

# STRIKING NEWS TODAY

March 13, 2006

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**“Everyone agrees that improving the quality of education is a key goal.”**

March 10, 2006

Dear Mr. Olivo,

Thank you for your correspondence concerning the ongoing college teacher's strike. You are right to talk about Premier McGuinty's promises to increase faculty and invest an additional \$6.2 billion in post-secondary institutions.

I feel that Dalton McGuinty has broken these promises. We are three years into this Liberal government's mandate, and class sizes are still soaring while both students and staff suffer. The expected investments in post-secondary education have yet to materialize. Your concerns about a repeat of the previous Conservative government's policies are justified.

No one wants a strike. Everyone agrees that improving the quality of college education is a key goal. McGuinty must get everyone back to the table to hammer out the details, quickly and fairly.

Colleges are overcrowded with classes that get larger year after year, and each year more and more classes are taught by part-time instructors who are brought in to cut costs. This is not fair to students or instructors and leads to problems like this one.

The NDP will continue to pressure Dalton McGuinty to show some real leadership on behalf of both students and teachers. He needs to facilitate talks that will deliver a fair solution to both sides. And he needs to show that leadership before students lose any more class time.

Sincerely,

Rosario Marchese,  
M.P.P. for Trinity-Spadina



## Rally for Quality Education

**Thursday, March 16  
11:00 a.m.  
Yonge-Dundas Square  
Toronto**

11:45 a.m.  
Mass March to the  
Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities  
900 Bay St. at Wellesley

- **Attendance is mandatory.** This rally replaces regular picket duty for Thursday March 16.
- **Look for the Seneca Local 560 banner and sign in with your picket captain.**

**E-mail us your photos & stories: [union@opseu560.org](mailto:union@opseu560.org)**

## Our Guardian Angel

J. Leal, M.P.P.

Dear Mr. Leal,

### Subject: Quality College Education

I am a college teacher. I want to teach. I do not want to strike. However, I support the strike because I agree with the Rae Review and your government about quality education.

With small classes, I can pass on skills to help my students become professionals. With large classes, I can give them grades.

For almost 7 years now, I have taught computer studies at Seneca College. During the previous 20 years when I was a very successful computer and business systems consultant, I never worked as hard as I continue to do as a teacher.

When I started, I was promised my classes would never be larger than 32 students. In two years, and through the Information Technology boom, I had over 40 students in most of my classes. Today, IT program enrollment is in a slump all over Canada. My class sizes are significantly smaller. I don't work less hours or less hard. I work better. I teach more and mark less.

My average class size over 7 years has been what college management considers acceptable. What about the quality of my students' educational experience? It is inversely proportional to class size. But on the average, it's been just fine.

Teaching has been very rewarding for me in many ways. I have learned that there are many kinds of wealth besides money. Don't leave me with just the money.

Sincerely,  
Tim McKenna

Cc: Dalton McGuinty, Premier;  
Gerard Kennedy, M.P.P

Eleonore Northam, Picket Captain at Newnham, tells us that support for our strike is coming from many corners. Here's her report about Alan Fujino, the police officer who each day parks his cruiser in the left turning lane to guard our safety.

"Officer Fujino is the living embodiment of the concept "to protect and serve", says Eleonore. "He is totally sympathetic, understanding, and supportive of our cause, and he is pro-active in protecting our line from aggressive drivers."

Officer Fujino has put in additional requests for officers to look after other lines when his shift is completed. He has reported ineffective monitoring and placement of cruisers by fellow officers.

"He wants you to know that you are doing a professional job of picketing," says Eleonore. "He totally respects your legal right to picket. He is a fine police officer and a truly caring human being." His daily goal is our safety, and we can show him our gratitude by complying with any of his requests.

"We're blessed to have to have a real guardian angel watching over us."

### ***Safety Reminder from Officer Fujino***

Be cautious, and observant on the green at all times. Even though you have the right of way on a green light, if you notice any car making a left-hand turn on the green into the campus, please clear out of the way. Let the car through, and *never* block it! If that car has to stop to avoid hitting one of you, and it's broad-sided by an oncoming vehicle, both cars could become vehicular bowling balls from the impact. And you would become human bowling pins! Stay safe, and obey the law.