

YORK FEDERATION OF STUDENTS
LOCAL 68 CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

June 2017
Executive Report

Meetings & Events

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING

The 70th Semi-Annual General meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) took place from June 3 to June 7 in Ottawa. Over 300 delegates from student unions across Canada attended the general meeting.

The meeting gave union representatives an opportunity to talk, discuss and unite about issues dealing with campaigns, services and the direction of the student movement in Canada as a whole.

There were several workshops and lobby sessions on issues pertaining to the \$15 minimum wage campaign, Resisting 150, organizing to win, and more.

Delegates to the general meeting included: President, Rawan Habib, Vice- President Equity Roshni Raveenthiran, Vice-President Campus Life Matthew Comishen, Vice-President Operations Mary Asekome, and Executive Director Darshika Selvasivam. Asekome was re-elected as the national international student constituency commissioner.

2017 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM



From Friday May 26th to Sunday May 28th the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario (CFS-O) held their 16th Annual Skills Development Symposium. YFS Executives as well as Nabil Nazhat, the YFS Health Plan Coordinator, attended Skills this year. The Symposium was held at the University of Toronto Mississauga Campus.

Skills gave Student Union representatives the opportunity to engage and participate in different workshops that assisted in the day-to-day functions and duties of the student union throughout the year.

Workshops focused on a diversity of issues for student leaders to think about when organizing at their respective campuses. The different workshops included Building an Inclusive Student Movement, Campaigns Organizing, Understanding the Post-Secondary Education Sector, Fight the Fees, Media Relations for Student Unions, Students' Union Directors'

Duties and Responsibilities, Membership Engagement, and Contracts and Negotiating.

The Skills symposium was well received and the executives of the YFS were able to bring back a lot of new information that will benefit the York community as a whole.

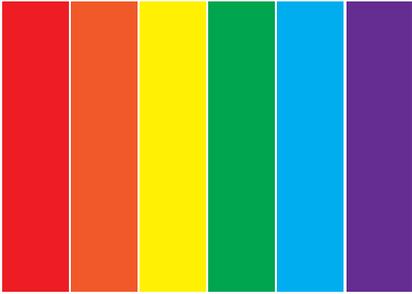
YODA

The York Orientation Directors Association (YODA) is underway on setting up yet another incredible orientation week for all colleges on campus. Representatives on this committee are working on creating a fun and inclusive orientation week for students.

Vice-President Campus Life, Matthew Comishen, currently holds a position on YODA as the YFS representative. Comishen also sits on the consent committee in order to help ensure that orientation week is as safe as possible, and leaders are equipped with the knowledge necessary to prevent sexual violence.

As Orientation Week approaches, directors are encouraged to join their respective constituencies if they feel comfortable doing so.

PRIDE



This year, Pride will be hosted from June 19th to June 25th. Vice-President Equity, Roshni Raveenthiran, has been co-ordinating with Trans*, Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Asexual at York (TBLGAY) and Art Gallery of York University (AGYU) to discuss the layout and events of Pride this year.

The theme this year is “We Are Nature”, which focuses on prioritizing queer identities as the norm, and connecting it with elements of nature.

The organizing is well underway, and we are expected to have the float, decorations, and swag completed in time for the week of events. Events will be hosted both on and off campus, and directors are encouraged to participate in any way that they can.

COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP COUNCIL MEETING

The Community Service Group Council is comprised of the Aboriginal Student Association at York (ASAY), Transgender, Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Asexual at York (TBLGAY), United South Asians at York (USAY) and York United Black Students’ Alliance (YUBSA), and the YFS Access Centre.

Vice-President Equity Roshni Raveenthiran serves as the Chair of the CSG Council and coordinates with all five groups to ensure there is collaboration and partnership with all groups. Raveenthiran will be conducting anti-o training to all five-community services groups throughout the summer to ensure that the commitments and mandates of the York Federation of Students are upheld within the CSG’s.

The YFS maintains it’s commitment of solidarity with marginalized communities, and is working to support the CSG’s in any way that it can.

Campaigns & Equity

FIFTEEN & FAIRNESS

The York Federation of Students remains committed to the Fifteen and Fairness campaign. President, Rawan Habib, has had the honour of speaking at two events focused on the Fifteen and Fairness Campaign: The \$15 and Fairness Toronto Organizing Conference on March 31st, and the Street Party for Fair Wages hosted by the Canadian Labour Congress and the Ontario Federation of Labour on May 11th.

We have seen a huge victory recently with the announcement of the minimum wage increasing to \$15 in Ontario, and we are excited to see the other victories that can come out of this campaign.

MENSTRUAL EQUITY CAMPAIGN

The York Federation of Students is committed to menstrual equity, and we are in the process of ensuring that people who bleed have access to free menstrual products campus-wide. Currently, the York University Student Centre (YUSC) has successfully incorporated buckets of tampons in all female identified and gender-neutral washrooms.

We are working towards installing product dispensers in all bathrooms to ensure there is a consistent supply of free pads and tampons. We are working towards our main goal of lobbying the York University Administration to adopt the same policy and implement free menstrual products in all bathrooms campus-wide.

Free menstrual products can also be found in various offices in the student centre and around campus including the YFS office, the YFS Food Bank, United South Asians at York, and York University Black Student Alliance.



Clubs & Services

CLUB SERVICES

Vice-President Operations, Mary Asekome, has been working hard to guarantee more services for our ratified clubs. For the 2017/2018 academic year, clubs will be able to enjoy various discounts such as discounts at the Underground Restaurant, and Gino's pizza.

The YFS will also be providing anti-oppression training, promotional space, and will be working on expanding rental services.

CLUBS TOWN HALL

As per the YFS Club Ratification Policy, the YFS Clubs Town Hall is required to be held at least once per year. All YFS Ratified Clubs are required to send at least one representative to the Clubs Town Hall.

The purpose of the Clubs Town Hall is to bring the representatives from all campus clubs together into an open forum in order to communicate changes in policy, services offered, and other items of interest.

The Clubs Town Halls for this year are set for Wednesday, August 16 & Thursday, September 14.

SERVICES & DISCOUNTS

Understanding the rising cost of tuition fees and other ancillary fees, the YFS is committed to providing more cost efficient services for our students.

This year, our students can enjoy a variety of new services and discounts from Mystery Room, Bubble Soccer, African Lion Safari, Just Bounce, CNE, Instabuggy, Medieval Times, ACP Rail and much more.