Annual General Meeting  
York Federation of Students (YFS) – Local 68 Canadian Federation of Students  
Thursday, November 28, 2019 @ 6:00PM – York University, Toronto, Ontario

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

3. WELCOMING REMARK

4. ANTI-HARASSMENT ADVISOR REMARKS

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION 2019-11-28: A01

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be accepted as presented.

Moved: Babiker  
Seconded:  
Result:

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

MOTION 2019-11-28: M01

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the November 29, 2018 Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented in APPENDIX A

Moved: Saningong  
Seconded:  
Result:

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOTION 2019-11-28: N01

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE 2017-2018 Audit by Grant Thornton be received as presented in APPENDIX B; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Grant Thornton be accepted as the auditors for the 2019-2020 audit.

Moved: Suresh  
Seconded:  
Result:
B. MOTION TO DEVELOP AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

MOTION 2019-11-28: N02

WHEREAS there has been a climate emergency declared by a coalition of over 10,000 scientists across the globe; and

WHEREAS carbon pollution from fossil fuels is warming our planet and throwing natural systems out of balance; and

WHEREAS the solution begins by defending land and waterways from damage wrought by fossil fuels and other industries that cause environmental harm; and

WHEREAS bold policies include the decarbonization that limits the devastating impacts of global climate change while putting the voices of Indigenous people at the centre of the transition to a green economy; and

WHEREAS the most effective environmental justice campaigns take lead from the Indigineous people of this land; and

WHEREAS York University is complicit in contributing to the climate crisis through their investments in fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS we have seen mass mobilization around environmental justice;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the YFS launches an environmental justice campaign for the 2020-2021 year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the YFS produces the materials and resources required including but not limited to: Posters, pamphlets, social media graphics, etc.

Moved: Hawamdeh Seconded: Result:

C. MOTION TO FURTHER SUPPORT THE WUSC REFUGEE INITIATIVE

MOTION 2019-11-28: N03

WHEREAS there is a profound global refugee crisis, not just limited to Syria, Afghanistan, and South Sudan; and

WHEREAS since 2012, refugee movements have significantly increased as there are over 70 million people that have been forcibly displaced
WHEREAS 3.7 million refugee youth are out of school, it is incredibly disheartening that a reluctance exists to better support the education of this population; and

WHEREAS the cost incurred through transportation loans for an individual to immigrate to Canada is on average, upwards of $2000; and

WHEREAS it is for these very reasons that several initiatives have come to existence to allow individuals to help in ways in which the government is neglecting; and

WHEREAS there are campus based organizations including the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) that are committed to raising awareness and funds around the global refugee crisis as well as the successful resettlement of refugees to Canada; and

WHEREAS our own university has been committed to sponsor refugees through supporting their access to post-secondary education through the WUSC Student Refugee Program; and

WHEREAS this support is highly dependant on fundraising, donations, and a $0.03 levy per credit;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the York Federation of Students makes a donation of $2,000.00 to further support the WUSC Keele Refugee Students.

Moved: Ravalico                Seconded:                Result:

D. MOTION TO DRAFT A BY-LAW OUTLINING PROCEDURES FOR SEEKING A DEMOCRATIC MANDATE FOR STUDENT STRIKES

MOTION 2019-11-28: N04

WHEREAS the York Federation of Students has a lengthy history of advocacy and lobbying in an effort to promote accessible education; and

WHEREAS tuition fees have steadily risen in Ontario despite years of lobbying, showing that new strategies are required to win lower tuition and accessible education; and
WHEREAS the YFS membership previously voted to endorse a student strike as a critical component of building a strong and vibrant student movement; and

WHEREAS the York Federation of Students held a One-Day Student Strike on November 6, 2019; and

WHEREAS the November 6, 2019 strike had low participation relative to the size of the undergraduate student body, and was initiated without a strike vote; and

WHEREAS a democratic mandate from the membership through strike votes is a required process of strike organizing in labour unions and our on-campus union allies, such as CUPE 3903; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the YFS reaffirm a commitment to organizing student strikes at both Keele and Glendon campuses in order to advance the student movement for accessible education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the YFS draft a by-law outlining the procedures by which a democratic mandate is to be sought from the YFS membership in order to initiate a student strike;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this draft by-law be brought to the next General Meeting of members for discussion and adoption; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the YFS commit to enacting these procedures to seek a democratic mandate from the membership to initiate a One-Day Student Strike annually.

Moved: Stacey      Seconded:          Result:

E. RESOLUTION TO ESCALATE THE FIGHT AGAINST THE OSAP CUTS AND FOR FREE EDUCATION

MOTION 2019-11-28: N05

WHEREAS the Ford government cut over 600 million dollars from funding for post-secondary education resulting in thousands of students losing access to higher education; and

WHEREAS these cuts disproportionately impact working-class students and limit our ability to pursue higher education, forced to choose between
Annual General Meeting
York Federation of Students (YFS) – Local 68 Canadian Federation of Students
Thursday, November 28, 2019 @ 6:00PM – York University, Toronto, Ontario

tuition, food, and rent; and

**WHEREAS** there is more than enough money to fund higher education when Doug Ford can give 2.3 billion dollars in tax cuts to his wealthy friends; and

**WHEREAS** the YFS has already conducted a one-day student strike on Nov 6 against the OSAP cuts and for free tuition, which was not enough to force Doug Ford to cancel the OSAP cuts and grant free tuition; and

**WHEREAS** it was shown through the strike movement at OCAD and Ryerson that the best way to get students involved in strike organizing is to empower them through General Assemblies;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the YFS Executive continue and escalate the struggle against the OSAP cuts and for free education by committing to a three-day student strike in March 2020; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the YFS Executive commit to organizing two General Assemblies in January and February in order to democratically organize this strike through strike votes and democratic discussions on the demands of the strike; and.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the YFS continue organizing escalating actions after the three-day strike until we defeat the OSAP cuts and win free education

Moved: Sharabiani    Seconded:    Result:

E. MOTION ON FIGHTING IMPERIALIST PROPAGANDA ON OUR CAMPUS

MOTION 2019-11-28: N06

**WHEREAS** an event was organized on campus for Israeli Defense Force (IDF) soldiers to come and speak to students on November 20, 2019; and

**WHEREAS** the IDF directly carries out the unjust arrest and unjustified killings of Palestinian people and is responsible for the forcible displacement of millions of Palestinians since 1948; and

**WHEREAS** the Israeli state continues to sow division between the Israeli and Palestinian working class while driving both further into poverty within Israel
Annual General Meeting
York Federation of Students (YFS) – Local 68 Canadian Federation of Students
Thursday, November 28, 2019 @ 6:00PM – York University, Toronto, Ontario

for the sake of continued profit; and

WHEREAS at the November 20 rally, where both Jewish and non-Jewish students were protesting the actions of the Israeli state; members of the Jewish Defense League (JDL), a far-right organization, were present resulting in the assault of a number of students who were peacefully demonstrating; and

WHEREAS student unions have historically played a decisive role in leading anti-war and anti-imperialist movements in Canada and have a duty to oppose Imperialism here at home

BE IT RESOLVED THAT if representatives of the Israeli state or any other imperialist power are invited to gather support for war and occupation in Palestine and elsewhere, the York Federation of Students must organize mass mobilizations of students, workers, marginalized communities in opposition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the YFS provides material support for student activist groups fighting against imperialist propaganda by providing resources and using their multi-million dollar apparatus to lead the organizing effort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the YFS defend the right of students to speak freely and organize against the far-right, war, and imperialism on campus by defending students from repression by the administration or state forces.

