# Colleges and Union React to Strike Ending

Blackburn news - November 19, 2017

Reaction to the end of the Ontario college strike is coming from the colleges and the union at the centre of it all.

The Ontario legislature [voted Sunday](#) to support back-to-work legislation to end the five-week strike and send faculty back to teaching. Most of the 24 colleges across the province are planning to resume classes Tuesday.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) represents the faculty at the colleges. President Warren “Smokey” Thomas says despite the legislation, the strike has put the spotlight on what is perceived to be the struggles of contract faculty.

“The college faculty strike, which the Liberal government has just ended with legislation, put the problems of low-wage contract workers front and centre on the public agenda,” says Thomas in a statement. “It was a battle for precarious workers today and for every future worker, in college or out, who dreams of having a good job and the good life it affords.”

Thomas isn’t holding back his criticism of the Ontario Liberals and Premier Kathleen Wynne as to how the negotiations were handled.

“The Liberals let the strike drag on until they could justify their legislation in the court of public opinion,” says Thomas. “In doing so, they played right into the hand of the College Employer Council, which had been aiming for legislation, not negotiation, all along. If Premier Kathleen Wynne had been proactive on this file she would have ordered the colleges to move weeks ago to end the cheap labour strategy that is short-changing faculty and students alike,” he said. “Instead, she let the colleges thumb their noses at students, faculty, collective bargaining, and even her own government.”

Meanwhile, the colleges are working diligently to have the resumption of classes ready to go for Tuesday and are working to regain the confidence of students and staff. Patti France, president of St. Clair College, apologizes to students and assures them that help is there for the asking.

“We know that this has been a very difficult time for our students and for our staff,” says France in a [letter](#) posted on the college’s official website. “I am so very sorry for the impact that the work stoppage has caused you and your family.”

Judith Morris, president and CEO of Lambton College, put up a notice of her own thanking students for their understanding.

“We look forward to welcoming our students and faculty back to the classroom,” says Morris. “I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of you who have shown immense patience and respect for our faculty, staff and students during this time.”

# UPDATED: Ontario College Strike Back-To-Work Legislation Officially Passes

[AM800 CKLW](#) - November 19th 2017



Striking faculty members walk the picket-line outside St.Clair College in Windsor on October 25, 2017.

Back-to-work legislation has officially put an end to the five-week college faculty strike.

Bill-178 passed 39 to 18 after 1pm Sunday, more than 12,000 professors, instructors, counselors, and librarians have been on the picket line since Oct. 15. The NDP slowed the Liberals push to pass the bill quickly — wanting to debate the issue — knowing legislation was inevitable.

Ontario Public Service Employees Union Local 138 President Bernie Nawrocki says knowing the decision was being handed down doesn't make it easier for union members.

"At this point the decision was made, our position is always the same," he says. "We would have hoped a negotiated deal could have occurred, and that we could have had a collective agreement that we could have both agreed upon."

Students will be back in the classroom Tuesday, but plans to condense work into a shorter time span have yet to be finalized, according to Nawrocki.

"I understand that some documents are supposed to come out later today and there will be a meeting scheduled for tomorrow [Monday] morning and at that time we'll get a good understanding as to exactly what's going on," he says.

Nawrocki says — despite the outcome of Sunday's vote — students should rest assured that teachers will resume work whole-heartedly.

"We are professionals and we will conduct ourselves in that manor and try to respect the students," he says. "We'll try to do the best we can to get things rolling."

Issues that caused teachers to hit the picket-lines will now be handled through mediated arbitration.

Nawrocki is hopeful, "issues are fairly addressed through that process, but we'll have to wait and see."

# Back-to-work legislation passed, ending college strike



The Canadian Press – CTV - November 19, 2017

Ontario has passed back-to-work legislation, ending a five-week college strike and paving the way for students to return to class.

The Liberal government first attempted to introduce the bill Thursday evening, after restarted talks between the colleges and the faculty's union reached an impasse.

But unanimous consent of all parties was needed, and the NDP refused, leading the government to introduce the legislation Friday.

It was debated through special weekend sittings in which the NDP argued it takes away workers' rights and only comes after the Liberals failed to bring the two sides together for five weeks.

The colleges have said they would need two days to restart classes, meaning students could be back on Tuesday.

Around 500,000 students have been out of class since the strike by 12,000 professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians began Oct. 15.

# Hard Work Ahead For All Involved After Ontario Colleges Strike Ends

AM800 CKLW -Sunday, November 19th 2017



AM800 File Photo of St Clair College, September 2015 (Photo by Zander Broeckel)

St. Clair College is getting ready to re-open its doors after [back-to-work legislation passed Sunday](#).

Bill-178 passed 39 to 18, forcing more than 12,000 professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians — [who have been on the picket line since Oct. 15](#) — back to work Tuesday.

St. Clair's John Fairley says administration has covered its bases and students will be ready to resume their studies.

They should follow their existing class schedule for Nov. 21, he added.

"New frequently asked questions on our website that have been anticipated or discussed on social-media, emails and phone calls we've received," he says. "Also the semester completion plans have been emailed to all the students."

Fairley admits there will be a lot of kinks to work out, but the college will work with students to resolve issues when they're brought forward.

"People have been asking about parking, my parking pass has been paid up until December and now you're going into January for part of the fall semester," says Fairley. "We've extended everyone's parking passes. Things like that are small things, but it's big to some people."

The strike dragged on for five weeks, but Fairley says with some adjustments, the fall semester will have minimal impact moving into the New Year.

"Taking away some holiday time and teaching all the way up to Dec. 22, coming back Jan. 2 instead of Jan.9," he says. "The fall semester is going to be a total of 14 weeks compared to 15 weeks, so really there's only been one week lost."

St. Clair College Student Representative Council President Nick Goran says that condensed schedule is at the forefront in most of his classmates minds.

"Time is the big issue at this point, we only have so much time, are we going to be able to cram all this information in," he says. "At this point we believe that it is possible."

Fairley says the college is aware of the added stress reduced holiday and preparation time can have on both students and staff — administration will work with the SRC.

Goran says making up for the loss of that downtime needs to be a priority — both faculty and students need to unplug throughout the semester.

"A de-stress week, we usually do that later on during exam week, but I think that task will be extended on throughout the semester," says Goran. "It's going to be a big, big thing on campus to try to assure students we are there for them."

The province mandated a "[\*hardship fund\*](#)" made up of unpaid wages to striking staff and other savings from not operating the schools.

Goran says the SRC will make sure the students have a voice in the process of deciding how the money is distributed.

"We will be sitting on that fund regulation [committee] on how the fund is administered, but at the same time our focus is on the success of students," he says. "We will plan accordingly to what the students need, and what they ask for."

Both Goran and Fairley say input from students is imperative moving forward. They encourage anyone with concerns, or in need of help, to reach out.

Ontario Public Service Employees Union Local 138 President Bernie Nawrocki says — [\*despite the outcome of Sundays vote\*](#) — students should rest assured that teachers will resume work whole-heartedly.

Details of the Fall Semester Completion Plan are available at [www.stclaircollege.ca](http://www.stclaircollege.ca).

# St. Clair College Moving On After Strike

Blackburn News - November 20, 2017

St. Clair College is working in overdrive to resume its semester after the end of the Ontario college strike.

The five-week strike, the longest for Ontario's colleges in the province's history, ended Sunday when the provincial legislature [voted on a back-to-work plan](#) that is sending faculty back to the classroom. Faculty are reporting Monday with the students returning on Tuesday.

St. Clair College spokesman John Fairley says the college has had a back-to-school plan ready to go for some time.

"Our semester completion plans are out," says Fairley. "With that there's really been no change to what we'd announced a few weeks ago, in early November."

Now that the strike has been stopped, Fairley says St. Clair now has concrete dates for its semesters. As announced before, the fall term will extend one week beyond schedule to break on December 22. The usual three-week holiday break has been cut to one week with fall classes resuming Wednesday, January 3, 2018.

Fairley says it's unfortunate that the holiday break is cut short since everyone involved with the college will have less time to work a job, or visit family and friends outside the area before the fall term resumes after New Year's.

"There's been a loss of holiday time for our staff as well as, most importantly, our students," says Fairley. "We accept that and we accept the criticism for it, but we had to have the outcomes to make it work, and that's where we're at."

Fall semester exams and final projects will be handed in from January 16 to 20. The winter 2018 term begins on January 22 and will run 13 weeks, ending on its previously-scheduled date of April 27.

The college says classes should not have any assignments due or tests scheduled for the first week back, and that the college will be open over the holiday break to help students prepare for exams or catch up on projects. Facilities such as campus libraries and labs will be open extended hours on evenings and weekends as space and security allows.

Classes should be back running Tuesday at the main Windsor campus, St. Clair Centre for the Arts and MediaPlex, as well as the main Chatham campus.

The college has prepared its comprehensive back-to-school plan for students and staff to review. To see the plan, click [here](#).



# Ontario college faculty head back to work after legislation ends 5-week strike

**Back-to-work legislation passed 39-18 over the weekend**

The Canadian Press / CBC - Nov 20, 2017



About 12,000 college professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians who began work action on Oct. 15 will be back at schools today, with classes for some 500,000 students set to resume

College faculty in Ontario head back to their schools today, after a five-week strike was ended over the weekend with back-to-work legislation.

The 12,000 professors, instructors, counsellors and librarians who had been on strike since Oct. 15 will return to work today to prepare for students' return on Tuesday.

Colleges are extending their semesters so students don't lose their terms, but student advocates say trying to condense five missed weeks into roughly two extra ones will be very stressful.

They are pushing for students who feel they won't be able to complete their semesters to be allowed to withdraw and receive refunds.

The provincial government has ordered the colleges to create a fund using savings from the strike to help students who may be experiencing financial hardship because of the labour dispute.

The Liberal government first tried to introduce and pass the back-to-work legislation in one fell swoop on Thursday night after talks stalled again, but the NDP said due diligence was needed.

# Can you opt out? St. Clair College's plan to make up for 5 weeks of lost time

Students can opt out of this semester until December 11, with no tuition refund

[CBC News](#) Nov 20, 2017



Saurav Katara left his job with BMW in Germany to enrol in the International Business

Administration at St. Clair College have outlined their plans to accommodate students for the five weeks of time they've lost this semester, after a province-wide strike.

"With consultation with our student government leaders we've put together a plan we believe is going to finish the fall semester and not to the liking of everybody but we'll do our best and get the outcomes needed for graduation," said John Fairley, Vice President of College and Community Relations at St. Clair College.

Fairley said this semester would be shortened to 14 weeks, rather than the full 15. That will mean teaching will continue until December 22 and students will return from holiday break on January 2 instead of on January 9.



John Fairley, Vice President of College and Community Relations at St. Clair College outlines the school's plans to make-up five lost weeks of this semester. (Michael Hargreaves/CBC)

Exams would begin a "couple of weeks later" and the semester would most likely end on January 20, said Fairley.

Fairley said the college has extended the date for students to opt out of this semester — with no penalties to their transcripts — to December 11. However, there will be no refunds.

The ministry will be outlining plans for a 'relief fund' this week, to help some students cover potential costs, Fairly said.

"All the 24 colleges have given input in it, so we're expecting in a few days to get that rolled out for our students," said Fairley.

Classes resume on Tuesday. Fairley said that regular scheduled classes and apprenticeships will go back to normal, as they were before the strike.

## 'We want a fresh semester'

Business and accounting student Betty Sylvain said she is "confused and disappointed" with the way the college has handled the strike.

"As students we are the customers that paid for a service, our college is the service provider, we do not get the service we paid for," she said.



Betty Sylvain, a St. Clair College student, is worried about childcare, now that the semester will overlap with holidays. (Jason Viau/CBC)

Sylvain plans to go to the college on Monday, to see what kind of services they are offering students. She has a five-year-old son who will need care as she accommodates the school's new schedule.

"Is St Clair College going to provide service to students who have kids, are they going to make sure we have what we need to succeed," she said. "We have life, we have responsibilities."

Although she would like to have a fresh semester, Sylvain plans to attend classes despite what she is expecting to be a "hostile environment."

"This was the longest strike in the history of Ontario and all the government decided to send us back to school, the teachers don't want to be there the students don't want to be there... it's not going to be a healthy environment for the students to learn in."

# College Students Eligible For Full Tuition Refund

AM800 CKLW – November 20, 2017



Striking faculty members walk the picket-line outside St.Clair College in Windsor on October 25, 2017. (Photo by AM800's Kimberley Johnson)

Financial help is on the way for students impacted by the province-wide college strike.

Colleges will be required to establish a dedicated student support fund with net savings from the strike. That money will be allocated to assist students who have experienced financial hardship as a result of the job action.

Students who decide to withdraw from college because of the strike will also receive a full tuition refund. After returning to classes, students will have a two-week window to determine how comfortable they are with a condensed semester and have the option to withdraw and receive the refund.

Full-time domestic and international students will be eligible to receive up to \$500 for incremental unexpected costs they incurred such as rent or bus and plane tickets.

In a statement, President of the College Student Alliance says, “we are thankful students finally have a voice after five long weeks of being ignored.”

The province says apprentices can also apply for a full refund of classroom fees if they cannot to complete their in-school training for strike-related reasons.

# Colleges Must Establish Student Support Fund From Strike Savings

The Square - 20 November 2017

(TORONTO, ON) – Ontario is ensuring that college students returning to classes following the strike will receive the support they need to complete their studies. The province has required colleges to establish dedicated student support funds with net savings from the strike which will assist students who have experienced financial hardship as a result of the strike.

“Over the past month, I have heard from students about hardships they have experienced as a result of this strike,” said Deb Matthews, the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development. “It is clear that they have borne the brunt of this situation. That’s why we are taking these measures to ensure students have the support they need to complete their studies, and continue working towards an education that will allow them to succeed in a highly-skilled workforce”

The Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Labour Dispute Resolution Act, 2017 was passed by the Ontario legislature yesterday to end the college labour dispute and return students to the classroom. All outstanding issues are to be referred to binding mediation-arbitration.

Full-time domestic and international students will be eligible to receive up to \$500 for incremental, unexpected costs they incurred, such as additional child care fees, rebooked train or bus tickets, or January rent.

Ontario expects that students will be able to apply to their college for financial assistance through the fund starting this week. Any strike-related support will not count against a student’s OSAP assessment. Students currently receiving OSAP who were likely to graduate before December 31 of this year, and who have their current semester extended, will receive additional OSAP for the length of the extension. OSAP will start making payments for extensions in mid-December, after college extension plans are finalized.

Students currently receiving OSAP who have their winter semesters extended past the normal end date will also receive additional OSAP aid.

Students who withdraw from their studies have two weeks from the re-start of classes to receive a full tuition refund. Apprentices can also apply for a full refund of classroom fees if they are unable to complete their in-school training for reasons related to the strike.

These financial supports for students were determined through consultations with student leaders and their provincial associations and colleges. The province will continue to work with students and colleges to finalize implementation plans in the coming days.

# Province releases details for applying to Student Hardship Fund

Windsor Star - November 20, 2017

All full-time domestic and international students will be eligible for up to \$500 from the Student Hardship Fund to cover additional expenses resulting from the five-week long community college faculty strike.

All full-time domestic and international students will be eligible for up to \$500 from the Student Hardship Fund to cover additional expenses resulting from the five-week long community college faculty strike.

The fund will cover unexpected expenses ranging from additional rent to child care and re-booked tickets for travel.

Students should be able to apply for help from the fund later this week.

In addition, the government has confirmed students who decide to withdraw because of the strike will get a full tuition refund. Students have two weeks from the re-start of class to apply for a full tuition refund.

Apprentices can also apply for classroom fee refunds if they are unable to complete their training for strike-related reasons.

Any money received from the hardship fund will have no impact on OSAP grants or loans.

The province also announced that OSAP will be extended to cover the extension of the first semester. For students who also face an extension of their second semester they will also be eligible to get additional OSAP funds to cover those expenses.

# Ontario college faculty set for return as province rolls out student aid

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - November 20, 2017



OPSEU 110 president Darryl Bedford leads a group of 10 other teachers back to work at Fanshawe College in London, Ont. on Monday November 20, 2017. Derek Ruttan/The London Free Press/Postmedia Network

One day after the provincial government legislated them back to work after five weeks on the picket line, Fanshawe College faculty returned to class Monday morning, as the province announced extra financial support for strike-displaced students

A small group of about 11 staff members braved the cold once again for a march into the school for faculty meetings and last-minute lesson planning before students arrive Tuesday.

“I’m glad that I won’t be standing out in the cold all day, that’s for sure,” said Kathleen Dindoff, Fanshawe psychology professor.

“I don’t know how we’re going to get things ready to deliver tomorrow in just this one day. . . but I’m very glad to be back with the students. Hopefully the arbitrator will have more flexibility than the College Employer Council.”

The government announced Monday full-time and international students affected by the strike are eligible for up to \$500 for unexpected costs, like child care fees, rebooked train or bus tickets or January rent. The province is expecting students will be able to apply to their college for financial assistance starting this week.

Students who drop out of college because of the strike will receive a full tuition refund, the province announced Monday. Apprenticeship students can also apply for a full refund if they can’t complete their in-school training because of the strike.

“I have heard from students about hardships they have experienced as a result of this strike. It is clear that they have borne the brunt of this situation,” Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews said in a statement Monday.

“That’s why we are taking these measures to ensure students have the support they need to complete their studies.”

The announcement comes one day after Bill 178, the legislation to push the striking faculty back to work, passed its third and final reading. The provincial New Democrats forced a rare weekend sitting of the legislature by refusing to fast-track first, second and third readings – a plan pushed for by the Liberals and Progressive Conservatives.

Under the back-to-work legislation, all outstanding issues between the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) and College Employer Council will be referred to binding mediation-arbitration – a process that could take months, said union bargaining team member Darryl Bedford.

“It’s not ideal, we would have preferred a negotiated settlement. But we’re back,” he said, adding both sides have five days to mutually select an arbitrator.

“We now have to go to binding arbitration and make our case. Bargaining continues, it’s just a very different phase. . . . Hearings are to start, I think, within 30 days. It’s a long road from here still.”

Fanshawe has extended its fall semester until Jan. 16. Classes will run until Dec. 22 and start up again Jan. 3. The winter term will begin on Jan. 22 and finish April 27.

The London-based college employs 540 full-time and about 300 partial-load instructors and has satellite campuses in Simcoe, Woodstock and St. Thomas. Sarnia’s Lambton College and St. Clair College’s Windsor and Chatham campuses were also shuttered by the strike.

More than 12,000 college professors, instructors, librarians and counsellors walked off the job Oct. 16 after negotiations between OPSEU and the colleges stalled.

The five-week job action – which cast some half-million students out of class – has lasted longer than any other faculty strike in the five-decade history of Ontario’s public college system.

### **Strike timeline**

Oct. 16 – 12,000 faculty hit the picket line at 12:01 a.m. after negotiations with College Employer Council stall

Oct. 20 – Student leaders pen open letter to province urging it to step in to end the strike

Oct. 26 – Striking Fanshawe faculty host rally at Victoria Park in London

Nov. 1 – Students rally at Queen’s Park, Fanshawe College announces it’s extending its term until Dec. 22

Nov. 2 – Both sides return to the bargaining table, OPSEU hosts Queen’s Park rally

Nov. 6 – Talks break down, colleges approach Ontario Labour Relations Board to bring final offer to a vote with OPSEU rank-and-file members

Nov. 7 – Ontario Labour Relations Board sets a date for final offer vote

Nov. 10 – Fanshawe students rally at Oxford Street campus

Nov. 14 – Two-day final offer vote begins, students launch potential class action lawsuit against colleges.

