



CAAT-A

COLLEGES
ACADEMIC
DIVISION



Bargaining information for OPSEU members in the CAAT-Academic Division

Strikes Are Not About Putting Students At Risk

Faculty's working conditions are students' learning conditions.

Faculty and students share a common interest in quality education. When class sizes are reasonable and teachers have sufficient time for their students, students benefit. When the employer takes steps to jeopardize or diminish that quality, faculty react to protect quality.

In 15 rounds of bargaining since the inception of the Colleges, there have been 12 strike votes and only 3 strikes.

Strikes are a great concern for current students. Although there have been strikes, the academic year has always been completed.

Have there been benefits to students? Yes.

- The 1984 strike led to the creation of the SWF and the associated workload limits. The subsequent hiring of more faculty meant that students' classes were not as crowded, teachers' workloads were more manageable, and guaranteed time for out-of-class assistance to students was finally recognized.
- The 1989 strike led to reinforcement of the workload limits. It prevented management from clawing back the improvements achieved in 1984 and 1987.
- The 2006 strike was about preventing further setbacks to quality, addressing the issues of keeping pace with the changing learning environment of students, as well as looking for ways to deal with the increasing number of students attending college. Implementation of the Workload Task Force recommendations will go a long way to bringing the college system in line with post-secondary education in Ontario.

Of course, strikes are disruptive to students in college at the time of the strike. It is always better to get a negotiated settlement. But the most important goal is to improve quality and improve the college system. In this round, there should be a settlement. The settlement must be fair and reflect the realities of a post-secondary education environment.

On January 13, vote Yes



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