Moved: Zeineddine Seconded: Result:

F. MOTION TO REQUEST DONATION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

MOTION 2019-11-28: N07

WHEREAS YFS and has a demonstrated history of supporting social justice, equity and environmental causes. This project highly aligns with the values of YFS and its membership, and once completed, will provide affordable housing for members of the community, including any interested YFS members and their families; and

WHEREAS it is very important to support the creation of a new affordable co-op housing in Toronto; and
Annual General Meeting
York Federation of Students (YFS) – Local 68 Canadian Federation of Students
Thursday, November 28, 2019 @ 6:00PM – York University, Toronto, Ontario

WHEREAS there are over 150 general housing co-ops throughout Toronto, many of which have been built through union support. However, very few new affordable housing buildings have been built since the 1990s because of neoliberal budget cuts to affordable housing programs; and

WHEREAS to achieve the objective of creating affordable housing, we have set up the Affordable Housing Committee at York University involving union locals and community groups. The mission of the committee is to create new affordable housing on York University’s surplus lands. We already have the support of YUGSA, CUPE3903, York University Faculty Association, York University Staff Association, OPIRG York, and Regenesis York; and

WHEREAS funding is needed in order to take this initiative to the next stage, answering a Request for Proposal Call from the City of Toronto’s Housing Office; and

WHEREAS this project highly aligns with the values of YFS and its membership, and once completed, will provide affordable housing to members of the York community, including YFS members; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the York Federation of Students support the mission of the Affordable Housing Housing Committee at York University by providing $2000 for the 2019-2020 YFS fiscal year; and

Moved: Hamilton           Seconded:          Result:

G. MOTION TO REQUEST DONATION FOR BLACK IN POST-SEC

MOTION 2019-11-28: N08

WHEREAS there has been a continuous divide between black students in the province; and

WHEREAS black students still do not feel safe on post-secondary institutions in the province, including York University; and

WHEREAS black students on this campus do not feel represented by administrative staff and faculty on this campus; and

WHEREAS due to the cuts to OSAP and public funding for post-secondary, black students on this campus are under attack; and
WHEREAS in 2018-2019 black students took the initiative to make a documentary (Black in Post-Sec) highlighting the challenges, barriers and limitations black students have in accessing education safely;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the YFS supports Black students on this campus in pursuing this initiative further; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the YFS provides a donation of $2,000 towards the creation and documentation of black stories and black experiences on this campus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the donation be given by January of 2020.

Moved: Tomlinson Seconded: Result:

H. MOTION TO REJECT AND STRONGLY CONDEMN THE RECENT TUITION FEES INCREASES ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

MOTION 2019-11-28: N09

WHEREAS International Students are an integral part of our university campuses; and

WHEREAS they make our institutions more diverse, rich in culture and add valuable contributions to the academic community and having a large economic impact through paying tuition fees, basic living expenses and consumer spending resulting in annual tax contributions; and

WHEREAS Ontario has one of the highest tuition fees in the country with plenty of data showing disproportionate tuition increases further limiting and reducing access to education; and

WHEREAS York University’s Board of Governors (BoG) in 2019 approved changes to the tuitional levels as per the provincial’s Tuition Fee Framework; and

WHEREAS under the new Tuition Fee Framework set by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU), universities were required to reduce tuition levels by 10% in 2019-20 and the subsequent freeze in 2020-21; and

WHEREAS this “tuition decrease” only applied to domestic students, the Board of Governors looked to offset the loss on revenue due to these
changes by increasing the hefty tuition fees international students already pay largely going uncapped; and

WHEREAS the Board of Governors increased fees of 10% in both 2019-20 and 2020-21 for international students and has placed a greater importance on attracting international students (evident in the recent high enrollments); and

WHEREAS the rationale the Board of Governors made was that “significant budget pressures will be encountered in the area of salary and benefits, which account for nearly 80% of the University’s budget. The fee increases for international students are required to (partly) mitigate these cost pressures”; and

WHEREAS such seismic changes allow the university to capitalize on international students by exponentially increasing their tuition fees (on average being 4X that of domestic tuition fees) in the form of “cash cows”; and

WHEREAS the York Federation of Students (YFS) is committed to the Fairness for International Students campaign;

BE IT RESOLVED that the YFS doubles its efforts on the Fairness for International Students campaign; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the YFS and this democratic body – AGM - fundamentally condemn in the strongest terms the tuition increases on international students approved by the Board of Governors as unfair and wrong; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the YFS immediately lobbies the Board of Governors and relevant York Administration to freeze and reverse these tuition increases with the aim of reducing tuition costs eventually; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the YFS work towards creating awareness, educating international students on the impacts of such changes, and recognize the unique challenges, financial burdens and experiences of international students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the YFS develops a plan with insight and consultation from the International Students constituents including the International Students’ Association at York (IS@Y), who are disproportionately affected by these tuition changes; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the YFS in partnership with relevant York Faculties and Departments work on placing contingency funds to help International Students in emergency situations.

Moved: Jamaa
Seconded: 
Result: 

8. REPORTS

A. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE

MOTION 2019-11-28: R01

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the reports of the Executive be accepted as presented. Appendix C

Moved: Babiker
Seconded: 
Result: 

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION 2019-11-28: M02

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at

Moved: Elhawash
Seconded: 
Result: 

APPENDIX A

Meeting Minutes
1. CALL TO ORDER – 17:45 pm

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Amina Arigbabu

3. WELCOMING REMARKS- Rawan Habib

4. ANTI-HARASSMENT OFFICER – Olson

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
   A. MOTION 2018-11-29: A01

   BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be accepted as presented.

   Moved: Habib      Seconded: Tobar Result: Carries

   Amend 2018-11-29: A01

   BE IT RESOLVED THAT the order of the motions are changed. Change
   Motion F to be the third motion to be discussed, therefore motion F would
   become motion D.