Nov. 16 – OPSEU overwhelmingly votes to reject council’s offer, both sides meet with Premier Kathleen Wynne, back to work legislation announced.

Nov. 17 – First reading of Bill 178, New Democrats decline to push through second and third readings, forcing a rare weekend sitting of the legislature.

Nov. 18 – Bill 178 passes second reading, New Democrats reject immediately, proceeding to third and final vote.

Nov. 19 – Back-to-work legislation passes third reading, receives royal assent

Nov. 20 – Striking faculty at Ontario’s 24 public colleges return to class

Nov. 21 – After 25 days of missed class, students set to return to school.



# Tuition Refunds Offered To Drop Outs

Blackburn News - November 20, 2017

College students who decide to drop out because of the faculty strike will be able to get full tuition refunds.

The Ontario government announced on Monday that students who withdraw from college will have two weeks from the restart of classes get a full tuition refund. The news comes one day after back-to-work legislation passed to send the 12,000 college instructors, counselors, and librarians back to their schools. Classes for the half-a-million students at the province's 24 public colleges resume Tuesday, five weeks after faculty walked off the job.

Apprentices will also be able to put in for a full refund of classroom fees if they are unable to complete their in-school training as a result of the strike.

Earlier this month, the Liberal government ordered colleges to setup a dedicated student support fund, using money saved as a result of the strike, to help students struggling financially due to the labour dispute.

"Over the past month, I have heard from students about hardships they have experienced as a result of this strike. It is clear that they have borne the brunt of this situation," said Deputy Premier Deb Matthews, who also serves as the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development. "That's why we are taking these measures to ensure students have the support they need to complete their studies, and continue working towards an education that will allow them to succeed in a highly-skilled workforce."

The fund will allow full time domestic and international students to receive up to \$500 unexpected costs they incurred, such as additional child care fees, rebooked train or bus tickets, or January rent. This money will not count against students OSAP assessments.

Students should be able to begin applying through their college for the additional support later this week.

The fall term has been extended at each of the colleges into the new year. That has also delayed the start of the winter semester.

## Details Of College Students Hardship Fund Released

WindsoriteDOTca News - November 20th, 2017



The Ontario government has announced that full-time domestic and international students will be eligible to receive up to \$500 for incremental unexpected costs they incurred, such as additional child care fees, rebooked train or bus tickets or January rent as a result of the college strike.

Students who decide to withdraw from college because of the strike will receive a full tuition refund. Apprentices can also apply for a full refund of classroom fees if they are unable to complete their in-school training for reasons related to the strike.

These financial supports for students were determined through consultations with student leaders and their provincial associations and colleges.

# Ontario college students' return to classes not so easy

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - November 20, 2017



South Korea's Seongtae Ha, who studies supply-chain management at Fanshawe College, hits the books Sunday in a school restaurant before classes resume Tuesday after a five-week strike. (Mike Hensen/The London Free Press)

A sudden government ordered return to school will load additional pressure on college students already worried about playing catch-up with their studies, students said Sunday.

Back-to-work legislation passed Sunday in the Ontario legislature means college staff will be back at their schools Monday, followed by students Tuesday, a short timeline to jump back into studies.

"I'm really discouraged. I think a lot of students will not feel motivated" as they head back to class, said Shauna Freemantle, 19, a second-year business marketing student at Fanshawe.

"It will be hard to get back into the mindset. The first three weeks I stayed on top of my work, and then I gave up. I thought the semester was going to be cancelled. Now, I will sit down, go over my course outline and try to figure out what to expect when I go back."

Delayed by the NDP after it refused consent, legislation forcing 12,000 professors, instructors, counsellors and librarians to return to work was passed Sunday by the Ontario Liberals in a rare weekend session of the legislature.



*Shauna Freemantle, 19, a Business Marketing student at Fanshawe College is getting ready for school at her apartment in London. (Mike Hensen/The London Free Press)*

College staff walked off the job Oct. 16, keeping about 500,000 students out of classes for five weeks and forcing colleges to extend the fall semester into the New Year.

How lost time will be made up is an added pressure that may take its toll on some students, said Shyanne Drewery, a first-year social work student at Fanshawe.

“I am really frustrated about those five weeks. I feel as though they were for nothing. The worst part of it is it affects student mental health. We are entering what they call suicide season. It is a difficult time and some may not be resilient enough.”

The legislation sends all outstanding issues to binding mediation arbitration.

Freemantle and Drewery said the government should have stepped in earlier to end the strike, and they criticized the NDP for blocking efforts to order instructors back to work earlier.

Fanshawe College issued a statement Sunday confirming classes will return Tuesday and the fall semester will be extended to Jan. 16. Classes will run until Dec. 22 and resume Jan. 3 and there will be no classes or exams over that holiday period.

“In the coming days we will provide details about how students will complete their semester,” the college stated. Students were encouraged to go to the school’s website for updates.

For the instructors, librarians and counsellors going back to work there is relief, but they’re also frustrated by “heavy handed politics to get them back on the job,” said Darryl Bedford, president of London Local 110 of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union that represents Fanshawe staff.

“After the vote Thursday to reject the offer (from the colleges) we had two hours to negotiate something and there was legislation quickly after that,” said Bedford, who sits on the bargaining team for the union.

Now, the union will prepare its case for arbitration and it may be several months before a ruling resolves the matter, he said.

“It is good it’s over but the hard work is just beginning. We will make our case before the arbitrator and it is a different style of bargaining to try to convince a neutral third party your position is sound, but we’re confident.”

Staff will meet Monday with human resources to determine the workload for full-time faculty as well as for those with partial load, and some contracts will need to be extended to make up the time, Bedford said.

“There’s a lot to sort out.”

The Liberal government first attempted to introduce the bill Thursday evening, after restarted talks between the colleges and the faculty’s union reached an impasse.

But unanimous consent of all parties was needed and the NDP refused, leading the government to introduce the legislation Friday.

It was debated through special weekend sittings in which the NDP argued it takes away workers’ rights and only comes after the Liberals failed to bring the two sides together for five weeks.

The students have been out of the classroom almost as long as they were in class before the strike, Drewery said,

“I have some expensive textbooks I have not used much and I will crack them open. I know counsellors will be available to help create a plan, but it will be crazy in those offices,” she said.

The College Student Alliance is pushing for students who feel they won’t be able to complete their semesters to be able to withdraw and receive refunds.

The provincial government has ordered the colleges to create a fund — using savings from the strike, for example by not paying faculty wages — to help students who may be experiencing financial hardship because of the labour dispute.

Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews, MPP for London North Centre, has estimated that amount would be about \$5 million.

“This terrible chapter is over,” she said.

The colleges welcomed the back-to-work legislation, saying all efforts at the bargaining table had been exhausted.

“The strike has been incredibly disruptive to students and we needed to end it,” Sonia Del Missier, the head of the colleges’ bargaining team, said in a statement.

The colleges have said their final offer included a 7.75 per cent salary increase over four years, improved benefits and measures to address concerns regarding part-time faculty, with language surrounding academic freedom remaining as the only major outstanding issue.

But the union said the offer contained “serious concessions” that were not agreed to that would erode faculty rights and contribute to an unsustainable staffing model.

# College students back in class Tuesday after MPPs order end to strike

**Back-to-work legislation means faculty report for work Monday, with 500,000 students following Tuesday to jump-start a semester stalled five weeks ago.**

OurWindsor.ca News - 08:43 AM – Toronto Star



After three days of delays, Liberal government and Progressive Conservative MPPs joined forces Sunday to order 12,000 striking college teachers — and their students — back to class over NDP objections.

Faculty report for work Monday and 500,000 students follow Tuesday to jump-start a semester stalled five weeks ago by what became the longest college strike in Ontario history.

“We have some work to do to look at why the system failed students,” acknowledged deputy premier Deb Matthews, also minister of advanced education.

“We’re going to take a really good look at the process of bargaining and see if there’s any way we can prevent this from ever happening again,” she added, promising details on fund of at least \$5 million to help students facing financial hardships from the strike “very soon.”

The term will be extended two weeks to Dec. 22 in many programs, the winter reading week likely will be axed, and “a week or two” will be added to the school year next spring to make up for lost time, said chief executive Don Sinclair of the College Employer Council.

“It’s going to be a very busy rest of the semester,” Joel Willett, president of the College Student Alliance, told reporters at Queen’s Park.

“They have indicated to us they are very frustrated. This deal should have been done weeks ago.”

Matthews said the semester has been “saved,” although Sinclair cautioned that students slated to finish their courses and graduate in December could face more difficulty given the time crunch.

“That will be a bit of a challenge,” he said in an interview with the Star.

Political recriminations continued after MPPs spent barely 35 minutes debating and voting Sunday on the back-to-work legislation the government had hoped to pass Thursday night, allowing time for students to return Monday.

New Democrats refused the unanimous consent required to pass the bill immediately, forcing the Legislature to hold rare extra sessions Friday, Saturday and Sunday, bringing in support staff on extra shifts or overtime.

“It could have been Monday,” Matthews said. “For people who have classes Monday, it’s another week . . . it is a meaningful delay and completely unnecessary.”

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath rejected the government’s interpretation as “spin,” maintaining the bill is “anti-worker” and deserved debate and scrutiny.

“Whether that process started Thursday or Friday makes no difference in terms of the outcome,” she said.

With a provincial election looming next June 7 and public opinion polls suggesting a tight race, Horwath was asked if an NDP government would allow such a college strike to continue indefinitely.

“I do not believe in back-to-work legislation. New Democrats don’t believe in back-to-work legislation. It’s something we fundamentally think is a breach of people’s charter rights,” she replied, referring to protections for collective bargaining that have been upheld by the Supreme Court.

Matthews quickly pounced on Horwath’s remark.

“That’s an astonishing statement . . . the strike could have gone on forever.”

Horwath said the government should have used powers under college legislation to direct the College Employer Council to amend its negotiating positions weeks ago when it was clear a deal was not coming together with the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

“I’m not going to presuppose what might happen in the future but what I can tell you is this . . . I would do everything . . . I possibly could do . . . to prevent a strike from happening in the first place,” Horwath added.

Union president Warren “Smokey” Thomas said he could not fault Premier Kathleen Wynne’s government for introducing the back-to-work legislation.

“If I was the premier and it was down to this particular juncture, I’d do what she’s doing,” he said in an interview. “The whole session’s in jeopardy.”

However, Thomas added he will consider a legal challenge of the legislation’s constitutionality.

Calling the strike a “catastrophe” for students, he heralded the promise of a “task force” to study issues like the fact that 70 per cent of college faculty are part-time, which was a sticking point for the union given concerns about precarious work. Academic freedom was another key issue in the strike.

The contract dispute, in the meantime, will go to binding mediation and arbitration for settlement in the coming months. The last offer from the colleges, rejected by the union Thursday with a of 86 per cent vote, included a pay raise of 7.75 per cent over four years.

Progressive Conservative deputy leader Sylvia Jones blamed the lengthy strike on both Wynne and the New Democrats.

“Unfortunately, because of the failure of the Liberal government in their action and pushing it back, and unfortunately, because of the NDP’s intransigence and refusal to actually move forward on Thursday afternoon and evening, we are sitting here today,” she said.

# College students can get tuition refund if they withdraw from school, say officials

Ministry of Advanced Education outlines plans for students, who return to class Tuesday

[CBC News](#) Nov 20, 2017 12:43 PM



The Ontario [government announced Monday](#) students will receive a full tuition refund if they withdraw from college because of the strike.

The move comes after the Liberals passed back-to-work legislation over the weekend, ending the college strike after five weeks.

The Ministry of Advanced Education stated in a press release that colleges will be required to offer support funds to students "who have experienced financial hardship as a result of the strike," using the net savings the institutions incurred over the last five weeks.

Full-time students will be eligible to receive up to \$500 for costs including child care fees, rebooking transportation tickets, or rent, according to the release. Student will have to apply to their college for the financial aid.

The province will also refund tuition for students if they decide to withdraw from their college because of the strike. Students who withdraw from their studies have two weeks from the re-start of classes to receive a full tuition refund.

John Fairley, Vice President of College and Community Relations at St. Clair College, said to get the full refund for this semester, students would have to withdraw from the college. If they want to return next semester, they would have to go through the application process again.

Fairley said St. Clair College students have until December 11 to withdraw from this semester without any penalties to their transcripts, but if they plan on staying enrolled they will not receive a tuition refund.

## OSAP

The province said any strike-related support would not count against OSAP assessments.

OSAP will also be extended for students whose winter semesters have been prolonged due to the strike.

More to come.



# Class Action Lawsuit Over College Strike Is Still On

Blackburn News - November 20, 2017 12:00pm

A Wheatley woman who helped initiate a class-action lawsuit on behalf of students during the college faculty strike has no intention of withdrawing the legal action.

The [Ontario government announced Monday it would refund tuition](#) for students who had to drop out during the five-week strike. Premier Kathleen Wynne also reaffirmed a hardship fund for students would give them up to \$500 for things like childcare costs and rent. Apprentices who lost classroom time will also be refunded a portion of their tuition.

However, Catelyn Foulon says the hardship fund is only for those who stay in school, and \$500 is not nearly enough.

“I talked to a mom today who over the course of the strike paid over \$1,600 for daycare for her son,” she says. “So, \$500 is kind of a joke at this point.”

Foulon says the Toronto-based law firm hired to file the [class-action](#) is still looking over the announcement from the province, but unlike the hardship fund, the [action demands money for residence fees, meal plans, transportation costs, and child care](#).

It alleges the colleges breached their contract with students by not providing the in-class time for which they paid.

Foulon says the response to the class-action has taken off across the province.

“As of Friday we were around 15,000,” she says. “I can only assume that it has way surpassed that this weekend.”

Students are expected to resume classes Tuesday after the government legislated faculty back to work over the weekend.

It does not mean faculty has a collective agreement with the College Employer Council. At least in the short term, faculty will work without an agreement.

## **Students who quit college because of strike can get tuition refund**

**And those who are staying enrolled can apply for up to \$500 in financial aid, as government recognizes impact strike has had on student finances.**

OurWindsor.ca News/ Hamilton Spectator -November 20, 2017



Deb Matthews, Ontario's Minister for Advanced Education: "Over the past month, I have heard from students about hardships they have experienced as a result of this strike." - Chris Young, The Canadian Press

Students who quit college because of the five-week strike can get full tuition refunds, while those who are staying can apply for up to \$500 in financial aid, Deb Matthews, the Minister for Advanced Education, said Monday.

The aid for full-time domestic and international students will cover unexpected costs such as child care, rebooked train and bus tickets and January rent.

"Over the past month, I have heard from students about hardships they have experienced as a result of this strike," Matthews said in a statement issued as 12,000 faculty at colleges across the province reported for work following the passage of back-to-work legislation on Sunday.

Students return to class Tuesday and will see their semesters extended to Dec. 22, just three days before Christmas, meaning those who booked trips home may face additional fees to change their travel dates.

The aid money will come from the net savings colleges have from not paying their striking staff during the labour dispute. Students will apply to their college for the money. Applications are available later this week, the government said.

Payouts to students from the fund will not count against their Ontario Student Assistance Plan assessments.

Students receiving OSAP money who have their current semester extended and were likely to graduate by December 31 will receive additional assistance money for as long as their course program continues.

Any student deciding to quit college has two weeks to get a refund.

There are about 500,000 full- and part-time college students in Ontario.

# St. Clair President Reassuring Students As They Return To Class

AM800 CKLW - Monday, November 20th 2017



St. Clair College President Patti France meets with students and faculty to discuss post-strike process (Photo by AM800's Rob Hindi)

Students are heading back to class Tuesday at St. Clair College after a five week long faculty strike.

College President Patti France met with a handful of concerned students Monday to discuss how the remainder of the semester will roll out.

She says the normal 15 week semester will be condensed to 14 weeks and the college will be open over the holidays.

Final exams will wrap up January 20 with the winter semester start date delayed to January 22.

France says faculty and students are trying to remain positive.

"It's been an emotional roller coaster, I think, for five weeks for everybody. Faculty are glad to be back into the classroom, although I'm sure an agreement would have been the preferable method to get them back, but a lot of students that I've spoken to are very happy that the work stoppage is over."

Paralegal student Brennon Jacobs met with France and says it's been a tough five weeks, but he's ready to get going.

"It's been tough just trying to figure out what I want to do with myself exactly. Work, study, school, all that. It's been hard, it's been all kinds of things. I'm very eager to get going again. I'm very eager to get going again. I'm very eager to continue on with my life. There's no point in being upset about it now. I'm ready to keep going and I can't wait to see what happens."

France says they're doing their best to get the latest information to the student body.

"There's a lot of information online and to be honest, I wish the information could come faster for our students. Unfortunately it's coming out daily and hourly. So we're trying to work with our

colleagues in the province and the ministry so that we can communicate all of those details to students."

France adds, faculty will be tweaking course content to fit fewer classroom hours.

"The faculty were asked to look at their individual courses and determine how to best deliver those courses. We didn't want it to be administration determining that. It's not our place. I have every confidence that our professional faculty and support staff will do everything that they can to ensure students are as successful as they can possibly be."

Jacobs says he's confident the college will support students through the process.

"I know there's so many rules and so much that a college can do when you're bound by provincial legislation. I am so grateful for everything this college is doing and I know that they have rules they have to follow, they have boundaries and I respect everything they're doing and I understand and I very much appreciate everything that they're doing."



Faculty on strike at St. Clair College. November 16, 2017 (Photo by AM800's Teresinha Medeiros)

Jacobs adds, he's feeling better moving forward after meeting with France.

"I'm just going to continue on with school. Money is money. Money will come. The government will figure something out. We'll figure something out. The college will figure something out. I'm just going to continue on learning the best I can and I appreciate all this that's going on with the school and they're trying their best to help up in any way."

Teachers were forced back to the classroom without a new contract after back-to-work legislation was passed over the weekend.

Monday, Minister of Education Deb Matthews announced students can apply for grants or full tuition reimbursement.

Students now have a two week window to withdraw to receive the refund.

# College president sees time for healing after St. Clair strike

St. Clair College students will be back to school Tuesday morning, but it's hardly back to normal.

Windsor Star - November 20, 2017

St. Clair College students are heading back to school Tuesday, but it's hardly back to normal.

If college president Patti France had any doubt about just how raw emotions were after a five-week strike by college faculty, a two-hour meeting with students was a reminder of the delicate task ahead.

"The last six weeks have seemed like 10 years," France said. "I wonder what my (Barack) Obama before (being U.S. president) and after picture will look like?"

At Monday's unscheduled meeting with nine students, anger and frustration bubbled to the surface at times, along with gestures of appreciation for being back at school.

"It's much better to hear about all the things that were presented," said second-year paralegal student Brennon Jacobs, who got up before the meeting's end to shake the hand of every college administrator and thanked them for their efforts to make the best of a difficult situation.

"I didn't know all the things they're trying to do to help me out. I'm grateful for what they're doing.

"It's very tough for everyone. I'm excited to go back to school even though I know it'll be a lot of work."

Students were also given some key details of the Student Support Fund on Monday.



A small group of students wait outside the office of St. Clair College president Patti France for an opportunity for a Q&A session regarding the return to school after a five-week strike. Dan Janisse / Windsor Star



St. Clair College president Patti France, left, speaks with paralegal student Charlotte Swanson on Nov. 20, 2017, at the main campus. Dan Janisse / Windsor Star

Through the program, all full-time domestic and international students will be eligible for up to \$500 from the fund to cover additional expenses resulting from the strike.

