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ONTARIO LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD UNDERVALUES PART-TIME STUDENT WORKERS

TORONTO, ON, June 16, 2016 - College Student Alliance (CSA) is dissatisfied with the Ontario Labour Relations Board's (OLRB) decision to generate unfair barriers for 70 per cent of part-time student workers by allowing the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) to hold a representation vote in June 2016.

On May 31, 2016, OPSEU submitted an application to OLRB to represent part-time employees on college campuses under the College Collective Bargaining Act. OPSEU requested to have the representation vote as soon as possible. CSA has previously expressed concerns to OLRB regarding the timing of the vote as a vast majority of part-time workers are not on campus to learn about OPSEU. Unfortunately, OLRB has approved the request.

"In March 2016, students represented 46 per cent of the bargaining unit. Between June 20-30 2016, they will only represent 26 per cent; by approving a vote to be held in June, OLRB undervalues part-time student workers and their worth," says Ciara Byrne, director of advocacy at CSA. "Everyone has a right to representation and everyone should have an equal opportunity to cast their vote on the matter."

A June 2016 vote comes with overwhelming challenges for part-time student workers. Students now have to find ways to get to campus, which is often far from their summer residence, while potentially missing a day of paid work or co-op placement. The ability to receive information that should be readily accessible is hindered by the timing of the vote.

"Knowingly disadvantaging part-time student workers creates an unjust voting process," says Madison Schell, CSA president. "CSA will work with college student associations to provide information for parttime student workers across the province to ensure students are informed of their options."

CSA encourages all part-time college student workers from the 2015-2016 academic year to contact their manager or OPSEU representative for further information on campus voting times and locations. Everyone has a right to be heard; CSA will work diligently to ensure students have an equal voice.

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About College Student Alliance (CSA)

College Student Alliance (CSA) advocates on behalf of Ontario college students in partnership with student leaders. Through our member student associations, CSA represents the collective voice of Ontario's college students.

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