   Moved: Lam-Bellissimo  Seconded: Nasser Result: Carries

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
   A. MOTION 2018-11-29: M01

   BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the November 30, 2017
   Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented in APPENDIX A

   Moved: Arigbabu      Seconded: Byron    Result: Carries

7. NEW BUSINESS
   A. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

   MOTION 2018-11-29: N01
BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE 2017-2018 Audit by Grant Thornton be received as presented in APPENDIX B; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Grant Thornton be accepted as the auditors for the 2018-2019 audit.

Moved: Madeira Seconded: Osman Result: Carries

Call to question

Moved: Zeineddine Seconded: Cooper Result: Carries

B. MOTION TO FURTHER SUPPORT THE WUSC REFUGEE INITIATIVE

MOTION 2018-11-29: NO2

WHEREAS there is a global refugee crisis, not just limited to Syria; and

WHEREAS since 2012, refugee movements have increased rapidly as there have been over 4 million registered refugees that have fled to neighbouring countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, Greece, Germany, and various countries within North Africa; and

WHEREAS the world’s reluctance to help the millions of refugees in need is something that is incredibly unfortunate and disheartening, however, it is for these very reasons that several initiatives have come to existence to allow individuals to help in ways the government is refusing to do; and

WHEREAS there are several campus organizations such World University Service of Canada (WUSC), International Refugee Assistance Program (IRAP), and others that are committed to successfully resettling refugees to Canada as well as raising awareness and funds around the refugee crisis; and

WHEREAS our own university has also joined in the attempt to help and sponsor refugees through supporting their access to post-secondary education through the WUSC Student Refugee Program; and WHEREAS this support is highly dependant on fundraising, donations, and a $0.03 levy per credit;
Annual General Meeting  
York Federation of Students (YFS) – Local 68 Canadian Federation of Students  
Thursday, November 29, 2018 @ 5:00PM – York University, Toronto, Ontario

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the York Federation of Students makes a donation of $5,000.00 to the WUSC Keele & Glendon Transportation Loan Fundraising Campaign.

Moved: Hanlon    Seconded: Thiruvananthaselvan    Result: Carries

Amend 2018-11-29: N02

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the York Federation of Students makes a donation of $1000 to the WUSC Keele & Glendon Transportation Loan Fundraising Campaign.

Moved: Fisher    Seconded: Bhalla    Result: Fails

Call the question

Moved: Zeineddine    Seconded: Mehdi    Result: Carries

Amend 2018-11-29: N02

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the York Federation of Students makes a donation of $8000 to the WUSC Keele & Glendon Transportation Loan Fundraising Campaign.

Moved: Cripps    Seconded: Ashfaque    Result: Carries

C. MOTION TO INSTITUTE ELECTRONIC VOTING FOR YORK FEDERATION OF STUDENTS ELECTIONS

MOTION 2018-11-29: N03

WHEREAS the YFS is committed to combating ableism and providing full accessibility to its programs, services, and procedures for all its members, including those with visible and hidden disabilities; and
Annual General Meeting
York Federation of Students (YFS) – Local 68 Canadian Federation of Students
Thursday, November 29, 2018 @ 5:00PM – York University, Toronto, Ontario

WHEREAS accessible participation in elections and referenda of the York Federation of Students’ [YFS] is a fundamental right for all federation members; and

WHEREAS online voting increases accessibility compared to traditional paper ballots, particularly for students who are part-time, taking eLearning courses through Distance Education, and/or suffering from mental or physical disabilities (e.g. students with mobility devices); and

WHEREAS the YFS is committed to achieving sustainability in all of its programs, services and procedures; and

WHEREAS paper ballots use enormous quantities of paper every election; and

WHEREAS online voting provides an environmentally-friendly alternative to paper ballot voting, by eliminating material waste (e.g. paper, tape, ink), which abides by the Union’s mandate to seek out sustainable mechanisms in its operations; and

WHEREAS counteracting the declining student voter turnout (2017: 13%; 2018: 12%) is in support of the YFS’ commitment to the equitable representation and participation of its union members in its programs, services and procedures; and

WHEREAS online voting has significantly increased student participation rates at numerous universities across Canada; and

WHEREAS the YFS is committed to transparency, fairness and integrity in the election process; and

WHEREAS there is a set precedent for online voting as a secure, efficient, and transparent alternative that reduces human error, double voting, spoiled votes and other voting issues; and
WHEREAS the online voting system would better integrate the electronic database that YFS already uses to securely and accurately verify voter eligibility and the various ballots that students receive; and

WHEREAS a growing number of students have expressed interest in the implementation of an online voting system, as evidenced by the Evolve YU student campaign; and
Annual General Meeting
York Federation of Students (YFS) – Local 68 Canadian Federation of Students
Thursday, November 29, 2018 @ 5:00PM – York University, Toronto, Ontario

WHEREAS countless student and/or university groups, organizations, faculties, and departments have had continuous success using electronic voting systems; and

WHEREAS the York Federation of Students’ (YFS) is fundamentally committed to equitable democracy, accessibility, sustainability, transparency & security.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Bylaw 10.17.a (titled Voting Process) be amended to read as follows:
a. The method of voting in the Election Process shall be through online voting via the York University E-Vote server, or a similar method, as well as through computerized polling booths for all elections and referenda conducted by the YFS; valid identification from members is required for voting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Elections & Referenda Committee investigate what electronic devices would work best at polling booths at the most reasonable price (e.g. iPads, laptops, desktop computers) and make a recommendation for how many should be ordered; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the appropriate YFS representatives immediately begin engaging relevant stakeholders to initiate the change of voting system. This implementation shall be completed before the upcoming 2019 YFS General Election.

Moved: Sibony Seconded: El-Kady Result: FAILS

Call to Question
Moved: Lebin Seconded: Madhi Result: Carries

Extend speakers list by 3 in favor and 3 opposed
Moved: Parvez Seconder: Kotok Result: Fails

Extend speakers list by 2 in favour 2 opposed:
Moved: Parvez Second: Chan-chu Result: Fails
Annual General Meeting
York Federation of Students (YFS) – Local 68 Canadian Federation of Students
Thursday, November 29, 2018 @ 5:00PM – York University, Toronto, Ontario

Extend speakers list by 1 in favour 1 opposed:

Moved: Parvez    Second: Cooper    Result: Fails

Amend MOTION 2018-11-29: N03

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the voting system be done simply by York University’s e-vote server. Striking out “OR SIMILAR METHOD” from original clause.