The fund will cover unexpected expenses ranging from additional rent to child care and re-booked tickets for travel.

Students should be able to apply for help from the fund later this week.

In addition, the provincial government has confirmed that students who decide to withdraw because of the strike will get a full tuition refund. Students have two weeks from the restart of class to apply for a full tuition refund.

Apprentices can also apply for classroom fee refunds if they are unable to complete their training for strike-related reasons.

Any money received from the hardship fund will have no impact on OSAP grants or loans.

The province also announced that OSAP will be extended to cover the extension of the first semester. For students who also face an extension of their second semester they will also be eligible to get additional OSAP funds to cover those expenses.

While the college saved about \$2.5 million in salaries during the strike, that money will be put toward the Student Support Fund. And France said the college's financial support won't end there.

The criteria for qualifying for the support fund is still being determined by the province. St. Clair College plans to handle applications online beginning this week.

"If we have \$4 million of claims that meet the criteria and there's only \$2 million in the fund, it doesn't matter," France said. "We'll have to find the money elsewhere to help all those students."

France also urged students explore the bursaries and emergency loans the college also offers through its website.

While she has received some genuine support, France knows she will continue to be a target for frustrated rants for some time yet.

“I try hard not to take things personally,” France said.

France said it can be particularly awkward because, with faculty being legislated back to work, the scars of the strike have not been allowed to heal with binding arbitration still looming.

In a Monday letter to the faculty, France addressed that elephant in the room.

“I’d rather the faculty had come back with an agreement,” France said. “I took a few minutes to welcome them back. I’d like to spend more time on that when it’s not so hectic.

“I think of everyone at the college as a family. That hasn’t changed because of five tense weeks.”

As much as she’d like to believe those five weeks can be pushed into the rear-view mirror, France acknowledges there has been damage suffered by all parties — especially the students.

“You felt powerless,” said France about what was toughest to take. “There’s no words I can give to assure anyone.

“I can only point to past indicators. Our faculty are professionals and they care about student success as much as anyone here.”

France sees her role as one of support and of helping to put all the pieces back together.

She believes her task is made easier by one of the very issues — academic freedom — that remains unsettled at the bargaining table.

“We welcome input from our faculty,” France said. “Our faculty helped develop our courses.

“We’re implementing some tweaks they’ve suggested to our contingency plans. We’ve consulted with our student leaders.

“I believe we have excellent relationships with our faculty, support staff and students because we value that input.”



St. Clair College president Patti France, front left, walks with students on Nov. 20, 2017, at the main campus. She met with the students to answer questions about the return to school after a five-week strike.

# Full tuition refunds offered to students as Ontario college strike ends



CTV Windsor - November 20, 2017

The Ontario government is offering a full tuition refund to St. Clair College students who withdraw from this semester because of the province's five-week-long college strike.

The Ministry of Advanced Education says students across the province will have two weeks from the resumption of classes tomorrow to decide whether or not they want to continue with the condensed semester.

The government says students will also be eligible to receive up to \$500 for unexpected costs they incurred because of the labour dispute, such as childcare fees, rebooked train or bus tickets, or rent.

St. Clair College spokesperson John Fairley tells CTV News their [website](#) will be updated regularly as new reimbursement information is made available.

"We want to be sensitive to where people are at in their lives and what this has done," says St. Clair spokesperson John Fairley.

College faculty in Ontario were back in their schools Monday, after the strike was ended over the weekend with back-to-work legislation.

The 12,000 professors, instructors, counsellors and librarians, who had been on strike since Oct. 15, are returning to work to prepare for students' return on Tuesday.

Ontario's Liberal government first tried to introduce and pass the back-to-work legislation in one fell swoop Thursday night but the NDP forced the legislature to sit through the weekend to debate the bill, ultimately passing it Sunday afternoon.

## Here are some of the date changes at St. Clair as part of its contingency plan:

- The college's drop date (without academic penalty) will be moved from Nov. 14 to a proposed date of Dec. 11.
- Classes will be extended to Dec. 22.
- The Holiday Break will be from Dec. 25 - Jan. 1. The college will be open on Dec. 27 - 30 to access services
- Fall classes will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018.
- Exams will be scheduled in Jan. 16-20, 2018.
- The January semester will be delayed accordingly but total semester duration will be 14 weeks • March Break (March 12 - March 16) will continue as planned, with the exception of the Collaborative Nursing program, which is scheduled Feb. 19 - Feb. 23.

College officials say due to changes to the academic calendar, contingency plans will support students who have prior travel commitments.



# Students meet with St. Clair College president to voice back to class concerns

Students will receive an updated syllabus Tuesday

[CBC News](#) - Nov 20, 2017 5



A handful of students met face-to-face with St.Clair College president Patti France to voice their concerns ahead of their return to classes Tuesday. (Jason Viau/CBC)

A handful of students met face-to-face with St.Clair College president Patti France to voice their concerns ahead of their return to classes Tuesday.

Several paralegal students were worried about their eligibility to take their upcoming competency exam, while others had questions about childcare costs they didn't expect because the semester will now stretch into their holiday break.

# Students Return to St. Clair College

Blackburn News - November 21, 2017

The strike saga for St. Clair College ends Tuesday as students return to class.

Over 10,000 students are expected to head back to the college's Windsor and Chatham campuses, two days after the Ontario legislature approved back-to-work legislation to send the college's faculty back to the classroom. The faculty returned to work Monday.

Despite losing five weeks of classroom instruction to the labour dispute, the college says they are doing whatever is necessary to ensure students [have a smooth transition](#) back into college life.

To help recoup the time lost, the college is extending its fall semester. Originally set to end on December 15, the term will break on December 22 for the winter holiday break.

The holiday break is reduced to one week from the usual three weeks. The fall semester will resume on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 and end on January 20.

The winter 2018 term will be delayed until January 22 and last 13 weeks, with a March Break still intact. St. Clair College spokesman John Fairley has told BlackburnNewsWindsor.com that only a week of instruction would be lost despite the length of the strike.

Faculty members walked off the job October 16 at all 24 colleges across Ontario in a dispute over wages and job security.

Classes may be back in session but many students are expressing concerns over the state of their programs and how the strike is affecting their studies. St. Clair College president Patti France met with a handful of students Monday in an impromptu session to hear those concerns.

Click [here](#) for complete information about the college's semester resumption plans.

# Ontario colleges resume as students scoff at Liberals' \$500 payout

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily news - Tuesday, November 21, 2017



Fanshawe College students head to classes on Thursday, September 7, 2017. (DEREK RUTTAN, The London Free Press)

A \$500 provincial payout for their five-week hardship? One strike-weary college student says it's nowhere near enough.

As students at Ontario's 24 colleges return to class Tuesday, Fanshawe College student Caitlin Foulon, who's leading the charge to take Ontario's colleges to court, said the potential class action lawsuit launched last week is as important as ever.

"A lot of us pay \$500 just for rent," she said.

"(The province's offer) hardly puts a dent in our costs. . . . We've been laughing about that, because it's pretty much a joke."

Monday, the province announced full-time and international students affected by the strike can apply for a reimbursement of up to \$500 for unexpected costs, like child care fees, rebooked train or bus tickets or rent.

Students will be able to apply to their college for financial assistance starting this week, the province said – a process Charney Lawyers, the firm handling the proposed class action, is warning students to be wary of.

"We are currently trying to determine whether the government will require you to sign a release of all claims before processing your request for a tuition refund or the incremental unexpected costs," the firm said in a statement on its class action website.

"If the Ontario government requires you to sign a release of all claims, then you can no longer participate in the class action or make any additional claims for compensation besides the ones the government is already offering to pay."

The potential lawsuit, which includes plaintiffs from each of the province's 24 public colleges, alleges students have paid for an education they didn't receive because of the work stoppage. It is seeking damages for breach of contract and breach of the Ontario Consumer Protection Act.

Foulon wants to see compensation that's at least double what the province offered.

"We want a firm number, not an 'up to' amount. The fact that it's 'up to' and you have to prove your financial need is ridiculous," she said.

"I feel like we still aren't getting our full education that we paid up front for."

The government is also offering a full tuition refund to students who choose to withdraw from the now-condensed fall term within two weeks of their return to class Tuesday.

About 12,000 college faculty returned to campus Monday, one day after the provincial government passed back-to-work legislation despite fierce opposition from the New Democrats.

All outstanding issues between the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) and the College Employer Council have been referred to binding mediation-arbitration. Both sides must mutually select an arbiter by week's end.

On Oct. 16, Fanshawe's 540 full-time and about 300 partial-load instructors walked off the job after talks broke down. Classes at Fanshawe's Simcoe, Woodstock and St. Thomas campuses along with Sarnia's Lambton College and St. Clair College's Windsor and Chatham campuses were cancelled by the five-week strike – the longest faculty job action in the 50-year history of the Ontario college system.

# Ontario government should examine reliance on part-time faculty says education expert

**Charles Pascal suggests Ontario government possibly establish task force, fund to re-establish balance**

By Cathy Alex, [CBC News](#) - Nov 21, 2017 8:20 AM



Full-time faculty at Thunder Bay's Confederation College walk a picket line at the Balmoral Street entrance to campus on Monday morning. Full-time faculty members at public colleges across Ontario went on strike Monday after talks with the College Employer Council fell through. (Kris Ketonen/CBC)

The time may have come for the Ontario government to take a closer look at the issue of part-time faculty at the province's public colleges, says Charles Pascal, a professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, at the University of Toronto.

"A college [education] is still a great bet for one's future," said Pascal, who is also a former deputy minister of education, and has served as a college president.

However, he feels there are some serious questions to be asked.

"The government needs to reflect on how can we have a system that has way too much reliance on part-timers who are not well-compensated," he said.



Charles Pascal is a professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. He is an internationally respected Canadian educator who has served as deputy education minister in Ontario, as well as a college president. ([www.oise.utoronto.ca](http://www.oise.utoronto.ca))

"If the premier ever asked me my opinion, I'd probably suggest that there be a task force, and maybe an innovation fund that allows those colleges who have gone way down the pathway of far more part-timers than full-timers to be able to innovate and have some resources to rebalance that ratio."

Pascal is also advising potential college students it's a "buyer beware" situation and they should take a moment to examine that ratio.

"Once you choose the program and the college, do a little research and find out what's the percentage of part-timers to full-timers," he said.

## **Are professors there when needed?**

As well, he suggests asking "what's the climate like in terms of the relationship between the management of the college and their faculty, ask around and that will give you a little extra information regarding the program and the college in terms of issues of calmness and respect in the environment and availability of professors when you need them."

The ratio of part-time to full-time instructors was a key sticking point in the five-week-long labour dispute between Ontario Public Service Employees Union faculty and the College Employer Council.

The Ontario government brought in back to work legislation, and stated that all outstanding issues will be negotiated in binding mediation-arbitration.

Approximately 500,000 college students return to their classrooms Tuesday.

# 'I'm so excited and happy': St. Clair College students back in class after 5-week strike

**St. Clair College students returned to class for the first time in more than five weeks Tuesday**

[CBC News - Nov 21, 2017](#)



CBC Windsor caught up with four students on their first day back to talk about the strike, stress and what remains of their semester.

## **Sarah Rivadeira**

*On a scholarship to study English*



Sarah Rivadeira is on a scholarship to study English at the college. (Stacey Janzer/CBC)

The Panamanian student said her teacher told her classes will continue as usual until she her scholarship ends on Dec. 17.

She added she's happy the strike is finally over.

"I'm excited, it's good because I want to learn English and improve my knowledge of the language."

## **Amanda Mulder**

*First-year Nursing*



Amanda Mulder is studying nursing and said she's sorry faculty couldn't reach an agreement and were forced back to work. (Stacey Janzer/CBC)

"I'm a little bit upset for my professors obviously having not come to an agreement, but I felt like our education was starting to be at risk — so I'm really happy to be back," she said.

Mulder added her teachers told her the semester won't be affected because the semester has been extended to make up for time lost during the strike.

## Joshua Sweet

*Pre-service Firefighter Education and Training*



Joshua Sweet said he's considering withdrawing from the college and heading home to Barrie to get a tuition refund. (Stacey Janzer/CBC)

"I'm really stressed actually because it feels like it's Day 1 again," he said.

Sweet said he's considering withdrawing from the college to get a tuition refund.

"I felt like spent a lot more money during this strike than I would have if school were in session and if I were to opt out, I could go home, work and start this whole process over again."

## Mawa Farley

*Studying Fashion*



Mawa Farley is studying fashion at St. Clair College. She said she's happy to be back in class following the five-week faculty strike. (Stacey Janzer/CBC)

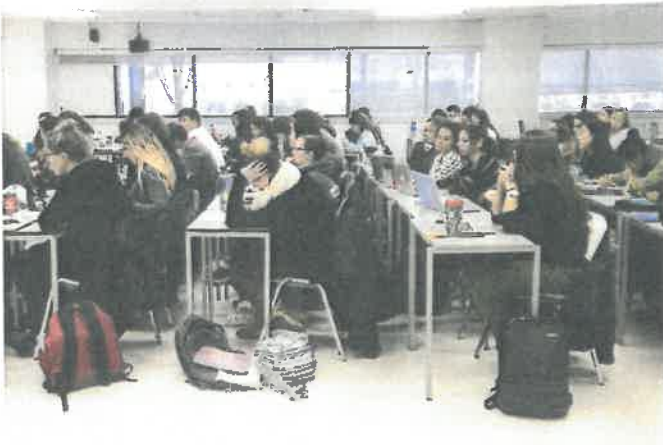
"I'm glad to be back. I was really not happy just home doing nothing," she said, adding her teachers have promised to cover the entire curriculum so she won't miss anything due to the strike.

"I'm going to stay. There's no point starting then just dropping out."



# College strike: \$500 repay plan ‘a joke,’ strike-hit student says

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - November 21, 2017



Classrooms at Fanshawe College are filled with students Tuesday for the first time in more than five weeks after a strike by their teachers and other staff of colleges across Ontario was brought to an end by government legislation. (DEREK RUTTAN, The London Free Press)

A \$500 provincial payout for their five-week hardship? One strike-weary college student says it's nowhere near enough.

As students at Ontario's 24 colleges returned to class Tuesday, Fanshawe College student Caitlin Foulon, who's leading the charge to take Ontario's colleges to court, said the potential class-action lawsuit launched last week is as important as ever.

"A lot of us pay \$500 just for rent," she said.

"(The province's offer) hardly puts a dent in our costs . . . We've been laughing about that, because it's pretty much a joke."

Monday, the province announced full-time and international students can apply for reimbursement of as much as \$500 for unexpected costs, such as child-care fees, rebooked train or bus tickets, or rent, from funds of strike-related savings set aside by colleges .

Students will be able to apply to their college for financial assistance starting this week, the province said — a process Toronto-based Charney Lawyers, the firm handling the proposed class action, warns students to be wary of.

"There's a number of unanswered questions," said senior partner Ted Charney, "including whether there'll be any additional compensation for those students who elect for a full tuition refund, or whether Ontario is going to require them to sign a full and final release of all claims in exchange (for the payout)."

Charney is concerned students who apply for compensation may be asked to sign a document that would prevent them from filing future claims, including the potential class action.

The planned lawsuit, which includes plaintiffs from each of the province's 24 public colleges, alleges students have paid for an education they didn't receive because of the work stoppage. It is seeking damages for breach of contract and breach of the Ontario Consumer Protection Act.

Charney said, barring new information from the province or a more robust compensation offer, the law firm will file a statement of claim against the colleges by mid-December.

"If it turns out to be a full compensation package that covers everything, then we won't need a class action, but right now it's only a piecemeal package," said Charney.

Foulon wants to see compensation that's at least double what the province offered. "We want a firm number, not an 'up to' amount. The fact that it's 'up to' and you have to prove your financial need is ridiculous," she said. "I feel like we still aren't getting our full education that we paid up front for."

The government is also offering a full tuition refund to students who choose to withdraw from the now-condensed fall term within two weeks of their return to class Tuesday.

About 12,000 college faculty returned to campus Monday, one day after the provincial government passed back-to-work legislation despite opposition from the New Democrats.

All outstanding issues between the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) and College Employer Council have been referred to binding mediation-arbitration. Both sides must mutually select an arbitrator by week's end.

On Oct. 16, Fanshawe's 540 full-time and about 300 partial-load instructors walked off the job after talks broke down. Classes were cancelled at Fanshawe's Simcoe, Woodstock and St. Thomas campuses, Lambton College in Sarnia and St. Clair College's Windsor and Chatham campuses.

# Opting out the only option for some Windsor college students

**'It's disappointing. It's a little frustrating.'**

[CBC News](#) - Nov 23, 2017



Father of six, Alex Smusiak has to opt-out of college this year. The five-week strike made it

Alex Smusiak's family has been living on a tight budget to help him follow his dream of pursuing a college degree and a new career, but the five-week faculty strike has put his hopes on hold.

The father of six has no option but to opt-out of college this year.

"It's disappointing," he said. "It's a little frustrating, but it could be worse. We could still be on strike or completely lose the semester."

The Ontario government announced Monday students will receive a [full tuition refund](#) if they withdraw from college because of the work stoppage.

## OSAP and the strike

According to the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, students that withdraw because of the strike will receive a full tuition refund.

For OSAP students, colleges will send the refund amount to the National Student Loan Service Centre for credit against their outstanding loan.

If a student withdraws from college in December their loan will go into repayment as of July 1, 2018. If they are returning to school in September they will have to make payments between July and September.

For Smusiak the lack of communication between the college and the students during the work stoppage was taxing.

"At first it wasn't a problem, but after two or three weeks I started to get a little worried," he said.

His wife was working part-time and said she could have gotten more hours if they knew the timetable of the strike.

"I was barely getting by going to school," said Smusiak.

## **Last chance to get in**

He was part of a financial program that allowed him to pay tuition weekly, so he expects to be refunded about \$500 once he officially leaves the college.

"It was my last chance to actually get in," Smusiak said. "I had other bills to pay, so my savings had dried up and I had already been accepted and starting and I couldn't get OSAP, so I went to the school and they helped me out by letting me pay weekly."

He plans to return to college again in September, but worries he'll have to buy part of the kit required for his program again.

Smusiak also worries about some of his classmates with OSAP loans. He said some may get their tuition refunded, but still owe more money back to the program.

# College Faculty Union Challenging Legislation In Court

Blackburn News - November 23, 2017

The union that represents faculty at Ontario's 24 public colleges is taking action against legislation that forced its members back to work, ending a five-week long strike.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) has filed a Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms challenge against the Ontario government's Bill 178, the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Labour Dispute Resolution Act.

The back-to-work legislation was passed on Sunday, effectively returning over half-a-million students to the classroom and ending the longest college strike in Ontario's history. The bill gives OPSEU and the colleges 90 days to settle the current contract dispute at arbitration.

OPSEU President Warren (Smokey) Thomas said the union is challenging the legislation in court because it believes the bill violated the faculty's Charter rights, specifically Section 2 (d) which protects freedom of association.

"For over a decade, the Supreme Court of Canada has viewed collective bargaining as a protected right under the Charter," Thomas said in a news release. "More recently, the court has extended that protection to the right to strike.

"In the case of the colleges, the provincial government had the power to direct the employer to make the moves necessary to bargain a settlement," he said. "The government chose legislation instead. They trampled on the right to collective bargaining when they clearly had other choices."

