



March 7, 2011

The Hon. Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Room 281, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty:

I am writing on behalf of the 1 million members of the Ontario Federation of Labour to ask you to intervene in the travesty facing Ontario's 9,400 part-time academic and support staff community college workers. Despite having signed membership cards and having chosen OPSEU as their union, these workers continue to have their right to join a trade union denied. The Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) continues to drag its feet on the counting of the ballots under challenges from the Colleges designed to undermine the free collective bargaining process.

To have this process drag on for almost two years makes a mockery of the right of community college workers to organize and thwarts the democratic process. Three months ago the International Labour Organization (ILO) urged your government to sit down with OPSEU to try and find a solution to this untenable situation, but we have seen no action on your part.

The old adage that "justice delayed is justice denied" is certainly applicable in this situation. Your legislation giving part-time college workers the right to join a union is meaningless if the results of a legitimate vote by the members can be delayed indefinitely.

A stable and peaceful labour relations environment depends on the good faith actions of both unions and employers. The unscrupulous tactics being used by the Colleges are undermining this environment in Ontario and must not be tolerated. We urge you to use the provisions in the Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology and instruct your Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities to order the Colleges to withdraw their objections to the counting of the ballots.

Premier Dalton McGuinty

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It is up to you, Mr. Premier, to see that your own legislation is respected.
Intervene immediately and give these workers what is rightfully theirs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sid Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

SID RYAN

President

Ontario Federation of Labour

SR/kn:cope343

cc: Minister John Milloy