Moved Sibony    Second: El Kady    Result: Fails

Call to question

Moved: Mahdi    Second: Weiss    Result: Carries

E. MOTION TO REJECT FORD’S ATTACK ON FREE SPEECH

MOTION 2018-11-29: N04

WHEREAS Doug Ford has directed Ontario universities and colleges to adopt an Orwellian “free speech” policy or face funding cuts; and

WHEREAS this policy is based on the University of Chicago statement which prohibits “ongoing disruptive protesting”. But such vague criteria leaves the road open to prohibit all protests. Who decides what period is too long? Who decides how big a protest can become before it becomes “disruptive”?; and

WHEREAS this policy would require schools to police protests on campus and potentially threaten students, student groups, and student unions with disciplinary measures; and

WHEREAS this policy will provide a police-protected “safe space” to anti-abortionists holding obscene displays, alt-right racists, and holocaust deniers; and

WHEREAS A resolution was approved at the AGM, the highest democratic body of our union, in 2017, that our executive must organize protests against fascists and alt-right speakers that may be invited to this campus; and
BE IT RESOLVED that the YFS go on record as opposing the Ontario government’s anti-democratic “free speech on campus” mandate, and refuse to participate in its implementation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the YFS demand that the York administration also refuse to implement any policy that may restrict the right to protest, especially those referencing the University of Chicago statement, which itself violates free speech rights."

Moved: Zeineddine  Seconded: Defreitas  Result: Carries

F. MOTION TO FIGHT FOR FREE EDUCATION AND ORGANIZE STUDENT STRIKES

MOTION 2018-11-29: N05

WHEREAS tuition fees in Canada have risen by over 40% in the past decade, causing enormous hardship for working class students. In addition, Canadian students owe 28 billion dollars in student loans, causing students that graduate to be saddled with unpayable debt in a failing economy; and

WHEREAS tuition fees have steadily risen in Ontario despite years of lobbying, showing that student strikes are the only way to win lower tuition as proven by the 2012 Quebec Student strike; and

WHEREAS the Ford government has cancelled more than 300 million dollars to post-secondary funding in Ontario; and

WHEREAS during their election campaign, the YFS executive promised to fight for free education and to hold a student strike referendum in 2019; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the YFS openly denounce and fight against the Ford government's cuts to post-secondary education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the YFS take on a serious fight for free education and the cancellation of all students debt, starting with a series of escalating actions involving rallies, occupations, and mass meetings in the year 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the YFS hold a student strike referendum in February, 2019; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these actions lead up to a one day student strike in March, 2019.

Moved: Nourmohammadi    Seconded: Zeineddine    Result:

Amend MOTION 2018-11-29: N05

BE IT RESOLVED to remove the last two “be it further resolved” clauses from motion 2018-11-29: N05

Moved: Alqasem    Seconded: Nanabedi    Result: Carries

Call to question

Moved: Ariem    Seconder: Nanabadi    Result: Carries

Amend MOTION 2018-11-29: N05

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the YFS commits to set a date for a student strike referendum by December 31, 2018

Moved: Nourmohammadi    Seconded: Zeineddine    Result:

Point of privilege: Alqasem

Amend MOTION 2018-11-29: N05

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the YFS commits to set a date to have a referendum by end of school year

Moved: Weiss    Seconded: Weckadi    Result: Carries

Amend MOTION 2018-11-29: N05

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the YFS ensures a student strike or sit in be done by end of 2019/2020 school year

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the YFS commits to set a date for a student strike referendum by the 2018/2019 School year.
D. MOTION TO KEEP GO TRANSIT AND VIVA RUNNING ON CAMPUS

MOTION 2018-11-29: N06

WHEREAS both Viva and Go bus will no longer come directly to campus, impacting students that commute with an additional thirty minutes of commuting time as well as over 50 dollars a month in transit costs; and

WHEREAS this move is part of a pattern of rising transit fees and worsening service across the entire GTA, which impacts all students on our way to school and work; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the YFS start a mass campaign to reinstate Viva and Go services on campus, so students don’t have to face delays and extra fees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this mass campaign include a series of rallies against those responsible for this service cut: Metrolinx and various city councillors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the YFS link this campaign to the broader need for free and accessible transit for all.

Moved: Lam-Bellissimo  Seconded: Silva  Result:

AMEND MOTION 2018-11-29: N06

BE IT RESOLVED that there is already a transit campaign started by the YFS called YU RIDE, strike out first be it resolved clause.

Moved: Offei  Seconded: Bhalla  Result: Failed

Calling to question:

Moved: Ashfaque  Seconded: Clarke  Result: Carries

AMEND MOTION 2018-11-29: N06

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the YFS continues to escalate the existing YURIDE campaign.

Moved: Habib  Seconded: Demchuk  Result: Carries
Annual General Meeting
York Federation of Students (YFS) – Local 68 Canadian Federation of Students
Thursday, November 29, 2018 @ 5:00PM – York University, Toronto, Ontario

Call to question.

Moved: Bolourchi  Seconded: Mathew  Result: Carries

AMEND MOTION 2018-11-29: N06

BE IT RESOLVED the first clause includes fare integration

Moved: Ahmed  Second: Clarke

Amend amendment of MOTION 2018-11-29: N06:
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Fare integration should be included in the first clause but fare should be paid for by York University administration and government

Moved: Zeineddine  Second: Mendez  Motion: Carries

Amend amendment MOTION 2018-11-29: N06:
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED TO Remove York University administration and have fare paid for by government

Moved: Silver  Second: Caldar  Result: Carries

Call to question

Moved: Zeineddine  Second: Wong  Result: Carries

Main motion as amended

BE IT RESOLVED York university provide shuttle services from Pioneer and 407 station so that students don’t have to pay an extra fare.

Moved: Shaith  Seconded: Parvez  Result: Carries

Be It Resolved the YFS lobby York university provide shuttle services from Pioneer and 407 station so that students don’t have to pay an extra fare.
Moved: Habib  
Seconded: Thomas  
Result: Carries

Call to question
Moved: Windsor  
Seconded: Will  
Result: Carries

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED should any of the series of rallies have 200 students in attendance the YFS will lead these students over to the York University subway station and hold a picket.

Moved: Cripps  
Seconded: Lalonde  
Result: Carries

Call to question
Moved: Windsor  
Seconded: Liam  
Result: Carries

Call to question

Main motion with amended BE IT RESOLVED CLAUSES

Moved: Araim  
Seconded: Bhalla  
Result: Carries

G. MOTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE POLICE MISCONDUCT ON CAMPUS

MOTION 2018-11-29: N07

WHEREAS On September 21st, 2018 a Black community member has been tackled by multiple police officers in a violent manner in the Student Centre and has been recorded; and

WHEREAS There have been incidents in the past where TPS has been called to de-escalate situations, especially ones involving Black students or community members, and it had only led to them using force. In the most recent event, the YFS had a detailed agreement with police officers to not interfere and TPS violated it; and

WHEREAS York Security is required to record incidents that happen on campus, and ones that are reported. However, this incident is missing from their logs despite the documented evidence. York University is required to send out Security Bulletins to all students, faculty, and staff. There has not been any sort of publicity or broadcast on the matter; and
BE IT RESOLVED that the YFS is to issue a statement that entails the incident, and condemns the actions of TPS as well as the York administration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the YFS demands York Administration to take accountability for these actions and file complaints against Police Officers that violate their terms and conditions.