The Liberal government made moves to implement back-to-work legislation after unionized faculty voted 86% against the College Employer Council's latest offer on November 16.

Thomas said Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne met with both sides following the vote, and gave them three hours to settle the strike before attempting to table legislation.

"The government never gave collective bargaining an honest chance after the contract was rejected," Thomas said. "That three-hour deadline was a sham designed to provide legal cover for legislation that was already a foregone conclusion. Instead of directing the colleges to settle, the government let them walk away from the table, then came back with a hammer."

# Union To Challenge College Strike Ending

The Square - 24 November 2017

(WINDSOR, ON) – Only a few days after community college students across the province, including those locally at St Clair College, returned to their classes, the union representing the formerly striking college professors says it will file Charter of Rights and Freedoms challenge. The Ontario Public Service Employees Union will seek to have the back-to-work legislation passed by Queen's Park set aside.

OPSEU is upset with Bill 178, which ended what had been a five-week strike on November 19. Union president Warren (Smokey) Thomas says the law violated the Charter, specifically Section 2(d), which protects freedom of association.

"The Supreme Court of Canada has viewed collective bargaining as a protected right under the Charter," said Thomas. "More recently, the court has extended that protection to the right to strike. In the case of the colleges, the provincial government had the power to direct the employer to make the moves necessary to bargain a settlement."

Instead of the government directing the College Employer Council's bargaining unit to conclude the strike at the bargaining table, Thomas is accusing the government of choosing legislation. By doing so, he says it, "trampled on the right to collective bargaining when they clearly had other choices."

On November 16, hours after 86 per cent of college faculty had rejected the CEC contract offer, Ontario's premier, Kathleen Wynne, met with both sides and gave them three hours to settle the strike. Because of this, Thomas charges, the government did not give, "collective bargaining an honest chance after the contract was rejected."

"That three-hour deadline was a sham designed to provide legal cover for legislation that was already a foregone conclusion," said Thomas. "Instead of directing the colleges to settle, the government let them walk away from the table, then came back with a hammer."

Bill 178 gave OPSEU and the colleges 90 days to settle the current contract dispute at arbitration. Thomas did not say what his Union will do if it is successful in the Charter challenge.

# College strike: Students may have to chose relief or lawsuit

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - Tuesday, November 28, 2017



Fanshawe College students head to classes on Thursday, September 7, 2017. (

College students feel they are stuck between a financial rock and a hard place.

Just back in school after a crippling five-week strike at Ontario's 24 colleges, some are grappling with whether to apply for relief from the hardship funds offered by the colleges since the strike or hold firm to a class action lawsuit proposal to re-coup their expenses.

And it appears students will have to choose one option or another.

"In signing this, you are not allowed to pursue them for any more money," said Caitlyn Foulon, a first-year Fanshawe College student who helped spearhead the idea of a potential class action lawsuit.

Foulon and her group are advising students to read the fine print of the hardship funds and not sign anything, for now.

"Our lawyers are looking into this right now," said

"We're encouraging them to do nothing, basically," she said, until they have a better handle on whether students still can participate in the lawsuit if they accept the college funds.

The lawsuit, proposed by Toronto law firm Charney Lawyers, involves students from colleges across the province and seeks damages for breach of contract and breach of the Ontario Consumer Protection Act.

A notice of action has been filed, and Foulon agreed it could take years before the case would get to court.

Some students may not be able to wait.

However, she said, they have discovered that the hardship funds for up to \$500, are only covering certain expenses, such as child care, housing and travel.

Restrictions vary from college to college, with Conestoga in Kitchener being the most restrictive, Foulon said, “effectively banning any funds from anywhere, should you sign.”

“We plan on going through with the lawsuit,” she said, adding that beyond expenses, the amounts being offered to students who decide to withdraw from the semester are “absolutely ridiculous.”

Things will become more clear once lawyers have offered their advice.

“If we have to wait a week until we get confirmation from the lawyer, it’s not making much of a difference,” she said.

Ted Charney, lawyer for the students could not be reached.



# St. Clair College students have mixed feelings about strike relief fund

**'500 bucks? That's not enough at all'**

[CBC News](#) - Nov 29, 2017



Ontario's Ministry of Education released details of its Student Strike Relief Fund Thursday following the five-week work stoppage by college faculty.

Full-time domestic or international students who remained enrolled in their program, but have encountered unexpected expenses because of the strike, are able to apply for up to [\\$500 to cover a variety of costs](#) including childcare, travel and living expenses.

Apprentices completing their in-school training are also eligible to apply for the fund and students who decide to withdraw from college because of the strike will receive a full tuition refund.

CBC News spoke with students at St. Clair College about the fund and whether they feel \$500 is enough to cover what they lost during the longest college strike in Ontario's history.

## Angelica Haggert



Angelica Haggert relies on a work-study program through the school to help pay for her education and worries the wages she missed out on during the strike won't be covered by the fund. (Melissa Nakhavoly/CBC)

Haggart relies on a work-study program through the school to help pay for her education and worries the wages she missed out on during the strike won't be covered by the fund.

"I lost about \$800 in income from work-study jobs and there's no way to make that up," said the post-grad media studies student. "That's super frustrating and very disheartening and I feel like I've been forgotten by the Ministry of Education."

Many people are also upset the semester will now stretch into the holidays to make up for lost time, Haggart added.

"There are all kinds of factors taking place that might not have a financial consequence and those aren't being taken into account."

## **Anthony Farandatos**



Anthony Farandatos said \$500 is not enough to cover what students lost during the strike. (Melissa Nakhavoly/CBC)

Farandatos said the fund is "better than nothing" but he doesn't think it will cover costs for students who didn't manage to find work during the strike.

"500 bucks? That's not enough at all."

## **Amanda Dempster**



Amanda Dempster said she thinks the eligibility requirements to apply for the fund are fair. (Melissa Nakhavoly/CBC)

Dempster said she believes the eligibility requirements to apply for the fund are fair — some students are just happy they're getting something.

"I feel that any money we're getting back for the time we missed is good, but unfortunately they can't give us back the time we've missed."

# St. Clair College has seen 600 students withdraw since strike ended

St. Clair College has seen 600 students withdraw claiming more than \$1.1-million in tuition refunds in the first nine days after the end of the five-week strike by Ontario's community college faculty.

Windsor Star - November 30,

The deadline for withdrawing and getting a full refund is Dec. 5.

"It's a little higher than we expected," said Mike Silvaggi, St. Clair's registrar and associate vice-president of student services.

"We had a bit of a run (Wednesday).

"Withdrawals were at four to five per cent. We're now running at six per cent. I'm a little caught off guard by the jump in the past few days."

Silvaggi said the college normally averages about a five per cent withdrawal rate between the first and second semester.

The college experienced a rush of about 100 withdrawals on the first day students could opt out, but things had slowed down over the next week. However, 200 students opted out in the past couple days.

"I expect we will see another bump in the number of withdrawals the closer we get to Dec. 5," Silvaggi said.

The withdrawals have been proportionately sprinkled across programs.

Silvaggi said there's been minimal withdrawals among apprenticeships and part-time students.

The college has received 40 applications for the [Student Strike Relief Fund](#). The online application was posted Wednesday.

All fulltime and international students are eligible to apply. Students can received up to \$500 to cover strike-related costs such as:

- travel costs (costs of rescheduling plane, train or bus tickets)
- living expenses (including food and housing)
- childcare expenses
- other incremental essential expenses occurring as a result of the strike

“The criteria is kind of black and white, but we encourage all students, who feel strongly they’ve incurred a cost because of the strike, to apply to the fund,” Silvaggi said.

“They might not fit the strike relief fund, but the college has other pots of money students in need can access. We want to help as many students as we can.”

He said an example of something that might fall into the grey area for consideration is lost student wages from work placements.

Silvaggi said the financial impact on the college of the strike and the hundreds of withdrawals that have resulted is hard to predict because of fluctuating enrolment.

“Students are withdrawing, but we don’t feel they’re walking away from the college not to return,” Silvaggi said. “The feedback we’re getting from students is they want to start fresh.”

“There’s going to be a lot of in and out of their current programs in January, where applicable, or in September. Others are choosing to change programs.”

For students who wish to start fresh in their program or switch to a different program that’s not over-subscribed, the college will reserve a spot for them now.

Those looking to switch into an over-subscribed program such as nursing will have to go through the ranking system with all new applicants to earn spot this spring.

“It’s not just first-year students choosing to start anew or switch programs, we’re also seeing some of that with second-year students,” Silvaggi said. “We’re trying to make this seamless the best we can for students. We’re automatically entering their admission into our system and sending them acceptance letters in February.”

In terms of pure dollars lost, the college will suffer the short-term hit of losing tuition fees.

“There’s a loss of revenue now, but the Ministry of Education is having us track a lot of different things for these withdrawals,” Silvaggi said. “There were savings from not paying faculty salaries for five weeks. Is the ministry looking at these withdrawals as an expense the college can deduct from those savings? We don’t know that yet, so it’s hard to make any financial adjustments until we do.”

# About 600 Students Withdraw From St. Clair College Following Five-Week Strike

AM800 CKLW - Thursday, November 30th 2017



AM800 file photo

The number of students withdrawing from the fall semester at St. Clair College continues to grow.

Associate Vice-President of Student Services & Registrar Mike Silvaggi says about 600 students have withdrawn following the five-week strike.

He says some students have decided to continue their education during the winter semester or wait until next September.

Silvaggi says he's a little surprised by the number.

"The number for this stage in the game, it's a little bit on the higher side to be honest with you," says Silvaggi. "It is very similar to what we normally see from a fall to winter transition."

Silvaggi adds about 50 students have applied for the student strike relief fund.

The deadline for students to withdraw and receive their full tuition is December 5th.

Back in September, the college announced it had more than 10,000 students enrolled.

# Windsor student not finding relief from hardship fund

CTV Windsor - Thursday, November 30, 2017

The fund was initiated by the provincial government to help students who had to pay an extra month's rent, or extra daycare to complete a condensed fall semester.

But Angelica Haggert applied to recover lost wages. The answer she got was no.



Students and staff picket at St. Clair College in Windsor, Ont., on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017. (Chris Campbell / CTV Windsor)

The 28-year-old media convergence student at St. Clair College claims she has lost \$800 in wages from three jobs at the school – working in the marketing department, on student council and tutoring.

“My employment is tied directly to college operations and I don't get any of that money back, and they didn't lay me off, so I couldn't put in for EI” says Haggert.

“I was in my class crying, because I have no idea to do next” admits Haggert.

So she turned to Windsor-West NDP MPP Lisa Gretzky, who took her concerns all the way to Queen's Park and asked about support for Haggert and “hundreds of other students.”

“Angelica was part of a work-study program. She specifically chose work-study because these programs are very accommodating for students. But when she went to her financial aid office to receive compensation for lost wages under the hardship fund, she was denied” said Gretzky.

Deb Matthews, the Minister of Advanced Education, only replied by suggesting students can withdraw from the semester for a full refund.

Haggert says that is not an option for her.

Students have until Tuesday, Dec. 5 to drop out of college for a full refund. So far, St. Clair College says about 600 students have withdrawn from the Windsor and Chatham campuses, accounting for more than \$1.1-million in refunds.

# Support Fund Doesn't Add Up According To College Student Associations

Blackburn News - December 1, 2017

College student leaders say students are being bilked by the provincial government, following Ontario's longest college faculty strike in history.

The heads of student councils and unions at a number of Ontario colleges issued a statement on Thursday, urging the provincial government to reconsider the current structure of the Student Support Fund.

The details of the fund were announced by Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews on November 20, the day after the government ended a five-week long faculty strike that affected half a million students at the 24 public colleges. Full-time students who experienced financial hardship as a result of cancelled classes, will be able to apply to the support fund to receive up to \$500 for the unexpected costs they incurred.

The money saved by the colleges during the strike is expected to be used to create the support fund.

However, student associations are crying foul over the total amount the ministry is promising students.

During a meeting between Matthews and student leaders, the minister promised approximately \$5-million for the support fund. The student associations said that amount does not come close to their "conservative" estimate of around \$135-million in savings accumulated from unpaid wages for the 12,000 striking faculty members.

"The ministry says each student can apply for up to \$500 after they 'prove their hardship', yet we are told there is only about \$5-million in net hardship funds available. For that math to work, only 10,000 students can access the maximum allowable amount, which is less than 5% of the full-time students in the province," said Morganna Sampson, the student union president at Fanshawe College. "This is a system full of inherent barriers to students. That math does not work for me. All students, at all colleges, deserve fair and equal treatment, hence, we are requesting the funds to support that."

The student leaders said they are left asking where exactly the remaining funds are being invested. They have accused the ministry of being extremely vague in its explanations. According to student heads, the ministry has said much of the money will go towards lost revenues, tuition reimbursements and added expenses caused by the strike.

According to a statement from the ministry, full-time students are eligible to utilize the fund for incremental childcare costs, rescheduled travel expenses, and rent fees for the month of January. As well, students who decide to withdraw from college because of the strike will receive a full tuition refund.

"It would be a more efficient use of public administration money to have 24 colleges submit strike expenses to the ministry, rather than 250,000 students required to submit the explanations of their hardships to their college," said Sampson.

Student leaders also said the ministry does not acknowledge students who will suffer lost wages over the holiday break.

"It is imperative that the government create clear directions to the colleges as to what constitutes net savings, as to not completely deplete the fund before students get access," the student associations said in a statement. "All students have experienced a financial hardship and are thus entitled to a fair and equal amount."

# Post-strike college withdrawals hit 1,500 in Southwestern Ontario so far

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - Saturday, December 2, 2017



With withdrawal deadline looming, more than 1,500 students at Southwestern Ontario colleges already have headed for the door in the wake of a bitter, five-week faculty strike.

With the deadline to withdraw looming, more than 1,500 students across Southwestern Ontario have dropped out of the province's college system after the five-week strike by their instructors.

In London, roughly 800 Fanshawe College students have chosen to drop out ahead of the Tuesday deadline to do so with a full refund and without academic penalty.

"This is way higher (than the normal attrition rate)," said Morganna Sampson, head of the Fanshawe Student Union.

Will they come back? "I don't think so. They've decided to withdraw, that's a final decision," Sampson said.

But the cabinet minister in charge of colleges, deputy premier Deb Matthews of London, is downplaying the dropout toll in the wake of the strike the Liberal government ended last month with back-to-work legislation.

"A large number of those would have withdrawn anyway," Matthews, the advanced education minister and London North Centre MPP, said of students leaving the 24 colleges that have a total enrolment of more than 500,000.

Matthews says administrators have been "pleasantly surprised" at the number of students who have indicated they want to return to school in January or next September.

Fanshawe registrar Janice Lamoureux says roughly half of the dropouts have indicated they would like to return.

"Colleges have the full discretion to prioritize students who withdraw in admissions decisions for either the January or September semesters," said ministry spokesperson Tanya Blazina.

"It's really unfortunate that students are being in put in the position of having to withdraw," said Sampson. "They've lost a year of their life."



At St. Clair College in Windsor, withdrawals were at four to five per cent, on par with normal between first and second semester. But registrar Mike Silvaggi said, “We’re now running at six per cent. I’m a little caught off guard by the jump in the past few days.” .

The school experienced a rush of about 100 withdrawals on the first day students could opt out, but things had slowed down over the next week. However, 200 students opted out in the past couple days.

“I expect we will see another bump in the number of withdrawals the closer we get to Dec. 5,” Silvaggi said.

Most of the withdrawals are first-year students. “I am very concerned about the potential loss of these students from the college system,” said Peggy Sattler, the NDP’s advanced education critic at Queen’s Park.

# What a 'full tuition' refund really means for Ontario College students

Tuesday is the deadline for dropping out of a college program post-strike and tuition refunds vary

[CBC News](#) - Dec 02, 2017



Hundreds of thousands of students impacted by Ontario's five-week college strike have been told they have the option of receiving a full tuition refund if they choose to drop out by Tuesday.

But what does that mean exactly?

To start, the amount students paid to enroll in the fall semester likely won't be the same as what they get back. Depending on the college, schools may choose to keep ancillary and health plan fees.

We crunched the numbers at three Ontario Colleges for a full-time first-year student enrolled in a culinary management program impacted by the strike.

## Fanshawe College:

- Tuition: \$2,595
- No refund on ancillary fees and the health plan worth \$616
- The college says students had access to the gym/facilities during the strike and health coverage lasts until August
- Full refund on program supply fees worth \$144
- A \$500 deposit will not be required for students re-enrolling for winter programs
- **Refund = \$1,979**

## Conestoga College:

- Tuition: \$2,720
- Refund on all ancillary fees
- No refund on the health plan worth \$286
- No refund on program supply fees worth \$375
- **Refund = \$2,059**

## Lambton College:

- Tuition: \$7,820 (two semesters)
- Refund on all ancillary fees
- Refund on program supply fee

- No refund on Health plan fee worth \$198
- No refund on "Textbooks for All" program worth \$417
- No refund on international student activity fee (variable)
- **Refund = \$7,205**

## What else students need to know

The ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development said it is up to individual colleges to decide how students are reimbursed. It added "refunds of ancillary fees for this current semester will be determined by each individual college and are not included in the tuition fee refund policy."



Students at Fanshawe College have until Tuesday to decide whether to withdraw and get a refund for some of their tuition. (Dave Chidley/CBC)

Students can also receive up to \$500 in financial compensation through a [Student Hardship Fund](#).

For all colleges, OSAP recipients will have their money directed to the National Student Loans Service Centre where balances will be reimbursed in the form of a cheque.

# More students drop out of St. Clair College semester after strike



Students rally at St. Clair College in Windsor, Ont., on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017. (Bob Bellacicco / CTV Windsor)

CTV Windsor - Monday, December 4, 2017

The deadline for Ontario students to drop out of college is Tuesday and the number of St. Clair students who want a refund is up 875.

That is up from the 600 students who withdrew from the semester last Thursday.

The provincial government has set Dec. 5 as a deadline for students to withdraw from the semester following a record, five-week strike by faculty at Ontario's 24 community colleges.

St. Clair Associate Vice President of Student Services, Michael Silvaggi, says many of the students are looking to make a fresh start and will reapply for the next semester starting in January.

Silvaggi adds some students told him the break was too long and the momentum to learn was lost.

So far, the refunds total more than \$1.1-million.

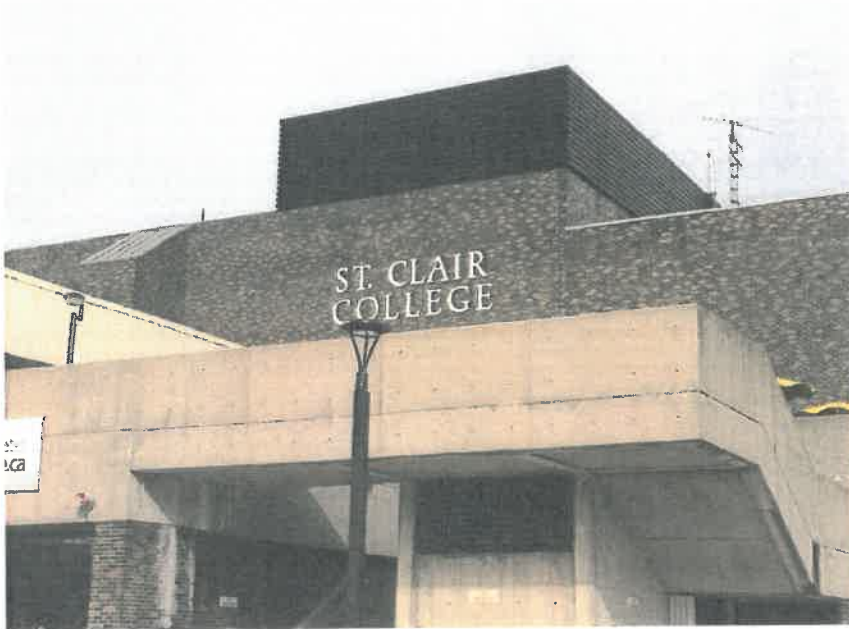
More than 10,000 students enrolled at St. Clair College in Windsor and Chatham in September.

Silvaggi adds they are expecting an increase in enrolment by international students in the new year.

"We're looking at January international numbers exceeding what we ever had in January so that's going to be an offset" says Silvaggi.

# Final Day For Students To Drop Out At St. Clair College

AM800 CKLW – December 5, 2017



St. Clair College Main Campus (photo by AM800's Teresinha Medeiros)

It's the final day for students at St. Clair College to drop out and it is nearing the 1,000 mark.

Associate Vice President of Student Services and Registrar Mike Silvaggi says as of Monday, 875 students have withdrawn following the five-week strike.

He will have a final number Wednesday morning.

If students withdraw by Tuesday, December 5, they will receive their full tuition.

Faculty at Ontario colleges went on strike to back contract demands, but the province stepped in and tabled back to work legislation, forcing them back to class.

Some students felt that cramming the workload into a condensed semester was too much to handle.

# 875 students withdraw from St. Clair College following 5 week strike

**Tuesday deadline to withdraw from the school and receive full tuition refund**

[CBC News](#) - Dec 05, 2017



Benjie Dagoose dropped by the registrar's office to withdrawal from his program on Tuesday. He said he tried going back to class after the five-week long strike, but found it too stressful. (Chris Ensing/CBC)

There's a final-day dash to the registrar's office at St. Clair College to meet Tuesday's withdrawal deadline for programs and still receive a full tuition refund due to the five week faculty strike this fall.

An official with the college said that by mid-day, 875 full-time students have withdrawn.

Benjie Dagoose is one of the students who visited the registrar's office to withdraw from his program.

He went back to classes for his Border Services diploma after the strike, but found making up for lost time was becoming too stressful.

"Tried it for a bit, like two or three days, but you have all of these things coming at you," said Dagoose. "Instead of one midterm or assignment every week you're having three in one week just to catch up."

He said getting a tuition refund made his decision easier.

"I'm going to try to do what's best for me and best for my education," said Dagoose, showing his pink withdrawal form.

Other students in line also told CBC News they found the course load too much to handle when they returned to school following the strike. An official with St. Clair College said the school won't have a final count until Thursday morning of how many students withdrew from their program. p

# 1,000 students could withdraw from St. Clair College following 5-week strike

**Tuesday deadline to withdraw from the school and receive full tuition refund**

[CBC News](#) Dec 05, 2017 4:27 PM ET



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An official with St. Clair College said the school won't have a final count until Thursday morning of how many students withdrew from their program.

## 100 students have been withdrawing each day

About 200 to 300 students withdraw from their programs in an average fall semester, according to the college's registrar, Michael Silvaggi.

"We've been averaging about 100 a day [since the strike]," he added, explaining he expects more than 1,000 students to withdraw from the college before the deadline.



St. Clair College Associate Vice President, Student Services and Registrar Michael Silvaggi said students are withdrawing from a wide range of programs. (Chris Ensing/CBC)

Silvaggi said anyone who withdraws will be accepted into their program the next time it's offered by the school — if they choose to return for a "fresh start."

Silvaggi also encouraged students who miss the deadline and would still like to withdraw from the program with a full tuition refund to visit the registrar's office.

"We'll have the conversation with them," he said. "There's all kinds of extenuating circumstances and we certainly always look at extenuating circumstances."



# Nearly 1000 Students Withdraw From St. Clair

Blackburn News - December 5, 2017

Nearly 1000 students have withdrawn from classes at St. Clair College this semester.

The last day to withdraw and be eligible for a tuition refund was Tuesday December 5, but the college did not expect to have official figures until Wednesday morning. At last count 875 students had dropped out of the fall semester.

“We’ve been seeing about a hundred come in every day coming in so at this point we are expected to report about 1000 students at the end of the day have withdrawn,” says Mike Silvaggi, associate vice president of student services and registrar.

He says with the average tuition per semester costing around \$1500, plus all of the ancillary costs that are also being refunded, the withdrawals will result in a loss of around \$2-million for the college.

“There’s been no indication that this dollar amount will be given back to the colleges through ministry funding or anything of that sort. As of this point we are treating this as reportable data only and we’re making allowances through our operating budgets and so forth,” says Silvaggi.

Students can still apply for the [student support fund](#) until the end of April. Applications to the fund will be reviewed starting December 11, 2017.

# More than 11% of St. Clair College students withdraw following 5-week strike

**Students had until Tuesday to submit their application to withdrawal**

[CBC News](#) - Dec 06, 2017



Students at St. Clair College returned to classes in November after a 5-week strike. (Melissa Nakhavoly/CBC)

St. Clair College has received 1,232 withdrawal applications from students following a 5-week strike by faculty at colleges across Ontario this fall.

That's more than 11 per cent of the total enrolment at the college, according to numbers released by St. Clair in September.

Students had until Tuesday to apply for withdrawal while still being eligible for a full tuition refund.

"This translates into \$3.6 million in annual tuition," according to Michael Silvaggi, registrar and associate vice president of student services.

Silvaggi said that figure is based on two semester programs.

Province-wide withdrawal numbers are expected tomorrow.

# More than 1,200 St. Clair College students claim full tuition refund

About a thousand St. Clair College students claim full tuition refund

Windsor Star - December 6, 2017

St. Clair College lost about \$3.6 million in annual tuition fees with 1,232 students opting to withdraw and take a full refund of their tuition following the five-week strike by Ontario's community college faculty.

The deadline for withdrawals with a full refund was Tuesday.

"It's averaged about 100 students a (school) day," said Mike Silvaggi, college registrar and associate vice president student services.

"It works out to an average of about \$2,000 per student, \$1,500 for tuition for the fall semester and \$500 for ancillary fees."

Silvaggi said the provincial government only mandated that colleges had to refund tuition, but left it up to individual colleges whether to return ancillary fees.

As it stands now, Silvaggi said the college is now facing an approximate \$3.6 million hole in its budget just for lost tuition refunds. However, there other costs pending such as lost revenues and overtime to deliver the curriculum and for support staff as St. Clair extends its hours.

"We won't have a real accurate picture until January," Silvaggi said. "Many of the withdrawing students said they intend to start again in January, so we'll see how many of them follow up."

The college saved about \$2.5-million in unpaid wages during the strike. It remains unclear if the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training will allow the college to count the lost tuition revenue as a strike-related expense to deduct from those savings.

"They've asked us to collect a lot of data on this, but they've given no clear indication of whether we'll get reimbursed," Silvaggi said.

"Administration is looking at a lot of different things now. Obviously, our financial position has changed from what we'd forecasted.

"This going to be a lengthy exercise. It's like doing two fiscal years."

Silvaggi said originally administration expected to see about five per cent of students withdraw. However, the 12 per cent withdrawal rate is more than twice what St. Clair normally experiences in the fall semester.

"We're still trying to make sense of that," Silvaggi said. "At the end of the academic year, one thing we'll see is the number of students not in good standing will be fewer.

“I think students are taking the opportunity to start fresh.”

If there’s any silver lining to the strike, it’s the delayed start to the second semester is allowing more international students to begin their studies at the end of January.

Silvaggi said it’s realistic that the college could see winter enrolment in January exceed the fall intake of about 1,000 international students at the Windsor and Chatham campuses.

“We’ll probably top our fall intake and we could have over 2,000 international students on our campuses,” Silvaggi said. “That will help mitigate the loss of tuition fees.”

While the tuition refund deadline has passed, students have until April 27, 2018 to apply to the Student Strike Relief Fund for extra expenses incurred related to the work stoppage.

“We’ve had about 200 applications come in,” Silvaggi said.

“I think we’ll see that number ramp up because most of the expenses many students will incur will be for the week before and after Christmas. They’ll get the receipts related to things like changed travel plans then.”

# Final Withdrawal Numbers At St. Clair College--1,232 Students Dropped Out

AM800 CKLW – December 6, 2017



AM800 file photo of St. Clair College (Photo by Teresinha Medeiros)

It's a \$3.6-million financial loss to St. Clair College.

The final numbers are in on the number of students who have withdrawn due to the five-week faculty strike.

Associate Vice President of Student Services and Registrar Mike Silvaggi says 1,232 students have submitted withdrawal applications.

He says it won't cause any layoffs and the withdrawals are "sprinkled across all programming."

Students who dropped out by Tuesday afternoon would receive their tuition back.

Silvaggi says workload is the main reason for the withdrawal.

"I just lost momentum," heard Silvaggi. "Being five weeks out, the mind wanders and whether it is work sets in or just motivation is no longer there."

Silvaggi does expect some of those students will start fresh in January.

"We know that of the 1,200, that a percentage will be returning and we are forecasting growth in our international enrollment for our January start programs," he says.

Faculty at Ontario colleges went on strike to back contract demands, but the province stepped in and tabled back to work legislation, forcing them back to class a few weeks ago.

# St. Clair College Takes A Hit As More Students Dropout

Blackburn News - December 6, 2017 1:42pm

The final numbers are in and St. Clair College lost 1,232 students this semester because of the faculty strike.

The last day to withdraw from classes and be eligible for a tuition refund was December 5.

Michael Silvaggi, associate vice president of student services and registrar, says the college will take a \$3.6-million hit because of the refunds but hopes most of the revenue can eventually be recovered when students re-enrol to continue their courses.

“That would be the attributed revenue to those students if they remained enrolled for the fall and winter semester. That is something that we do need to address,” says Silvaggi.

He says he knows some of the students will start fresh in January and that will bring some relief to the college’s annual budget.

“The college does have some January programs that students may have been in the fall that they can start again in January. So, we know that there’s going to be some relief that way,” Silvaggi says.

Silvaggi hopes to have final revenue numbers sorted out by the third week of January and says international students could take the sting out of the current revenue loss. He says international enrollment numbers for January are extremely high.

Students can still apply for the student support fund until the end of April. Those applications will be reviewed starting December 11.

# More than 1,200 St. Clair College students claim full tuition refund

About a thousand St. Clair College students claim full tuition refund

Windsor Star - December 6, 2017

St. Clair College lost about \$3.6 million in annual tuition fees with 1,232 students opting to withdraw and take a full refund of their tuition following the five-week strike by Ontario's community college faculty.

The deadline for withdrawals with a full refund was Tuesday.

"It's averaged about 100 students a (school) day," said Mike Silvaggi, college registrar and associate vice-president student services.

"It works out to an average of about \$2,000 per student, \$1,500 for tuition for the fall semester and \$500 for ancillary fees."

Silvaggi said the provincial government only mandated that colleges had to refund tuition, but left it up to individual colleges whether to return ancillary fees.

As it stands, Silvaggi said the college is now facing an approximate \$3.6 million hole in its budget just for lost tuition refunds. There are also other costs pending such as lost revenues and overtime to deliver the curriculum and for support staff as St. Clair extends its hours.

"We won't have a real accurate picture until January," Silvaggi said. "Many of the withdrawing students said they intend to start again in January, so we'll see how many of them follow up."

The college saved about \$2.5-million in unpaid wages during the [strike](#). It remains unclear if the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training will allow the college to count the lost tuition revenue as a strike-related expense to deduct from those savings.

"They've asked us to collect a lot of data on this, but they've given no clear indication of whether we'll get reimbursed," Silvaggi said.

"Administration is looking at a lot of different things now. Obviously, our financial position has changed from what we'd forecasted.

"This is going to be a lengthy exercise. It's like doing two fiscal years."

Silvaggi said originally administration expected to see about five per cent of students withdraw. The 12 per cent withdrawal rate is more than twice what St. Clair normally experiences in the fall semester.

"We're still trying to make sense of that," Silvaggi said. "At the end of the academic year, one thing we'll see is the number of students not in good standing will be fewer.

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If there’s any silver lining to the strike, it’s the delayed start to the second semester is allowing more international students to begin their studies at the end of January.

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“I think we’ll see that number ramp up because most of the expenses many students will incur will be for the week before and after Christmas. They’ll get the receipts related to things like changed travel plans then.”



St. Clair College Practical Nursing students Tiffany Stroud, left, Alexandra Oliveira, Whitney O’Neill and Meaghan MacPherson had their own private room to study for a test at the main campus Wednesday Dec. 6, 2017. Nick Brancaccio / Windsor Star



# Over 1,200 St. Clair College students drop out after strike



CTV Windsor - Wednesday, December 6, 2017

The final numbers are in -- and 1,232 St. Clair College students in Windsor and Chatham have dropped out of their programs this year following a record-long, five week strike by faculty.

The deadline for students to make their decision was Tuesday and it's having an impact on the college's finances.

The dropouts will cost the college an estimated \$3.6-million in refunds.

The associate vice president of student services Mike Silvaggi tells CTV News more people opted out than anticipated.

"So at some point we thought a thousand to be honest, late afternoon we had a little bit of a run," says Silvaggi.

St. Clair officials were happy at the start of the year, thanks to a record enrollment in the fall semester of 10,000 students.

One of them was Eugenio Mendoza, but he tells CTV Windsor it was a no-brainer to drop out of St. Clair's advertising and marketing program to get a full refund.

"One, two, three weeks, that was dope," says Mendoza. "Great, free vacation but after four it started to get really ridiculous."

"I was in second year, which is the most intense year and that's why I opted, I don't want to rush it, I'd rather take my time and do it right," says Mendoza.

Silvaggi says students who missed Tuesday's deadline can still apply for a refund, but each person will be approved on a case by case basis.

Students can still apply for the hardship fund until the end of April to recoup extra costs incurred during the strike for things like rent and travel.

College officials anticipate re-enrollment in January will bring some relief to their budget.

# Provincial price tag for college strike not ready, says MPP Matthews

Chatham Daily News - THE CANADIAN PRESS - December 7, 2017



TORONTO - It could be another week yet before Ontario crunches the numbers on how many college students who endured a five-week strike are seeking tuition refunds.

Just one day after the province said the numbers would be made public Thursday, Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews of London said the government needed more time to compile the figures.

Last month, Matthews ordered colleges across the province to refund the tuition money for any student who felt unable to complete the condensed semester. The decision is likely to cost Ontario colleges millions of dollars which would have otherwise been saved because of the labour dispute.

The deadline for students to apply for a refund was Dec. 5.

“We have numbers from everyone but they’re not quite verified yet,” Matthews said.

“I would have liked to have given them to you today but they just aren’t ready for that.”

Matthews said preliminary data suggests the “vast majority” of students have chosen to stick with their programs and finish the semester.

“Overwhelmingly, students have chosen to stay,” she said, adding that the transition back to class has been hard on students and faculty alike.

The government ended the strike in November with back-to-work legislation passed in a rare weekend sitting at Queen’s Park.

More than half a million students at 24 colleges were affected, including tens of thousands at three Southwestern Ontario colleges — Fanshawe, St. Clair and Lambton — with operations in seven cities in the region.

# Jarvis: The price of this strike: 1,232 students

Anne Jarvis, Windsor Star

Published on: December 8, 2017 | Last Updated: December 8, 2017 12:00 PM EST

That's the price of the five-week strike by college faculty.

One thousand two hundred thirty-two students who were going to classes Oct. 13, the last day before the strike began Oct. 16, are no longer going to classes. They dropped out.

An average of 100 students a day began dropping out, collecting their tuition refund, after classes finally resumed Nov. 21. By the deadline Tuesday, 12 per cent of students had left, more than double the five per cent attrition expected during first semester.

This is in a city that lags the province and the country in post-secondary education. A manufacturing city that needs skilled trades. A city bidding for a major tech company that wants a highly educated workforce.

That's the price of this strike.

The two sides, the College Employer Council, which represents the 24 colleges in Ontario, and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, which represented the 12,000 striking faculty, will each get something in binding mediation and arbitration imposed when the government legislated the faculty back to work.

But the 500,000 students affected across the province — there's no win for them.

The strike had dragged on too long, many students here said. There is too much work to catch up, too much pressure.

The semester will extend into the Christmas break. Classes could be lengthened. More classes could be added. A fund will help cover students' unexpected expenses. Still, many believed they faced a compressed curriculum to be learned at top speed.

They will return in January, many said. Or September. They'll lose a semester. They could lose a year.

This strike was justified when it began. Seventy per cent of college faculty are part time. They're not paid much. They don't know if or what they'll teach the next semester. They're precarious labour. It hurts not only the part-time faculty. It hurts students who may not get teachers who are experienced and fully engaged.

Labour reform will soon require employers to pay full-time and part-time staff the same rate, and a provincial task force will now study the issue of part-time faculty.

But that wasn't enough for the union. It also demanded "academic freedom." Teachers had been out of class for a month. That was the main issue left. And the strike continued.

Then there was the College Employer Council. It asked for a forced vote on its last offer, knowing it would provoke the union, knowing the union would likely reject it — and wasting another week.

The two sides negotiated only four days in four weeks at one point. Students rightly pointed out that they were being trained to be professionals yet the two sides were anything but.

And there was the government. The Conservatives legislated striking college faculty back to work after 24 days in 1984. The latest strike went 33 days, the longest in the colleges' 50-year history, before the Liberals acted. Why? Governments don't like arbitrated settlements because they usually cost more. But this is an unpopular government facing an election in June and counting on public sector unions to support it.

The Liberals had just extended their contract with thousands of civil servants, offering them a 7.5 per cent raise over four years. They're represented by OPSEU. The announcement was in June, six months before the contract expired.

When students had been out for four weeks, the government announced a Student Hardship Fund.

“(Students) deserve our support,” Advanced Education and Skills Development Minister Deb Matthews said.

They deserved to be back in class.

The NDP of course opposed the legislation, knowing they would lose but still delaying the return to class for three days.

As usual, all sides, consumed by their own interests, were oblivious to the students.

Everyone wants a negotiated settlement. But when an elementary or secondary school teachers' strike drags on too long, the Education Relations Commission, an independent body, can rule whether the school year is in jeopardy. If it does, the government can legislate the teachers back to work — or face parents' wrath. It's not a hard choice.

No one does that for colleges or universities. Someone should.

# 'Collateral damage': Faculty strike led 10% of Ontario college students to drop out, analysis finds

There were fears that the lengthy absence from class could not only jeopardize the semester for some students, but even their entire college education

Windsor Star - Joseph Brean - December 12, 2017

More than one in ten full-time college students in Ontario withdrew from their studies during or immediately after the recent faculty strike.

A preliminary analysis of the numbers by the province's Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development shows that 10.3% of students applied to the government for a special tuition refund, according to spokesperson Jasmine Irwin. That represents just shy of 25,700 students.

Those who remain in their programs may also apply for \$500 in aid from a specially set up "hardship" fund, paid from money that would have otherwise been spent by colleges during the strike.

The strike lasted five weeks, ending late last month, and saw 12,000 instructors stop work at 24 public colleges, demanding better access to full-time work and wage increases. A central complaint was the 70 percent of faculty are working on a par-time or contract basis.

The dispute went through a collective bargaining process, and a proposed deal was rejected by a clear majority of instructors. Under the law, governments cannot interfere with this process or intervene before it has been given a chance to proceed. Once the proposed deal was rejected however, the academic year was clearly in peril, which strengthened the case for legislative intervention.