Moved: Hassan  Seconded: Clarke  Result: Carries

AMEND: MOTION 2018-11-29: N07

BE IT RESOLVED that the first clause in MOTION 2018-11-29: N07 be removed since the YFS has already made a statement.

Moved: Babiker  Seconded: Zalat  Result: Carries

AMEND MOTION 2018-11-29: N07

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the YFS set a new fund for students who face police brutality on campus towards legal and health fees.

Moved: Cripps  Seconded: Weiss  Result: Carries

AMEND AMENDED MOTION: MOTION 2018-11-29: N07

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the YFS set a new fund for students and community members who face police brutality on campus towards legal and health fees.

Moved: Whyte  Seconded: Zeineddine  Result: Amendment Withdrawn

Amendment: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the fund for students and community member of $5000.

Moved: Zainab  Seconded: Whyte  Result: Carries

Call to question on amendment:
Moved: Nourmohammadi  Seconded: Cocuig  Result: Carries

Call to question on main motion
Moved: Beddi  Seconded: Windsor  Result: Carries
H. MOTION TO SUPPORT REMOVAL OF TPS ON CAMPUS

MOTION 2018-11-29: N08

WHEREAS the police have a known history of using disproportionate force, up to and including violence, against non-violent members of the black community; and

WHEREAS Doug Ford has revoked The Police Oversight Act that was passed earlier this year as part of bill 175 that entailed:

“1. The importance of holding police officers and other policing officials accountable, on behalf of the public, for the effective delivery of community safety services in Ontario.

2. The impartial and independent operation of the policing oversight system, with decision-making authority that is not subject to the influence of government nor of the persons who are subject to oversight.

3. The public sharing of information about the oversight of policing in a manner that promotes openness and public education, while balancing privacy interests and the integrity of oversight investigations.

4. Recognition of and respect for,

i. the diverse, multiracial and multicultural character of Ontario society, and

ii. the rights and cultures of First Nation, Inuit and Métis Peoples.”

WHEREAS there have been numerous cases of such disproportionate force against the black community within the last year; and

WHEREAS racialized students and faculty have the right to work and study on campus without fear of being targeted by an institution founded on their subjugation; and

WHEREAS York Security are not transparent about their by-laws and their mandate;

BE IT RESOLVED that The YFS fight for a democratically controlled campus, without police for the safety of racialized community members that have historically been victimized by the police and a York security unit that is democratically controlled by students and teachers; and
Annual General Meeting
York Federation of Students (YFS) – Local 68 Canadian Federation of Students
Thursday, November 29, 2018 @ 5:00PM – York University, Toronto, Ontario

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The YFS to call for the removal of Toronto Police from our campus while fighting for a more democratically-run campus that relies on the community for security, not the oppressive police force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED To demand oversight of York Security on campus, with emphasis on misconduct on the basis of anti-blackness.

Moved: Habib Seconded: Whyte Result: Carries

Call to question

Moved: Biddi Seconded: Jhamma Result: Carries

I. MOTION TO COMBAT FOOD INSECURITY

MOTION 2018-11-29: N09

WHEREAS food security at York University is a serious issue which affects students during their studies; and

WHEREAS the YFS Food Support Centre has seen an exponential growth in its members and use from February 2018 at nearly 750 members to over 1,200 members and counting as of November 2018; and

WHEREAS York Lanes has opened a new grocery story whose prices are not affordable to the average undergraduate student therefore making it even more difficult to cook within residences; and

WHEREAS Aramark has been monopolizing both space and food vending across both the Keele and Glendon campus, effectively working towards monopolizing food services on campus and limiting the capacity for independent, franchised establishments which could offer more affordable and healthier food options; and

WHEREAS the YFS sent its Vice-President Campaigns & Advocacy as a delegate to the Resetting the Table - Food Secure Canada 2018 which was held in conjunction with the Meal Exchange National Student Food Summit 2018 where it was clear that the importance of food security and healthy eating has become paramount student and nation wide issue; therefore
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the York Federation of Students work towards finding more grants, funding sources and community partnerships in order to better outfit the YFS Food Support Centre to serve its members and broaden its services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the York Federation of Students continue to send delegates to and work with Meal Exchange in the 2019-20 academic year in an effort to further collaborate on food security projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the York Federation of Students begins work on negotiations with Aramark and the York University administration about the status of food security at York University, the diversity of food options and vendors, and the affordability of food options.

Moved: Lalonde   Seconded: Whyte  Result: Carries

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN
MOTION 2018-11-29: A02
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting adjourns at 23:01.

Moved: Habib   Seconded: Sadeghi  Result: Carries

8. REPORTS
A. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE

MOTION 2018-11-29: R01
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the reports of the Executive be accepted as presented. Appendix C

Moved: Habib   Seconded:  Result:

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN
Annual General Meeting
York Federation of Students (YFS) – Local 68 Canadian Federation of Students
Thursday, November 29, 2018 @ 5:00PM – York University, Toronto, Ontario

Moved: Fernandes Seconded: Result:
APPENDIX B

Financial Statement
CFS ONTARIO EXECUTIVE MEETING

As Local 68, a member local of the Canadian Federation of Students, the York Federation of Students has one representative that sits on the Ontario Executive Committee. Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy Jasmine Hawamdeh acts as the representative for Local 68. The Ontario Executive Committee allows locals to connect with student unions from across the province, but also allows for consistent updates. The Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario has been working on multiple campaign initiatives such as the We The Students campaign and the Time to be Bold Campaign. During these meetings, there are consistent overviews and updates of the Federation’s campaigns, government relations, media relations, solidarity work, and more.

CFS NATIONAL JUNE GENERAL MEETING

The York Federation of Students Executive Team took part in the National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students from June 8th to the 12th. During this meeting, members took part in important debates surrounding the campaigns that will be introduced this year such as the Time to be Bold campaign, the We the Students Campaign, Environmental Justice work, and more.

GTA SKILLS

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) held their annual skills symposium at Ryerson University. The YFS executive team, staff, board, and general members were incredibly excited to attend. A special thanks to CFS Ontario as well as the Ryerson Students Union for hosting an incredible symposium that allowed students to get a greater understanding of the student movement and how to organize around Free Education.

BOARD RETREAT

The York Federation of Students (YFS) annual board retreat took place from July 24th to 25th at the York University Second Student Centre (YUSC). Board members were given the opportunity to learn about every aspect of the YFS and explore all four of the organization’s pillars. Board members also received Anti-Oppression training and Active Bystander training. Throughout the retreat, board members learned all about their new roles as directors, and how to effectively reach out to the York community and allow them to engage with YFS services. It was an incredible experience.