The strike ended when the Liberal government introduced and passed back-to-work legislation in November.

There were fears that the lengthy absence from class could not only jeopardize the semester for some students, but even their entire college education, if they were to withdraw and not return.

"There's always collateral damage," said Warren "Smokey" Thomas, president of the Ontario Public Service Employees' Union, which represents the college instructors. "I feel bad for anybody that had to withdraw. I can understand it's an individual choice. I just hope they can come back the next time around and hopefully we can have labour peace for a few years."

Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews said she understood the "hardships" students faced because of the strike, and that they have "borne the brunt of the labour dispute between colleges and faculty." She expressed hope that those students who took advantage of the tuition refund eventually decide to return to their studies.

"We need your talent and skills in this province and want to keep seeing you succeed. We will work with colleges to support and encourage students to re-enroll," she said.

# Nearly 25,700 students receive tuition refunds after Ontario college strike, early numbers show

**Roughly 10.3% of Ontario students asked for and received money back, province says**

The Canadian Press / CBC -Dec 12, 2017



Ontario's Ministry of Advanced Education confirmed today that 10.3 per cent of Ontario's roughly 250,000 full-time college students asked for, and received, their money back after the strike. (Martin Trainor/CBC News)

Nearly 25,700 full-time Ontario college students received tuition refunds after a five-week strike derailed their semester.

Ontario's Ministry of Advanced Education confirmed Tuesday that 10.3 per cent of Ontario's roughly 250,000 full-time college students asked for, and received, their money back after the strike.

Minister Deb Matthews said the figures are still preliminary and could change in the coming weeks as further numbers are reported by Ontario's 24 colleges.

"Over the past months, I have heard from students about hardships they have experienced as a result of this strike," she said in a statement. "It is clear that they have borne the brunt of the labour dispute between colleges and faculty.

Preliminary reports from colleges indicate that the vast majority, approximately 90 per cent of students, chose to stay and finish the semester."

Matthews said she expects many students who withdrew from this semester will return in January and September.

"I want to say to those students who did decide to withdraw, we hope you will return to college," she said. "We need your talent and skills in this province and want to keep seeing you succeed. We will work with colleges to support and encourage students to re-enrol."

Last month, the minister ordered colleges to refund the tuition money for any student who felt unable to complete the condensed semester. The decision is likely to cost the schools millions of dollars, which would have otherwise been saved because of the labour dispute.

The government ended the strike in November with back-to-work legislation passed in a rare weekend sitting at Queen's Park.

Earlier Tuesday, PC legislator Lorne Coe said the government was dragging its feet when it came to releasing the figures because the information was politically damaging.

"Ontarians have the right ... to know the consequences of the premier's lack of leadership on the community college strike," Coe said. "Will the minister stop playing politics and confirm today that approximately 25,000 dropped out from Ontario's community colleges due to the Liberal government's inaction?"

NDP education critic Peggy Sattler said government inaction over the strike has put all students in a difficult position and hurt their education.

"These students were backed into a corner, and made the very difficult decision to withdraw from the shortened semester entirely in order to get a refund," she said in a statement.

Those that have chosen to remain in class face their own challenges, including increased workloads and condensed schedules. Many students will be left struggling to recover financially and academically long after the semester is over."

## About 25,700 students get refunds after strike

THE CANADIAN PRESS- Chatham Daily News - Tuesday, December 12, 2017



**TORONTO** - Nearly 25,700 full time Ontario college students received tuition refunds after a five-week-strike derailed their semester.

Ontario's Ministry of Advanced Education confirmed Tuesday that 10.3 per cent of Ontario's roughly 250,000 full-time college students asked for, and received, their money back after the strike.

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"I want to say to those students who did decide to withdraw, we hope you will return to college," she said. "We need your talent and skills in this province and want to keep seeing you succeed. We will work with colleges to support and encourage students to re-enroll."



# 25,700 college students get refund after strike, according to early numbers



Striking college faculty rally in Toronto on Wednesday, Oct.25, 2017, calling on the province to send college administrators back to the bargaining table. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Thomas campean

The Canadian Press / CTV - Wednesday, December 13, 2017

TORONTO -- Nearly 25,700 full-time Ontario college students received tuition refunds after a five-week strike derailed their semester.

Ontario's Ministry of Advanced Education confirmed Tuesday that 10.3 per cent of Ontario's roughly 250,000 full-time college students asked for, and received, their money back after the strike.

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"These students were backed into a corner, and made the very difficult decision to withdraw from the shortened semester entirely in order to get a refund," she said in a statement. "Those that have chosen to remain in class face their own challenges, including increased workloads and condensed schedules. Many students will be left struggling to recover financially and academically long after the semester is over."

# Student Walkout Planned At St.Clair College

AM800 CKLW – December 13, 2017



AM800 file photo

Students at St. Clair College in Windsor plan to join those at 13 others across the province to stage a walkout at noon on Friday.

The students plan to issue a list of demands in the wake of the five week-long [strike by college faculty](#).

Demands include that any profits from the strike be returned to students, a payment of \$500 for ALL college students no strings attached, disband the Employee College Council and replace it with a body that's made up of 1/3 each of students, faculty and administration, and withdrawal with full refund for full-time and international students-no strings attached.

The list of demands will be read at each college at 12:45pm.

The strike by faculty ended last month after the province issued back-to-work legislation.

More than 1,200 students at St. Clair College dropped out.

# Walkout planned for St. Clair College students on Friday



CTV Windsor

Published Wednesday, December 13, 2017 10:12AM EST

Students are planning walkouts at 13 colleges across the province, including St. Clair College in Windsor.

The walkout is scheduled to take place at noon on Friday.

Ontario Students United has organized the event and they have a list of several demands that they will read at each college at 12:45 p.m.

Some of the demands include:

1. \$500 for all college students for all college students, no strings attached
2. Withdrawal with full refund for full time and international students, no string attached
3. Fairness for international students, no threat to pull visas if they withdraw
4. Show respect for professors
5. Any profit from the strike be returned to students
6. Protection of faculty of members, stop exploitation of workers
7. Disband the employee college council and replace it with a body that's made up of 1/3 each of students, faculty and administration

Over 1,200 students at St. Clair College dropped out after the five-week long faculty strike.

## 3,000 foreign students ask for tuition refund

THE CANADIAN PRESS / Chatham Daily News - December 14, 2017



St. Lawrence College faculty on the picket lines on day one of the college strike across the province. (FILE PHOTO)

**TORONTO** - About 3,000 international students attending Ontario's colleges asked for a tuition refund after a faculty strike, according to new data released by the provincial government Thursday.

The number represents roughly five per cent of the approximately 58,000 full time international students enrolled in the system.

In comparison, of the approximately 192,000 full time domestic college students, more than 22,600 — nearly 12 per cent — asked for and received the tuition refund.

Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews said the international student figures, which still are preliminary and could change, make sense given the substantial costs incurred by international students to attend Canadian post-secondary institutes.

“I think we’ve got more work to do to fully understand the numbers, but I would say, for sure, they have a lot at stake,” she said. “They had to get visas to come here. They’ve sacrificed a lot to be here. It’s harder for them to just go home until January. I think they continued because they’re really committed and didn’t have a lot of other options.”

Matthews said from the early days of the strike, which started on Oct. 15, that the complex needs of international students were flagged to her ministry. The province began talks with the federal government to address concerns surrounding visa issues, she said.

“We were able, very early in the strike, to get confirmation from the federal government that visas will be extended to accommodate an extended term,” she said. “That was an important provincial federal collaboration.”

Matthews said she would not be surprised if a large number of international students who chose to continue with their semester apply to a financial assistance program to help students experiencing hardship as a result of the protracted labour dispute.

The government says that overall, 10.3 per cent of full time students — 25,700 students — sought the refunds.

“The numbers are higher than I expected,” Matthews said.

# St. Clair students ignore planned walk-out at Ontario colleges



CTV Windsor- Friday, December 15,

Students at several colleges across Ontario planned a symbolic walkout during the lunch hour Friday, but not at St. Clair College.

Not one student in Windsor took part in the symbolic walkout organized by "Ontario Students United."

The group said St. Clair students would take part in the province-wide initiative, on what would have been the last day of the fall semester, before the five-week long faculty strike.

Some students at St. Clair said they were not aware of the walkout. One employee said some students changed their minds because it was too cold outside.

The walkout was intended as a way to protest the lack of compensation for all students affected by the strike, and now have a late Christmas break.

The group listed seven demands as part of the walkout, including a request of \$500 for all college students with no strings attached and to show respect for faculty.

Nearly 25,700 full-time Ontario college students received tuition refunds after the five-week strike derailed their semester, including more than 1,200 at St. Clair campuses in Windsor and Chatham.

The government ended the strike in November with back-to-work legislation passed in a rare weekend sitting at Queen's Park.

# Protest Doesn't Happen At St. Clair College

Blackburn News - December 15, 2017

A province-wide protest about the Ontario college strike failed to materialize at St. Clair College.

Multiple reports indicated that some of Ontario's colleges would stage a walkout, but no such protest took place at St. Clair. It was expected to take place at noon on Friday, which was the originally-scheduled last day of the fall semester before the strike.

The walkout was proposed by a group called Ontario Students United, which posted information on its [Facebook page](#).

It was business as usual at St. Clair's Windsor and Chatham campuses Friday. [BlackburnNewsWindsor.com](#) stopped by the Student Representative Council office and was told that the group was not sanctioning any staged walkout.

Thousands of faculty at all Ontario colleges walked off the job October 16 over wages, job security and input into curriculum. The strike cancelled classes for five weeks and disrupted the fall semester. Students returned to the classroom on November 21 after back-to-work legislation was passed, sending faculty back to work.

St. Clair College offered students a chance to withdraw from their programs for the fall semester and receive a full tuition refund. Over 1,200 students took up that offer, costing the school about [\\$3.6-million in revenue](#).

The college is compensating for the lost time by extending classes until next Friday, December 22, cutting the winter holiday break from three weeks to one, and delaying the start of the winter 2018 term.



# Student Protest Fizzles At St. Clair College

AM800 CKLW - December 15th 2017



No students protested at St. Clair College (by AM800's Peter Langille)

A college student protest supposed to take place at 13 Ontario community colleges did not materialize at St. Clair.

Earlier this week a group calling themselves Ontario Students United announced a plan for a Friday walkout.

They had intended to read out a list of 7 demands in the wake of the month-long faculty strike.

But at St. Clair, the protest was not supported by the Student Representative Council President.

AM800 spoke to a couple of students at the main campus, they weren't aware of any protest.

Cassandra Ranger says if she had known, she would have participated.

"Considering that I am kind of against how the college, how all of it went down," says Ranger "Especially the fact that the faculty was no longer allowed to strike which is against your rights. You're given the right to strike and now it's taken away from you. It's kind of immoral"

Cassandra Ranger is actually surprised there was no protest.

"A little bit, yeah, but students just kinda wanted to get back to school and finish up and especially if they're in their last year" says Ranger "Then they wanted to quickly finish up and at least graduate"

Akshir Pandia would have taken part in a protest.

"Yeah, I would like to protest it. " Pandia says "Because it's like a one month strike. So basically it's like it was an unnecessary strike, so I would like to protest against that"

Among the demands the students were to announce were \$500 for all college students with no strings attached, removing a threat to pull the visas of international students who withdraw and to show respect for faculty.

# Arbitration Award Coming For College Faculty

Blackburn News - December 17, 2017

The final chapter in the Ontario college strike is about to be written.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), which represents faculty at all of Ontario's 24 community colleges, announced in a statement Sunday an arbitrator's award will be coming this week.

The statement also said that the union and the colleges' bargaining team had been in mediation from Thursday to Saturday. Upon conclusion, arbitration took place.

The award issued by the arbitrator will be the basis of a new collective bargaining agreement for the college faculty, officially ending the labour dispute.

Binding arbitration takes place when both sides agree to present their arguments to an independent third party in a final effort to settle a dispute. The arbitrator's ruling is binding and final, with no appeal.

The dispute involved about 12,000 college faculty, who walked off the job on October 16 in a dispute over wages, job security and input into program curriculum. The five-week strike disrupted the fall semester at colleges such as St. Clair College in Windsor and Chatham, Fanshawe College in London and Lambton College in Sarnia. Over half-a-million students were affected.

Faculty returned to work on November 21 after the Ontario legislature passed back-to-work legislation.

The arbitrator has imposed a media blackout until the award is announced.

# College faculty expect post-strike arbitration decision this week

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - December 18, 2017



The strike of faculty at Fanshawe College continues in London. Nearly one month after college faculty were legislated back to class after five weeks on the picket line, the results of binding mediation-arbitration will be announced.

In a statement Sunday, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) said the arbitrator assigned to the case will be handing down a decision this week.

OPSEU said it participated in mediation with the College Employer Council, which bargains on behalf of Ontario's 24 public colleges, Dec. 14 to 16. The process wrapped up with arbitration Saturday, OPSEU said.

Some 12,000 college professors, instructors, counsellors and librarians walked off the job Oct. 16, leaving more than a half-million students out of class for five weeks – the longest faculty strike in Ontario college history.

College faculty across the province were legislated back to work on Tuesday Nov. 21 after a rare weekend sitting of Ontario's legislature. Both sides were forced into binding mediation-arbitration.

Tens of thousands of students in seven Southwestern Ontario cities were cast out of class by the weeks-long job action. Fanshawe College's London, Simcoe, St. Thomas and Woodstock campuses, St. Clair College's Windsor and Chatham operations and Lambton College in Sarnia were all shuttered by the strike.

Provincewide, just shy of 25,700 students – or about 10 per cent – dropped out and applied for tuition refunds after the strike, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development said earlier this month.

The province has also offered full-time and international students the option to apply for reimbursement of as much as \$500 for unexpected costs, such as child-care fees, rebooked train or bus tickets, or rent, from funds of strike-related savings set aside by colleges.

# Ontario college strike arbitration decision expected Wednesday

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - December 19, 2017



Binding arbitration results are expected Wednesday, four weeks after Ontario's 12,000 striking college faculty members were legislated back to work after the longest strike in the system's history.

The arbitrator assigned to the case will hand down a decision Wednesday to settle the collective bargaining impasse between the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) and the College Employer Council, a group that negotiates on behalf of the province's 24 community colleges.

Both sides have agreed to a media blackout until the arbitrator's ruling is released.

In a statement Monday, OPSEU said it took part in mediation with the council over three days last week, a process that wrapped up Saturday.

More than half a million students — including tens of thousands at three colleges in seven Southwestern Ontario cities — were cast out of class for five weeks after 12,000 college instructors, counsellors and librarians walked off the job on Oct. 16.

# Arbitrator's Award Settles Issues From College Strike

AM800 CKLW – December 20, 2017



Faculty on strike at St. Clair College. November 16, 2017 (Photo by AM800's Teresinha Medeiros)

An arbitrator has handed down a decision regarding contracts at Ontario colleges.

It comes after 12,000 faculty members were legislated back to work in November by the provincial government following a five-week long strike.

A salary increase of 7.75% over four-years has been awarded which is what the College Employer Council had offered during negotiations.

The arbitrator's award includes contract language on "academic freedom" which OPSEU says will allow faculty to speak freely about academic issues without fear of reprisal.

The union says the deal also includes improved job security and a new government-run task force that will make recommendations on faculty complement, precarious work, college funding, student success, and governance issues.

The arbitrator has also removed all grievances, complaints and claims related to the return to work in exchange for a one-time payment of \$900 for full-time faculty and \$450 for partial load faculty.

# College Faculty Get Wage Increase, Academic Freedom

Blackburn News - December 20, 2017

Four weeks after striking faculty at Ontario's 24 public colleges were ordered back to work, details of the binding arbitration award have been handed down.

Arbitrator William Kaplan released his ruling in the labour dispute Wednesday, forming the new collective agreement for the province's college faculty. The decision formally ends the deadlock in talks between the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) and the College Employer Council.

Highlights of the new deal include a four-year contract with a salary increase of 1.75% in the first year followed by yearly increases of 2%, establishment of a seniority system for partial-load faculty who teach 7 to 12 hours per week through the use of a registry, and academic freedom that allows faculty to enquire about, investigate, pursue, teach, and speak freely about academic issues without fear of impairment to position or other reprisal.

"Faculty did not set out to go on strike, but we can feel a sense of relief in the resolution," said Darryl Bedford, OPSEU bargaining team member and Fanshawe College information technology instructor. "Our members' overwhelming rejection of the College Employer Council's offer opened the path to this landmark award. Kaplan's decision recognizes that colleges have changed over the last 50 years. It is time to prepare for the next 50 years with better outcomes for students and faculty alike."

The College Employer Council has also indicated it is pleased with the arbitrator's decision.

"We have a workable award that is in the best interests of all parties and we want to thank the arbitrator for his efforts," said Sonia Del Missier, Chair of the Colleges' Bargaining Team. "The arbitrator's award preserves the ability of colleges to be responsive to local economic needs in a timely and flexible way."

Del Missier said moving forward, the colleges will be focused on rebuilding positive working relationship with faculty.

Classes for more than half a million students were cancelled for five weeks after college instructors, counselors, and librarians walked off the job on October 16. The main sticking point for faculty was academic freedom and a better split of full time and contract positions.

Faculty returned to work on November 21 after the Ontario legislature passed back-to-work legislation in a rare weekend sitting.

Mediation with Kaplan and the two sides of the labour dispute were held over three days last week.

Despite the positive outcome of arbitration, OPSEU was quick to point out Wednesday that a deal could have been reached at the bargaining table if the colleges had displayed "even the slightest" concern for students and staff.

"With any reasonable amount of cooperation from the colleges, there would never have been a strike, students would not have had to worry about losing their semester, and faculty would never have lost five weeks' pay," said JP Hornick, chair of the OPSEU college faculty bargaining team. "Faculty are the real leaders trying to improve the college system, and I am immensely proud that we stood up for fairness for all faculty and a higher quality of education for our students."

Going forward, a new government-run task force will be created to make recommendations on staffing models such as faculty complement and precarious work, college funding, student success, and governance issues.

# Arbitration ruling puts formal end to Ontario's bitter college strike

The London Free Press/ Chatham Daily News - December 20, 2017



The binding arbitration results are officially in, marking the final chapter of a bitter five-week faculty strike that shuttered Ontario's 24 public colleges – the longest in the system's history.

The arbitrator's ruling was handed down Wednesday, about four weeks after Ontario's 12,000 striking college faculty members were legislated back to work in a rare weekend sitting of the legislature.

The ruling ends the collective bargaining impasse between the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) and the College Employer Council, a group that negotiates on behalf of the province's 24 community colleges.

Highlights of the deal include:

- A four-year, 7.75 per cent total salary increase
- Faculty members will be able to exercise academic freedom including the right to “enquire about, investigate, pursue, teach and speak freely about academic issues without fear of impairment to position or other reprisal.”
- Colleges will try to issue all contracts with faculty before the contract's start date
- Colleges will keep a record of part-time or partial-load faculty and consider them for full-time opportunities
- If the full-time vacancy isn't filled internally, the colleges are expected to consider academic employees laid off at other institutions before looking at other external applicants.

Class was cancelled for more than half a million students — including tens of thousands at three colleges in seven Southwestern Ontario cities — when 12,000 college instructors, counsellors and librarians walked off the job on Oct. 16 primarily over academic freedom and precarious work concerns.

“The strike has been a terrible experience for our students and everyone affected,” council bargaining chairperson Sonia Del Missier said in a statement Wednesday.