CFS ONTARIO AUGUST GENERAL MEETING

From August 15th to 18th, YFS executives and staff attended the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario (CFS-ON) General Meeting. The YFS is proud to have put forward a motion to express support and solidarity with the Sudanese community in Ontario. President Fatima Babiker had the opportunity to speak on the motion and the
different issues that affect Sudanese children of the diaspora. Vice-President Campaigns and Advocacy Jasmine Hawamdeh was elected as the Women’s constituency representative for the CFS-ON and Vice-President Equity Azinwi Kien Saningong was elected as the Racialised constituency rep for CFS-ON. Workshops included; organizing spaces around We The Students, the Time to Be Bold campaign, and a panel on How to effectively organize.

YODA

The York Orientation Directors Association (YODA) is a board comprised of all 11 College and Faculty Orientation Week teams. Meeting weekly throughout the summer, the purpose of YODA is to provide a holistic and inclusive transition for incoming students who are taking part in the university’s frosh week. Vice President Campus Life Mutaz Elhawash acted as the York Federation of Students (YFS) representative on the board and was able to provide support to YODA members, such as helping to plan the OWL party and providing multiple services resources for orientation teams.

SENATE

The York Federation of Students has one student representative seat on Senate, which is the highest academic decision making body of the university. President Fatima Babiker holds that seat and has been attending meetings for this academic term. Discussions surrounding the Student Choice Initiative and academic accommodations have occurred within the space thus far.

CSG COUNCIL

The YFS works to ensure that marginalized voices on both campuses are heard and represented. The YFS has five Community Service Groups which represent the most marginalized communities on our campuses. These Community Service Groups include: the Aboriginal Students Association at York (ASAY), the York United Black Student Alliance (YUBSA), the United South Asians at York (USAY), TBLGAY, and the Access Centre. In August 2019, a training session was held with the five CSG’s to talk about expectations and goals for the year.

The group was able to discuss and brainstorm around issues such as: current political climate, potential campaigns, and the YFS’ inclusivity training. On October 30th, the Community Service Groups, in partnership with the YFS, held a Social Justice Fair in Vari Hall to bring light to the oppressions and struggles of marginalized students.
JURASSIC PARK AT YORK (RAPTORS GAME)

This summer, the YFS hosted a Jurassic Park in the Underground Breakroom Lounge where the Raptors’ Game 6 of the NBA Finals was live streamed. The event had a turnout of over 200 students, and the YFS was able to provide giveaways and refreshments to attendees.

PRIDE

The YFS annually hosts a week-long series of events for Pride in collaboration with the Art Gallery of York University (AGYU) and TBLGAY. This year, it was the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Stonewall. This allowed conversation around the political nature of Pride to occur, and to celebrate the diversity within the queer community. We had an incredible turnout at various events throughout the week, and we’re looking forward to Pride 2020!

SOCcer TOURNAMENT

The YFS hosted the first ever York-wide soccer tournament following Yorkfest. We had an incredible turnout with sixteen teams participating in an overall fantastic competition. Thank you to all those who participated, and congratulations to the finalists!

YORK ORIENTATION DAY

This year, Vice President Equity Azinwi Kien Saningong emcee’d York Orientation Day at York Lions Stadium on September 3rd 2019 in helping to welcome all incoming York students. During the ceremony, the YFS executive team was able to take the stage and address over 6000 incoming students. York Orientation Day was not only a fun experience but also allowed the executive team to provide valuable resources and information, such as news regarding the We the Students Campaign, to those who were in attendance!

FROSH

Frosh Week 2019 was a jam-packed and wonderful experience for all incoming and returning students! Frosh Week 2019 took place from August 31st to September 8th 2019. This year the York Federation of Students was excited to play an active role in supporting the colleges and faculties in welcoming
first-year students to York University. The YFS executive team and board of directors were able to participate in the week as Frosh Leaders. Frosh not only allowed students to have a fun time but also allowed the YFS to have conversations revolving around consent culture, inclusivity, and the fight for Free Education.

**MEET AND GREETS**

The York Federation of Students Executive Team is fortunate enough to be able to attend Meet and Greets hosted by ratified clubs. This year the executive team have been able to attend Meet & Greets for several clubs including; the Ghanaian Students Association, the Nigerian Students Association, the Middle Eastern Students Association (MESA), York University Tamil Students Association, Indian Cultural Association, Pakistani Students Association, Organization of Latin American Students, Guyanese Student Council, Somali Students Association, African Students Association, Poets Pulse and Egyptian Students Association.

The YFS executive look forward to seeing what amazing events student clubs have in store for the winter semester!

**HARM REDUCTION & NALOXONE TRAINING**

Hosted on the first Thursday of every month, as well as on demand, the YFS Wellness Centre Harm Reduction & Naloxone Training is a two-hour training, complete with take-home Naloxone Kit. To date, staff have trained close to 500 students and directly put kits into the hands of over 250 students. The training consists of a historical overview of the overdose crisis in Canada, Ontario and Toronto, as well as a dive into the impact of poverty and oppression on substance use and addiction. Students also leave with the knowledge to identify and intervene in an opioid overdose. This training is offered free of charge to attendees and students will receive a Certificate of Completion for attending. The two-hour training is offered to smaller groups, and the condensed one-hour version is offered to large groups and classes. If you’d like to attend a training, feel free to email wellness@yfs.ca!

**ACUPUNCTURE POP-UP CLINIC**

On October 22nd and November 28th, the YFS Wellness Centre hosted an Acupuncture pop-up clinic in Room 341 Second Student Centre. The event was co-hosted with Ki to Wellness, based out of Richmond Hill. Each 45-minute acupuncture session was offered for the discounted rate of $50.00, in order to reflect the coverage found in the YFS Health & Dental Plan. The acupuncturist was able to focus on specific areas or offer an all over wellness treatment. The YFS Wellness Centre is excited to be able to provide the last session in November.

**HEALTHY EATING TO PREVENT DIABETES WORKSHOP**

On November 5, the YFS Wellness Centre in collaboration with LMC Vaughan, hosted an event on Health Eating to Prevent Diabetes. This event was focused on Type-2 Diabetes prevention through a
healthy lifestyle, including nutrition and exercise. The YFS recognizes that food insecurity is prevalent within our campus, that is why the YFS is dedicated towards providing healthier and more affordable food options!

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD: HIV STIGMA WORKSHOP**

In collaboration with TBLGAY and Planned Parenthood Toronto, the YFS hosted a workshop on HIV stigma on Wednesday, November 6. Topics included myths and facts around HIV and AIDS, a brief history of HIV, and care and support looks like for ourselves, friends and loved ones who are living with HIV. The event was interactive and was well received by participants. The YFS also paired up with Planned Parenthood Toronto and TBLGAY during YFS Mental Health Awareness Week for an STI Stigma workshop which addressed the myths and facts around transmission of STIs.

**COLLABORATION WITH DIABETIC AT YORK STUDENT CLUB**

The YFS Wellness Centre has been working with the Diabetic at York student club to provide services for students living with Type-1 Diabetes on York Campuses, as well as to provide resources for students with Type-1, Type-2, Gestational Diabetes and Prediabetes. November is Diabetes Awareness Month so there has been a focus on Diabetes facts to spread awareness and educate students about the realities of living with diabetes.

**THE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS STUDENT INITIATIVE FUND**

The Mental Health and Wellness Student Initiative Fund is a grant that is administered by the Health Education and Promotion department within the Student Success Centre, Division of Students. The YFS Wellness Centre staff served as adjudicators of this grant on a team of cross-university representatives.

In recognizing that wellness is a necessary precondition to learning and working, York University developed this new Fund. It aims to support innovative, student-led initiatives that promote a healthy, inclusive and supportive environment that fosters mental health and well-being among members of the York student community. A total of $1000.00 is available to each of 5 registered student clubs at York University.

**COLLABORATION WITH UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**

On November 5th, the YFS Wellness Centre supported with the Undergraduate Psychology Students’ Association’s (UPSA) Learning Lounge to help students de-stress during midterms and leading up to exams. The YFS provided colouring books and general support for the event that evening. The YFS have also provided colouring and crafting supplied for UPSA during tutoring events this year. These collaborative opportunities are available to all clubs who are interested.

**COLLABORATION WITH BIG BROTHERS, BIG SISTERS YORK UNIVERSITY**

On March 6th, 2019 the YFS Wellness Centre was present at BBBS-York’s Mentor and Mentee Clubs Fair. Folks chatted with mentors from York University as well as their mentees in high school about mental health, sexual health, and harm reduction over the course of the evening.

**JACK.ORG MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS SYMPOSIUM**

On March 19, 2019 the YFS Wellness Centre provided a Naloxone Training and discussion on harm reduction to the attendees of the jack.org Mental Health and Wellness Symposium in Founders Assembly Hall. The YFS is dedicated to working with and supporting student clubs on campus!
WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY WITH YORK INTERNATIONAL

On October 10, World Mental Health Day, the YFS Wellness Centre participated in York International’s “Coffee Break” session, with a theme around mental health. We facilitated a stress ball making event, while having a deep discussion about the unique struggles, mental health and otherwise of international students here at York, and at home. We hope to work with York International again in the future.

GROWING TOGETHER GARDENING WORKSHOPS

During the Winter 2019 exam period, the YFS Wellness Centre hosted a week of planting and pot-painting workshops in 341 Second Student Centre as a de-stressor activity. These workshops took place on April 10, 11 and 12 and allowed students to learn helpful planting techniques and to go home with a planted seed of their own.

CONSENT IS...

The ‘CONSENT IS’ project is authored by a group of eight peer workers from Sistering, a multi-service organization in Toronto for woman, trans women, genderqueer women, and non-binary and gender expansive people. This project focuses on problems of discrimination, victimization, and lack of public safety within public sector services including healthcare, policing & law, and housing. ‘CONSENT IS’ centres the experiences of people who are often left out of the public commentary on gender-based violence due to issues of social marginalization.

This collaboration of the YFS Wellness Centre, Sistering Women’s Shelter, the Consent Is Project, and OPIRG York, the Affordable Housing Committee, SASSL York and many other campus clubs took place on Wednesday March 27 and Thursday March 28, 2019. Wednesday featured a community discussion on consent, combating gender-based violence and challenging poverty. The Thursday featured a large photo booth installation where participants could envision a world where consent is always sought.

STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Are you sore from studying all day? Back hurt from being hunched over a computer? Neck pain from looking down at your phone? Or just feeling the stress on your body from a busy September? Then this would have been the workshop for you. On October 8, the YFS Wellness Centre hosted a Stress Management Workshop, in partnership with Ki to Wellness.

This free workshop taught students how to address common aches and pains using acupressure and stress management techniques.

HATHA YOGA CLASSES

The YFS and YFS Wellness Centre hosts monthly free Hatha Yoga classes for members, on the last Friday of each month. These classes are all hosted in Studio B of the Second Student Centre. The first class was during YorkFest, followed by a class on October 25, and November 29. These classes will continue in the Winter Semester to provide a safer space for students to unplug and focus on their mental and physical health.

CONSENT WEEK WITH THE CENTRE FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESPONSE, SUPPORT & EDUCATION

The YFS Wellness Centre participated in Consent Week with the Centre for Sexual Violence, Response, Support and Education from October 7 to 11 this year. We tabled each day with the Centre, and lead an Active Bystander session for students at York.
YFS WELCOME VIDEO

This year, the York Federation of Students filmed a video that helped introduce the Federation, its services, campaigns, and events, as well as helped introduce the executives for this term. The video was incredibly well received and can be found on Facebook, Instagram and Youtube for viewing.

CLUBS TOWN HALL

Vice President Operations, Aaron Suresh and Clubs Services Coordinator, Nyola Matthew have been able to host three Clubs Town Halls this year on August 21st, October 1st and October 29th 2019. At the Clubs Town Halls, club executives were provided with information on how to maintain progress within their club, how to properly apply for club funding, what resources and rentals are available to them through the York Federation of Students and additional resources they can access through campus partners. This year, the Clubs Town Halls were revamped to include tips and tricks that clubs could use to ensure a successful year for their organizations. All three town halls were incredibly successful and informative.

SERVICES

This year, due to the Student Choice Initiative (SCI) the York Federation of Students sought to re-evaluate the ways in which the organization was able to best service students. In Room 106 of the First Student Centre. The MSO officially opened on September 16th, 2019 and will continue to act as a frontline for the organization by providing discounted tickets, printing, and services to members such as our Good Food Box, discounted sports and movie tickets, and more. The YFS Health and Dental Plan has relocated to the YFS main office, located at Room 336 in the First Student Centre.

NEW SERVICES

The York Federation of Students provides numerous discounted services to Members both on and off campus. This year, Vice President Operations Aaron Suresh and Members’ Services Coordinator, Renelle Als-Lee worked on attaining a few new services. These include discounts to Rogers’ Cup Canadian Open tennis competition, Toronto Argonauts football matches including a CNE pass, a continuation of Subway at the QUAD discounts, and discounts at MazaBite boardroom cafe. The YFS is planning to host Financial Literacy Seminars and is preparing to host the Annual Tax Clinic to provide more services to students.
FOOD SUPPORT CENTRE

The York Federation of Students’ Food Support Centre is located in Room 005 of the Second Student Centre and is open Monday to Thursday 11-5:30 PM. The Food Support Centre now supports over 1200 members. One of the primary goals is to have food and basic needs available, at all times, to students that face food insecurity. Another goal is to provide healthy, balanced food choices to ensure that the food provided can, to whatever extent possible, fit cultural and dietary needs.