“We have a workable award that is in the best interests of all parties and we want to thank the arbitrator for his efforts.”

OPSEU and the council took part in mediation with the arbitrator over three days last week, a process that wrapped up Saturday.

# Arbitrator sets new contract for Ontario college faculty following strike

The Canadian Press / Windsor Star - December 20, 2017

TORONTO — An arbitrator appointed to settle a contract dispute with Ontario college faculty that led to a five-week strike has awarded them a 7.75 per cent raise over four years.

The 12,000 professors, instructors, counsellors and librarians were legislated back to work last month and outstanding issues were sent to binding mediation-arbitration.

The arbitrator's decision, released today, also includes new language on academic freedom, which had been the main outstanding issue between faculty and the colleges.

The colleges say the new contract enshrines the academic freedom policies that already exist at most colleges and gives the same salary increase that they had offered before the strike.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union, which represents the faculty, says the deal could have been reached at the bargaining table if the colleges had displayed "even the slightest concern for students and staff during negotiations."

Hundreds of thousands of students were kept from class during the strike, and about 27,500 of the roughly 250,000 full-time students decided to withdraw and receive a tuition refund rather than finishing their semester on a condensed timeline.



# Both sides praise arbitrator ruling in college faculty labour dispute

CBC News - Dec 20, 2017 12:34 PM



London, Ont., union president Darryl Bedford says the arbitrator's decision is a 'landmark' ruling because it puts academic freedom language into the collective bargaining agreement.

A local union representative and the body that represents Ontario's public colleges are praising an arbitrator's ruling today that addresses outstanding issues of a labour dispute that lasted five weeks and closed classrooms for half a million Ontario students.

Arbitrator William Kaplan's ruling enshrines in the collective bargaining agreement language about academic freedom, a key issue for the union during the strike that ended when the province passed back-to-work legislation in late November.

Darryl Bedford, a Fanshawe College professor and a member of the local bargaining group represented by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, said the academic freedom language makes this a "landmark" decision.

"This is something that is fundamental in post-secondary education and now we've got it right in a contract," said Bedford. "I think this sets the stage for what the college system should be and can be." Bedford said the arbitrator "has concluded that most of the union's positions should be adopted."

The arbitrator's ruling also includes:

- A four-year contract with wage increases of 1.75 per cent (retroactive to Oct. 1, 2017), with increases of two per cent in the following three years.
- Establishes a seniority system for partial-load (part-time) faculty (who teach seven to 12 hours per week). The system will be maintained through the use of a registry.
- A provincial task force to examine faculty complement, precarious work, provincial funding of the colleges and other issues. During the strike the union was pushing for a 50-50 split between full- and part-time instructors.

The Ontario colleges issued a statement saying they are "very pleased" with the arbitrator's award.

"We have a workable award that is in the best interests of all parties and we want to thank the arbitrator for his efforts," said Sonia Del Missier, Chair, Colleges' Bargaining Team. "The strike has been a terrible experience for our students and everyone affected. We will be focused on rebuilding our positive working relationship with faculty that is in the best interests of the colleges, our students, and our communities."

About 12,000 college professors, instructors, counsellors and librarians walked off the job in mid-October, to kick off what became the longest faculty strike in Ontario college history.

After a weekend legislature sitting both sides were legislated by to work in late November with both sides forced into binding mediation-arbitration.

# Fanshawe student leader focuses on different strike-related relief payments for students, faculty

The London Free Press / Chatham Daily News - December 20, 2017 6:57:03 EST PM

Compensation for college faculty in the arbitrated deal announced Wednesday isn't sitting well with some students, who say the fallout of the longest teacher strike in the history of the Ontario college system is staggering.

Though the arbitrator's ruling marks the final chapter of a bitter five-week faculty strike that shuttered Ontario's 24 public colleges, the impact on students is just beginning.

"The work is far from over," said Fanshawe Student Union president Morganna Sampson.

"It's really a stressful situation."

The arbitrator's decision includes one-time payments from the colleges — \$900 for each full-time faculty member and \$450 for every partial-load employee — to settle workload complaints after striking employees were forced back to class by the province.

But Sampson said students are the ones who deserve a payout.

"To say they're giving a set amount to all the full-time faculty and all the part-time faculty, why not give the same amount to all the full-time students and all the part-time students then? What's the difference?" she said. "It's really frustrating, it's really upsetting."

The provincially mandated strike relief fund that lets full-time and international students apply for up to \$500 reimbursement for unexpected costs doesn't go far enough, Sampson said.

"They're not paying every student . . . We still stand behind the belief that every student should receive equal compensation," she said.

The arbitrator's decision forms a new, four-year collective agreement between the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) and the College Employer Council.

"We feel like we're in good shape," said Don Sinclair, council chief executive. "It's a very workable award for us . . . The award is in the best interest of the students, our faculty and our communities."

The arbitrator's ruling includes:

- A four-year, 7.75 per cent total salary increase for faculty
- Academic freedom language
- A task force to tackle long-term issues such as funding and staffing practices
- A requirement for colleges to keep a roster of part-time or partial-load faculty and give them priority when full-time opportunities arise.

Class was cancelled for more than half a million students when 12,000 college instructors, counsellors and librarians walked off the job on Oct. 16 primarily over academic freedom and precarious work concerns.

OPSEU's bargaining chairperson said in a statement Wednesday the deal could have been reached at the bargaining table if the council had been more willing to negotiate.

"With any reasonable amount of co-operation from the colleges, there would never have been a strike, students would not have had to worry about losing their semester, and faculty would never have lost five weeks' pay," said JP Hornick.

The arbitrator's deal includes the kind of language the union had been pushing for, said another OPSEU bargaining team member. "What's in this decision is very reasonable and it contains a lot of the things that we put forward," said Darryl Bedford, who's also an information technology instructor at Fanshawe College.

Bedford said the goal now is repair relationships and continue to raise the concern about the use of part-time and contract employees through the task force.

Sampson is looking ahead too.

When the contract expires, she wants students to have a seat alongside the union and the College Employer Council at the bargaining table and is continuing to work with her counterparts at other colleges to advance student concerns.

"It's unacceptable that students' education was put at risk," she said. "We want a future resolution so that this never happens again."

### **Strike timeline**

Oct. 16: 12,000 faculty hit the picket line after negotiations with College Employer Council stall

Nov. 2: Both sides return to the bargaining table

Nov. 6: Talks break down, colleges approach Ontario Labour Relations Board to bring final offer to a vote with OPSEU rank-and-file members

Nov. 16: OPSEU overwhelmingly votes to reject council's offer

Nov. 19: Back-to-work legislation passes third reading, binding mediation-arbitration announced

Nov. 20: Striking faculty at Ontario's 24 public colleges return to class

Nov. 21: After 25 days of missed class, students return to school.

# Arbitrator sets new contract for Ontario college faculty following strike



Students and staff picket at St. Clair College in Windsor, Ont., on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017. (Chris Campbell / CTV Windsor)

CTV News - The Canadian Press  
Published Wednesday, December 20, 2017

**TORONTO** - An arbitrator appointed to settle a contract dispute with Ontario college faculty after a five-week strike granted them a 7.75 per cent raise over four years in a decision issued Wednesday.

The 12,000 professors, instructors, counsellors and librarians were legislated back to work last month and outstanding issues were sent to binding mediation-arbitration.

The arbitrator's decision also includes new language on academic freedom, which had been the main outstanding issue between faculty and the colleges.

Both sides cheered the wording of that new contract section.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union, which represents the faculty, said it "will now allow faculty to speak freely about academic issues without fear of reprisal."

The colleges, meanwhile, said the academic freedom section enshrines in a contract the policies that already exist at most colleges.

"Faculty have always had academic freedom from a policy perspective in the institutions -- all it's done is put it in the context of the collective agreement," said Don Sinclair, the CEO of the College Employer Council.

"The issue was that the language the union had tabled was such that they would have no accountability with respect to academic freedom. It would essentially give the union -- for lack of a better word -- control over academic programming. In other words, 'I don't even have to teach to the curriculum that I've been presented with because I'm going to exercise my academic freedom because I think I know better.'"

The salary increase is the same as what the colleges had offered before the strike.

Hundreds of thousands of students were kept from class during the strike, and about 27,500 of the roughly 250,000 full-time students decided to withdraw and receive a tuition refund rather than finishing their semester on a condensed timeline.

OPSEU said the deal could have been reached at the bargaining table and the strike avoided if the colleges had displayed "even the slightest concern for students and staff during negotiations."

"With any reasonable amount of co-operation from the colleges, there would never have been a strike, students would not have had to worry about losing their semester, and faculty would never have lost five weeks' pay," JP Hornick, the head of the OPSEU bargaining team, said in a statement.

"It is clear now that college faculty are the ones willing to stand up for the positive changes our system needs by standing strong in solidarity."

The new contract also includes improved job security for partial-load and full-time faculty and a new government-run task force that will make recommendations on faculty complement, precarious work, college funding, student success, and governance issues, OPSEU said.

Highlights of the deal:

- 4-year contract with wage increases of 1.75% (retroactive to October 1st 2017), 2%, 2%, 2%
- Academic freedom language incorporated directly into the Collective Agreement
- Establishes a seniority system for partial-load faculty (who teach 7 to 12 hours per week) through the use of a registry
- Provincial task force to examine faculty complement, precarious work, provincial funding of the colleges, student mental health, academic governance, and intellectual property rights
- OPSEU and the College Employer Council to meet in January to consider changes to comply with the recently-passed Bill 148 Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act

# Windsor's year that was — a review of top local news events in 2017

Chris Thompson, Windsor Star - December 25, 2017

A Memorial Cup win, a torrential rain that caused \$175-million in flooding damage and a strike by college instructors were among the news events that shaped the year in Windsor and Essex County. *Chris Thompson* recounts some of the major local stories of 2017.

**Jan. 18:** A Superior Court judge dismisses Coun. Hilary Payne's multimillion-dollar lawsuit against the City of Windsor for malicious prosecution, stemming from a 2006 rooming house fire that seriously injured a woman.

**Jan. 21:** A busload of women from the Windsor area travel to Washington, D.C. to take part in the Women's March on Washington, a day after the inauguration of President Donald Trump.

**Jan. 24:** Dean Lapierre, the well-known, longtime president of the Windsor Minor Hockey Association, is investigated by his own organization and the Ontario Minor Hockey Association for calling Canadian women who participated in the Women's March on Washington "dumb bitches" on social media.

**Feb. 1:** City council agrees to a \$50,000 hike in the 2017 marketing budget for Adventure Bay, spending \$200,000 in 2017 promoting the downtown water park to boost attendance numbers, which have shrunk in the last two years.

**Feb. 8:** The Windsor region posts the largest rebound across Canada in the 2016 census, seeing a population rise of 3.1 per cent between 2011 and 2016.

**Feb. 9:** A seven-month strike that shuttered 14 libraries across Essex County finally ends after workers voted 70 per cent in favour of a new four-year contract. They had been on strike since June 25, 2016.

**March 2:** A spike in local opioid-related deaths is announced by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, prompting local emergency services and health-care workers to form a coalition to devise a plan of action to deal with the situation.

**March 4:** Windsor police step in to prevent violence between rival protestors outside city hall taking sides over Bill M-103, a federal private members' bill aimed at fighting Islamophobia.

**March 8:** Twenty per cent of the 294 medically fragile newborns admitted to Windsor's neonatal intensive care unit in 2016 were suffering withdrawal symptoms because their mothers were taking opioids while pregnant, the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit reports.

**March 9:** A Maidstone tomato processing company that received a controversial \$3-million grant from the provincial government in 2014 is charged for mislabelling its products. Thomas Canning and owner William Michael Thomas are accused of labelling regular canned tomato products as organic.

**March 10:** The Windsor area matches its record low monthly unemployment rate after February's figure dropped 0.3 per cent to 5.1 per cent, according to numbers released by Statistics Canada. The last time the rate was this low was in 2001.

**March 14:** Two Good Samaritans, including a Windsor Star photographer Dan Janisse, save a woman's life by plucking her from the icy waters of the Puce River harbour.

**March 17:** Ambassador Bridge officials announce their intention to tear down vacant houses on the east side of Indian Road to make emergency bridge repairs demanded by the federal government.

**March 31:** The latest edition of the provincial Sunshine List reveals a Windsor Police Service employee earned twice as much as the chief of police in 2016. Rita Pennesi, who juggles the numbers for the city's police department as its director of financial services, earned \$427,272 in salary and benefits in 2016 as a result of a pay equity payout going back seven years. Chief Al Frederick, by comparison, pocketed \$214,496 in salary and \$11,464 in taxable benefits.

**April 3:** Former Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network boss Gary Switzer earned a salary in 2016 of \$289,900 — despite being fired the previous May.

**April 4:** Lawyers give closing arguments in the case against the Shores of Erie International Wine Festival — charged with supplying alcohol to an underage girl who died in a car crash — after the trial was nearly derailed by a mistake in naming the charges filed.

**April 9:** The Detroit Red Wings play their final home game at Joe Louis Arena, which has housed the team since 1979. The club will begin play at the new Little Caesars Arena in the fall.

**April 11:** New home construction in Windsor is on a tear, new statistics show, with residential starts up 75 per cent over the past year and city hall issuing building permits at a rate not seen in more than a decade.

**April 18:** As angry protesters chanted outside, embattled Windsor Minor Hockey Association president Dean Lapierre runs the league's annual general meeting and apologized yet again for Facebook comments about local women travelling to protest in Washington that resulted in his suspension.

**April 19:** Infamous convicted sex offender Carl Leone, 41, is given six months of day parole, but he won't be able to live in his hometown of Windsor.

**April 25:** Windsor's real estate market becomes so hot that sales agents for the majority of listings are restricting bids to one day — a strategy reserved for the nation's most competitive housing markets in Toronto and Vancouver.

**April 26:** Volkswagen Canada must pay \$2.1 billion — the largest commercial settlement in the country's history — to affected Canadian customers as part of a class-action vehicle emissions lawsuit that started in Windsor.

**May 2:** High waves whipped up by strong winds on Lake Erie cause localized flooding and shoreline damage as west-southwest winds gusting up to 53 km/h blow throughout the day.

**May 18:** Windsor kicks off its Memorial Cup celebrations with a party, a trophy welcoming parade and a solemn ceremony at the downtown cenotaph to remember veterans in keeping with the Cup's raison d'être.

**May 21:** Windsor's Great Canadian Flag Project finally becomes reality as thousands gather at the foot of Ouellette Avenue and Riverside Drive to witness the long-awaited raising of the giant red-and-white maple leaf.

**May 28:** The Windsor Spitfires win the Memorial Cup at the WFCU Centre, their home arena, defeating the Erie Otters 4-3. The Spitfires win came after a layoff of several weeks after they were defeated in the OHL playoffs, but as host city were guaranteed a spot in the tournament.

**June 5:** Windsor city council decides to fast-track an active transportation study at a cost of between \$300,000 and \$350,000 and review the issue of bike racks in the city and who will pay for them.

**July 25:** LaSalle swimming phenom Kylie Masse makes history as she completes the 100-metre backstroke in a world record time of 58.10 seconds in Budapest, Hungary.

**August 5:** An 11-tonne yellow rubber duck arrives at Amherstburg's Navy Yard Park as part of the Canada 150 and Ontario 150 celebrations, but hundreds of onlookers are disappointed as the bird springs a leak and fails to inflate. The leak is plugged by the following day and onlookers get to see the duck in all its glory.

**Aug. 21:** Hundreds take to Windsor's waterfront and other vantage points in the area armed with everything from pinhole cardboard contraptions to special-order solar glasses and monstrous telescopes otherwise used to glimpse faraway galaxies to witness a rare near-total solar eclipse.

**Aug. 22:** Construction of the long-awaited new Windsor-Detroit border crossing bridge is set back by a year because of the complex bidding process, meaning it likely won't be completed until 2023.

**Aug 28:** City council narrowly votes to spend \$3 million on a massive holiday lights display at Jackson Park, although the expenditure would later be reduced to \$1.5 million following public outcry.

**Aug. 29:** Roads were swamped, basements were inundated, and vehicles were stalled in watery streets as Windsor-Essex endures more rain less than 24 hours after enduring a considerable downpour. Police urge the public not to drive unless absolutely necessary and thousands of local basements are flooded. Damage would later be pegged at \$175 million.

**Sept. 6:** The company that owns the Ambassador Bridge receives federal cabinet approval in Canada to build a new span between Windsor and Detroit. The approval is the final major hurdle Ambassador Bridge owner Matty Moroun needed to clear to proceed with construction of a new six-lane replacement of the existing span and to compete with a yet-to-be-built publicly owned bridge.

**Sept. 14:** Windsor police Chief Al Frederick, credited with making the force more transparent in his five years as top cop, announces his retirement effective Jan. 30, 2018.



**Sept. 17:** Major roads in the city become crowded with people for hours as an appreciative public enjoys the second edition of Open Streets Windsor — an event that officials say is exploding in popularity.

**Sept. 17:** Windsor plans to piggyback on Detroit's bid for e-commerce giant Amazon's multibillion-dollar city investment. Less than two weeks after Amazon's announcement, dozens of cities are already vying for the opportunity to host a second North American headquarters for the world's largest internet-based retailer.

**Sept. 19:** The Detroit-Windsor Tunnel — a primary artery for thousands of border-crossing commuters in Windsor — announces it will be fully closed to traffic for 10 days starting in October and will have frequent closures for months to facilitate construction of a new ceiling.

**Sept. 28:** A high-ranking Vatican diplomat recalled from the Holy See's Washington embassy under a cloud of suspicion is wanted by Windsor police for allegedly uploading and distributing child pornography at a local church.

**Oct 4:** At a time when the number of overdose cases in the Windsor area have exploded, the province announces it is setting up an emergency task force to tackle the opioid crisis.

**Oct. 10:** A graffiti artist with a penchant for racist and anti-Islamic graffiti goes on a paint spraying spree in Windsor over the Thanksgiving weekend.

**Oct. 8:** Windsor is shaken by a brutal early-morning assault on a 75-year-old woman as she walked along the Ganatchio Trail. Anne Widholm was found battered and unconscious on the trail after the assault. The community would later come out for a solidarity walk in her honour. Windsor resident Habibullah Ahmad, 21, who goes by the first name Daniel, is charged with one count of aggravated assault.

**Oct. 16:** Faculty from St. Clair College join their colleagues across the province in Day 1 of a strike over full-time versus part-time instructors.

**Nov. 6:** The City of Windsor announces it has extricated itself and taxpayers from the Candereel Building — the project started in 1999 to ensure Chrysler Canada wouldn't move its headquarters elsewhere, at a cost of tens of millions of dollars.

**Nov. 8:** Infrastructure Ontario releases a document indicating that Windsor's mega-hospital — with an expected price tag exceeding \$1 billion — will be one of six new health-care projects in the province to move forward by 2021.

**Nov 19:** More than 10,000 St. Clair College students return to class after Ontario passes back-to-work legislation ending a five-week teachers strike.

**Nov. 21:** Former Windsor Spitfire and one-time NHL-hopeful Ben Johnson loses his appeal of his sexual assault conviction at the Ontario Court of Appeal in Toronto.

**Nov. 26:** Windsor's Shawn Florence, 24, has his life forever altered at the Pine Knob Ski & Snowboard Resort in Clarkston, Mich., after a collision with a fence left him with permanent damage to his spine.

**Dec. 4:** Officials with the Shores of Erie International Wine Festival announce the event is finished forever after the corporation was fined more than \$65,000 for giving alcohol to an underage girl who died in a drunk-driving crash.

**Dec. 5:** Leamington-based cannabis producer Aphria seals a deal to supply medical marijuana to Canada's biggest pharmacy chain, Shoppers Drug Mart.

**Dec. 6:** Hiatus House announces it has turned away 223 vulnerable women and children this year as the crisis shelter faces a sharp increase in demand for beds, spurred by intense media focus on sexual assault in Hollywood and Washington.

**Dec. 6:** St. Clair College announces it lost about \$3.6 million in annual tuition fees with 1,232 students opting to withdraw and take a full refund of their tuition following the five-week strike by Ontario's community college faculty.

**Dec. 7:** Mayor Drew Dilkens flicks the switch on the Bright Lights Windsor light festival at Jackson Park as thousands of people bathed in the warm glow of hundreds of thousands of lights.

**Dec. 12:** The province announces it is searching for a ready-to-go marijuana store location in Windsor to be run by the Ontario Cannabis Retail Corp., 2,500 square feet of retail space at a location that's already built and properly zoned for commercial use. The location needs to be near a Transit Windsor bus route and away from schools, addiction treatment centres, mental-health facilities and emergency shelters.

**Dec 12:** The family of Nicole Vektor, a Windsor teen killed on the Herb Gray Parkway earlier in 2017, accuses the trucker who caused her death of getting off easy with a \$1,200 fine and \$300 surcharge.

**Dec. 21:** Despite an earlier retirement announcement, the Windsor police board announces Chief Al Frederick will stay an additional 17 months due to delays in the search for his replacement and the possibility the city force could take over the service in Amherstburg.

# Who said it? Take the Windsor-Essex Year-in-Quotes Quiz

Windsor Star - December 30, 2017



Clockwise from top left: The Great Canadian Flag project on Windsor's riverfront; Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens; The Ambassador Bridge, as seen from West Windsor; Chief Al Frederick of Windsor police; The World's Largest Rubber Duck at Amherstburg's Canuck It Up! festival; Windsor Ward 3 Coun. Rino Bortolin; A striking faculty member at Windsor's St. Clair College; Federal NDP leader Jagmeet Singh in Windsor. Windsor Star Photographers / Windsor Star

**How well have you been following Windsor-Essex news this year? See if you can recall the context of these quotes from some of the most memorable stories of 2017, as compiled by Star reporter [Dalson Chen](#).**

1. "We've never seen flooding like this. The streets were hit hard. We had water flowing in people's front doors."
2. "I've taken the feedback, I've listened to folks, we're happy to do that.... I don't want this festival to be tainted — it's supposed to be a festival for the community."
3. "When I have to continually go back to residents and say there is no money for a \$3,000 alley light where that person got beat up and raped last week, it's hard."
4. "I think Detroit is a legit contender to win over Amazon ... We are gonna win this thing or die trying."
5. "In my 12 years in Windsor, this is the most severe beating I've seen.... I've submitted pictures to Windsor police. This is among the most brutal things I've seen in my career."
6. "I was a detective for a long time and we had many successes, but the one that we didn't solve — Carol Christou — always stays with you. I remember that one like it was yesterday."
7. "How do ya like that pole?"

8. "I don't really know what other teams faced throughout the year, but I know what we did and it wasn't easy.... For us to be here now shows the character we have in the room."
9. "It's alarming. It really is at epidemic proportions. If influenza took hold like this has, I think the health unit would put out a public health alert."
10. "I think we should be appalled. It just should not happen in our country. We should not accept that it's happening in our community."
11. "I think of everyone at the college as a family. That hasn't changed because of five tense weeks."
12. "There have been many challenges our company has faced over the years in pursuit of this moment. We are now tasked with the duty to construct a privately funded bridge with the hard work of thousands of engineers, steel workers, and construction experts that will be employed to deliver this once-in-a-lifetime project."
13. "Any of those CANADIAN women who wanted to protest the President of the USA and got turned around. Good u dumb bitches.... Worry about your own Country CAN-ADA. And your protesting what?"
14. "Windsor wasn't a place where people would just point and laugh at you. Windsor was a city where, if they didn't like you, people would come up and just fight you."
15. "The employees at Windsor Assembly should be really proud of this.... The build quality has been fantastic on this vehicle. We're bringing this hardware home to them. They should be proud that they are building the best utility vehicle in the country."
16. "I didn't really understand the whole point of having a rubber duck to celebrate Canada's 150, but I guess when you get the opportunity to see a giant rubber duck, you've got to jump on it."



Clockwise from top left: Vehicles struggle through flood water on Windsor's Wyandotte Street East; Lorraine Goddard, CEO of the United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County; A used hypodermic needle in downtown Windsor; Patti France, president of St. Clair College; An excavator demolishes a home on Indian Road in West Windsor; Attendees of the Canuck It Up! festival in Amherstburg take a selfie; Peter Hrastovec addresses the crowd at the raising of the Great Canadian Flag Project on Windsor's riverfront; Insp. Tammy Fryer of Windsor police.

## Who said it and why:

1. Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens on Aug. 30 — 24 hours after the worst flooding event in the city's history. More than 220 millimetres of rain drenched Windsor-Essex in a two-day storm, with most of it pouring down in a few hours' time on the afternoon of Aug. 29.

When the reckoning was done, at least 6,116 Windsor homes reported flooding, and total damage was estimated at \$175 million. Multiple local weather and environmental records were broken — exceeding the impact of Windsor's previous "100-year storm," which happened in September 2016.

2. Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens on Sept. 5, after announcing that the Christmas light display he envisioned for Jackson Park would be scaled back from a \$3-million starting budget to \$1.5 million.

Dilkens was responding to public criticism about the expenditure, which many felt was a poorly-timed extravagance given the dissatisfaction with the city's response to the recent flood event. An online petition against the Christmas light display attracted more than 6,000 signatures.

3. Windsor's Ward 3 Coun. Rino Bortolin on Oct. 17, expressing his frustration with the city's spending decisions — such as the mayor's \$1.5-million Christmas light project and \$773,000 trolley restoration project.

Bortolin's remark would become a source of council controversy, with Mayor Dilkens pointing out that no rape had occurred and slamming Bortolin for being "irresponsible" with his words. Ward 6 Coun. Jo-Anne Gignac called for the city's integrity commissioner to formally investigate whether Bortolin had violated council's code of conduct.

Bortolin apologized for his "poor choice of words," but dismissed the controversy as sidetracking from the real issue of city spending priorities.

4. Detroit developer Dan Gilbert on Sept. 20, describing Detroit's bid to become the location for Amazon HQ2 — the second North American headquarters for the online retail giant, representing a \$5-billion investment and potentially 50,000 jobs.

The City of Windsor has officially joined Detroit's bid, touting the benefits of a "two-nation destination." Amazon is currently reviewing 238 bids, and will announce the winning city some time in 2018.

5. Dr. Balraj Jhawar, a neurosurgeon with Windsor Regional Hospital, speaking about the injuries suffered by 75-year-old Sara Anne Widholm in a brutal attack on Oct. 8.

As was her morning habit, Widholm had been walking and cleaning up litter on the Ganatchio Trail when she suddenly became the victim of what police describe as a vicious and unprovoked assault.

A 21-year-old Windsor man, Habibullah (Daniel) Ahmadi, was arrested and charged with one count of aggravated assault.

Widholm survived her injuries, but the case outraged the community. Mayor Dilkens said he was "rocked to the core" by what happened, and led a support walk that drew hundreds of citizens.

6. Chief of Windsor police Al Frederick on Sept. 14, reflecting on an unsolved homicide case after announcing his decision to retire.

Although Frederick's leadership has earned him professional accolades and community praise, he said he'll never forget cases such as the stabbing death of Carol Christou in 2000 or the shooting death of Const. John Atkinson in 2006.

Frederick had planned on stepping down on Jan. 30, ending a 33-year career with the Windsor Police Service — including five years as chief.

But delays in the search for a replacement, along with Windsor police potentially taking on the Amherstburg jurisdiction, led to Frederick announcing on Dec. 21 that he will stay on as chief until June 2019.

7. Peter Hrastovec, chair of the Great Canadian Flag Project, at the raising of the giant flag on Windsor's riverfront on May 20.

The 150-foot-tall pole and its 1,800-square-foot Maple Leaf flag are the fulfillment of a vision that began with Windsor's Thomas McDade in 1980.

Hrastovec — who brought the project to city council in 2012 — wiped tears from his eyes at the ceremony, praised the massive crowd, and declared Canada the greatest country in the world.

8. Windsor Spitfires defenceman Logan Stanley following the Spits thrilling 4-3 victory over the Erie Otters at the WFCU Centre on May 28 — making the Spits the improbable champions of the 99th Memorial Cup.

The Spitfires entered the tournament as obvious underdogs. Their regular season had been plagued by injuries and suspensions, and the team was eliminated early in the OHL playoffs. In contrast, the Otters won the league title.

But it was the Spitfires who emerged the Memorial Cup victors, beating all three of the participating champion teams. "I think we've proved a lot of people wrong," said Spits forward Jeremy Bracco.



Clockwise from top left: Windsor Spitfires defenceman Logan Stanley with the Memorial Cup; A view of Bright Lights Windsor at Jackson Park; Detroit developer Dan Gilbert; A crime scene at Windsor's Ganatchio Trail; Chrysler brand head Tim Kuniskis at the Detroit auto show; Ron Dunn, director of Windsor's Downtown Mission; Dean Lapierre, president of the Windsor Minor Hockey Association; Windsor elementary school children. Windsor Star Photographers / Windsor Star

9. Ron Dunn, executive director of the Downtown Mission, speaking in October about recent increases in drug abuse and homelessness in the city's core. Fentanyl and crystal meth are especially being blamed for rising downtown problems such as needles in the streets, fights among addicts, and people living out of shopping carts.

Insp. Tammy Fryer of Windsor police said she believes drug addicts from Toronto, London, and Chatham have been relocating to Windsor — straining the resources of local service agencies. “It’s a crisis all the way around.”

10. Lorraine Goddard, CEO of United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County, reacting on Sept. 18 to a Statistics Canada report that Windsor has the worst rate in the country when it comes to children growing up in low-income families.

Based on 2015 data, one in four children under the age of 17 in the Windsor census metropolitan area is living in a low-income household.

Statistics Canada defines low annual income as below \$31,301 for a single mother of one, or \$44,266 for a household of four. Windsor’s 24-per-cent rate of low-income kids is worse than Saint John, London, and Winnipeg.

11. St. Clair College president Patti France on Nov. 20 at the end of the five-week faculty strike at all Ontario colleges.

The prolonged labour dispute stuck thousands of students in limbo — left without classes while their teachers walked the picket lines and the college employers entrenched their bargaining position.

By the time the matter was settled, the semester had been severely impacted. A total of 1,232 St. Clair College students decided their semester couldn’t be salvaged and opted to withdraw, costing the college an estimated \$2.4 million in tuition refunds.

12. Matthew Moroun, son of Ambassador Bridge owner Matty Moroun, in a public statement on Sept. 6 revealing that the bridge company received Canadian federal cabinet approval to build its controversial “twin” span.

The momentous announcement was a surprise to many close to the border file. Windsor West MP Brian Masse expressed shock at the federal government’s “lack of transparency,” and wondered why no representative from either the bridge company nor Transport Canada was available for questions on the matter.

Others wondered what the approval means for the future of the Gordie Howe International Bridge, which is still in its planning stages and not expected to be completed until at least 2023.

For now, the approval has resulted in the bridge company starting demolition of its long-vacant properties in West Windsor — ending 10 years of blight in such neighbourhoods as Indian Road.

13. Windsor Minor Hockey Association president Dean Lapierre, posting on his personal Facebook account on Jan. 22. The disparaging remarks were directed at the Windsor women who travelled to Washington, D.C. that weekend to participate in the 2017 Women’s March against U.S. President Donald Trump.

Lapierre’s comment was widely condemned and led to him being suspended from his position until the end of the minor hockey season. Concerned parents pointed to a history of off-colour comments by Lapierre on social media.

"I know that I offended many people," Lapierre later said in an apology to the association. "I did not intend to hurt anyone and, at the time, I did not understand the impact that it has on some groups of people."

**14.** Jagmeet Singh, new leader of the federal New Democrat Party, recalling his upbringing in Windsor for a CBC interview.

While visiting Windsor on Oct. 3, Singh clarified his remarks — professing his love for his hometown. "I faced difficulties, for sure ... There were times I had to defend myself. But that kind of thing happened throughout my childhood, not just in one city."

**15.** Tim Kuniskis, head of Chrysler brand vehicles for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, on Jan. 9 at the North American International Auto Show after the Windsor-built Pacifica won the award for utility vehicle of the year.

Kuniskis held up the award as confirmation of FCA's confidence in the minivan program — the result of \$3 billion of investment including the retooling of Windsor Assembly Plant and the addition of more than 1,000 employees.

**16.** Kingsville resident Anne Marie Moniz — one of thousands of people who attended Amherstburg's Canuck It Up! festival on Aug. 5 and 6.

The event was meant to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation, but the real draw was a six-story-tall bright yellow inflatable duck.

While some members of the public grumbled about how much taxpayer money went into contracting the privately-owned duck, others were delighted by the rubbery spectacle.



# St. Clair President: Strike Didn't Hold College Back In 2017

AM800 – CKLW – January 2, 2018



AM800 file photo of Patti France. 2015 (Photo by Teresinha Medeiros)

The president of St. Clair College is looking back at the past year with a smile.

Patti France says, despite the five-week-long faculty strike, the college has plenty to be proud of in 2017.

France starts off by pointing to celebrating the school's 50th anniversary, and that St. Clair saw its 100,000th graduate cross the stage in October.

To mark the anniversary they did '50 Acts from the Heart'.

"We wanted to celebrate our involvement and engagement in our community by our staff and students lending their support to a number of local charities and agencies," she says. "Goodfellows, Socks Warm Your Heart, Coats for Kids. We were aiming for 50 and I think we actually surpassed the 50 that we were aiming for."

International student enrollment skyrocketed this year as well.

"Two years ago we were at 380. Last year we were at a little over 580. This year we actually exceeded over a thousand," says France. "I actually think word-of-mouth is helping. International students seem very happy here. Students, themselves, have been great advocates in getting other students to come."

France says now that the strike is behind them, it's business as usual.

"The faculty stoppage, it was unfortunate that it did happen, but the faculty do have a contract now. So I'm just happy that it's behind us and we're moving forward. Our faculty and our staff are all very dedicated and focused on helping our students and making sure that they're successful."

Looking ahead, France says 2018 is going to be a big year for St. Clair. Work is underway on a new sports park and business tower in Windsor as well as a powerline technician school at the Chatham campus.

# St. Clair Students Resume Class Tuesday

Blackburn News - January 2, 2018 4:30am

Tuesday is back-to-work day for students at St. Clair College.

As part of its [semester completion plan](#) following a province-wide college strike, the college cut short its usual holiday break for its Windsor and Chatham students, and is resuming fall classes.

St. Clair students usually break for three weeks during the holiday season, but in an effort to make up time lost during the five-week-long strike, the recess was cut to one week.

Including exam week, the fall semester is now ending on January 20, with the winter semester starting on Monday, January 22 and lasting 13 weeks.

St. Clair's faculty joined those at all of Ontario's colleges in walking off the job in October 2017 in a dispute over job security, wages and input into curriculum. Classes resumed in mid-November after Ontario's legislature passed back-to-work legislation. The dispute was finally [resolved](#) via binding arbitration just before Christmas.

Students were offered a no-questions-asked tuition refund and withdrawal due to the lost classroom time. Over 1,200 St. Clair students took the college up on that offer.

# Union launches charter challenge over five-week college strike

Windsor Star - The Canadian Press - January 24, 2018

TORONTO — The union representing Ontario's college faculty has launched a charter challenge of legislation that ended a five-week strike and allowed 500,000 students to return to class.

The president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union says the back-to-work legislation introduced by the Liberal government, and supported by the Opposition Progressive Conservatives, violated workers' rights.

"The union's rights and freedoms have been denied," Warren (Smokey) Thomas said in a statement. "OPSEU has the right to freely negotiate a collective agreement with the College Employer Council."

In November, when the legislation was passed, the union vowed to challenge it in the courts. It filed the necessary documentation Tuesday.

The union is now demanding that the collective agreement awarded through arbitration be deemed to have expired and that it and College Employer Council, which represents the province's colleges, return to the bargaining table.

Don Sinclair, CEO of the College Employer Council, said the group appreciates the efforts of the legislators who voted to end the labour dispute.

"The government's actions were necessary to end the strike — all efforts at the bargaining table had been exhausted," Sinclair said in a statement.

Minister of Advanced Education Mitzie Hunter said she couldn't comment on the charter challenge but added that the focus should be on helping students resume their year.

"I'm very respectful of collective bargaining rights that we have in place here," she said. "I can't comment on this specific issue because it will be considered by the courts. Everyone's focus has to be about the students and their learning and the outcomes for them."

In December, an arbitrator gave the province's 12,000 college faculty members a 7.75 per cent raise over four years.

The arbitrator's decision also included new language on academic freedom, which had been the main outstanding issue between faculty and the colleges.

At the time, both sides cheered the wording of that new contract section.

The union said it "will now allow faculty to speak freely about academic issues without fear of reprisal." The colleges, meanwhile, said the academic freedom section enshrines in a contract the policies that already exist at most colleges.

The new contract also included improved job security for partial-load and full-time faculty and a new government-run task force that will make recommendations on faculty complement, precarious work, college funding, student success, and governance issues, OPSEU said.

Hundreds of thousands of students were kept from class during the strike in the fall, and about 27,500 of the roughly 250,000 full-time students decided to withdraw and receive a tuition refund rather than finishing their semester on a condensed timeline.

# College Strike Ending Legislation Challenged By Union

Blackburn News - January 24, 2018

Calling back-to-work legislation that ended a five-week old college strike “unconstitutional” the union representing faculty at Ontario’s 24 public colleges is taking its fight to the courts.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) filed a charter challenge Tuesday of legislation introduced by the Liberal government last November that forced its roughly 12,000 members back to work. In its challenge, the union maintains the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Labour Dispute Resolution Act, also known as Bill 178, violates workers rights under the the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

“We promised last November that we would challenge the government’s back-to-work legislation, and we are keeping that promise. This Act is unconstitutional,” said OPSEU President Warren (Smokey) Thomas.

OPSEU is demanding that the collective agreement reached through arbitration in December be deemed to have expired, and that both parties return to the bargaining table.

“The union’s rights and freedoms have been denied,” said Thomas. “OPSEU has the right to freely negotiate a collective agreement with the College Employer Council.”

He went on to state that the “right to strike is essential to collective bargaining, and negotiating with the employer is central to the work of a union.”

College instructors, counselors, and librarians were awarded a 7.75% wage increase over four years as part of Arbitrator William Kaplan’s decision. They also won the establishment of a seniority system for partial-load faculty who teach seven to 12 hours per week through the use of a registry, and new language on academic freedom.

Classes for more than half a million students were cancelled for five weeks after college faculty walked off the job on October 16, 2017. The main sticking point for faculty was academic freedom and a better split of full time and contract positions.

Faculty returned to work on November 21 after the Ontario legislature passed back-to-work legislation in a rare weekend sitting.

The arbitration settlement was made public on December 20 following three days of mediation talks between Kaplan and the two sides of the labour dispute. At that time, the union vowed to challenge it in the courts.