WELLNESS CENTRE

The pillars of the Wellness Centre are: harm reduction, mental health, physical health, and sexual violence. The Wellness Centre is a space on campus that is meant to help fill in the gaps when addressing mental health and wellness on this campus. It provides a de-stressing space that is open to students, but also facilitates various workshops such as harm reduction spaces, discussion circles, and more. We are happy that through our WC, we were able to input sharps disposals in Student Centre washrooms!

WELLNESS CENTRE CONSULTATIONS

The YFS Executive and Wellness Centre Coordinator, Gayle McFadden, had community consultations with various clubs, community service groups, and organizations on campus to ensure that the wellness centre was all encompassing of student needs.

Tool Library

We have a Tool Library for (almost) all your household needs including:

- Various Nails and Screws provided
- Allen or Hex Key set
- Toolbox
- Needle-nose Pliers
- Lineman’s Pliers
- Hammer
- Screwdriver
- Wrench

Umbrella Rentals

Caught in the rain without an umbrella? Just got your hair done and the weather is not cooperating? Posing for a Mary Poppins photo shoot? Then look no farther than the YFS Wellness Centre.

Cooler Rental

Are you going away for the weekend, in the process of moving, or just want to spend a day at the beach? We have a cooler and freezer packs available for rental for a day or over the weekend.

In-house rentals

Being a student can be stressful. That’s why the Wellness Centre was created, to cater to you, the student. Whether its back pain from lugging around your heavy backpack, or a down mood from lack of sunlight, we may have an item for you.

- Stress Balls
- Head Massager
- Fidget Toys
• Wireless Over-ear Headphones
• Happy Light or SAD Lamps
• Portable Shiatsu Massager
• Book Rentals
• Think Card Deck
• Affirmation Card Deck
• Muscle Massage Balls
• Phone Charging Station

Come into 341 Second Student Centre to take out your tools, or email wellness@yfs.ca to check relaxation equipment availability. There is no deposit required for in-house rentals, but please keep all items in good working condition for the benefit of the next user. All materials will be properly sanitized between use.

Referrals

Are you unsure about where to start with finding the help you want or need? We can help to navigate the often confusing and inaccessible systems that prevent people from getting service. Whether it’s on or off campus, the Wellness Centre staff are compiling York University and GTA services to better serve you in a time of confusion.

Whether it’s finding a local shelter, or directing you to the on-campus Food Support Centre; whether it’s petitioning your final mark or seeking support for your substance use, we can find the resources best suited to your identity and experience.

Harm Reduction Kits

The YFS Wellness Centre provides Naloxone Trainings where students can receive a free Naloxone Kit, which will reverse an opioid overdose.

The YFS Wellness Centre also provides safer snorting kits for anyone who is interested. These kits include different coloured straws, an alcohol swab, overdose information, and a safety brochure for safer use if you do choose to snort substances.

The centre also provides information and resources on safer generally partying, including if you are consuming alcohol. The YFS Wellness Centre has partnered with DrinkSmart.ca, through SmartServe Canada to provides these helpful resources.

Physical Health Products

The YFS Wellness Centre keeps the Second Student Centre washrooms stocked with menstrual products each day, while also providing them in 341 Second Student Centre.

The Centre also offers sexual health products including external and internal condoms of all shapes and sizes, lubricant, and sexual health information. These materials are available in the YFS Wellness Centre as well as during outreach.

Finally, the centre provides health materials around cold and flu season, ranging from hand sanitizer and tissues, to information on how to get yourself on the road to recovery if you do catch a cold or the flu.

Mental Health Materials

Within the YFS Wellness Centre spaces, materials from all on-campus mental health resources, as well as many off-campus or over-the phone mental health resources are provided for students!

In addition, the Centre provides a number of de-stress items like books, board games, fidget items, colouring books, toys and much more. All of these items are available every day that we are open.

Community Potted Garden

The YFS Wellness Centre boasts a plethora of plants and herbs that students are welcome to use and care for at their leisure. From parsley, kale and mint, to aloe and green peppers, to flowers and ivy, students are welcome to come and work with the plants in the space, and even snip from the plants for their lunch.

Sharps Disposal Bins

You may have noticed sharps disposal bins in the First and Second Student Centres this year. In collaboration with the York University Student Centre, the YFS has installed 28 titanium sharps disposal bins in every male, female and gender-inclusive washroom in both Student Centres.

This service came after several occurrences of syringes and other sharps being thrown in the trash bins - a serious safety issue. The YFS Wellness Centre monitors these sharps disposal bins for repairs, and for emptying as needed.
TIME TO BE BOLD

The Federal Elections took place on Nov 21st, 2019! In collaboration with the Canadian Federation of Students and Students’ Unions across the country, the Time to Be Bold campaign was launched to encourage young people and students to demand more from our Federal Leaders. The campaign focused on the following issues: Free and accessible education for all, climate justice, fairness for international students and fairness for indigeneous learners. The YFS secured an on campus polling station on campus from October 5th to the 9th in the Aviva Centre, and spent time speaking to students and encouraging them to exercise their right to vote for the issues that mattered to them.

WE THE STUDENTS

In February 2019, the We The Students campaign launched, in response to the provincial government’s cuts to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) and the introduction of the Student Choice Initiative (SCI). The campaign has since expanded to include elements of the Federation’s broader advocacy strategy that promotes free and accessible education for all students. We have planned series of actions throughout the month leading to a large day of action on November 6th.

NOV 6TH ONE DAY STUDENT STRIKE

On November 6th, 2019, The YFS held a One Day Student Strike against the cuts to education.

The day began with a hard picket at Main Gate (Kele Street and York Blvd), and then moved towards the York University Subway Station where a rally and free BBQ was hosted. We saw endorsements from over 50 clubs and organizations. We’re thankful for the support from labour partners CUPE 3903, OPSEU and the OFL. Free education is possible, and we’re proud to continue to escalate the fight for a free and accessible education for all.

ACTIVIST ASSEMBLY

On November 1st, 2019, the YFS hosted an activist assembly to learn from various community organizers about their organizing experiences and community building. Students who attended were able to partake in a selection of workshops and panels including; Solidarity Across Movements, Organize to Win, York 101 and an Anti-Oppression training. The YFS looks forward to providing students with more skill building opportunities in the future!

RALLY TO PROTECT OUR PUBLIC HEALTHCARE

The YFS executives participated in the rally against the privatization of healthcare that was hosted on April 30th, 2019, at Queens Park. We joined students, community members, and labour partners to oppose cuts to healthcare.

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT RALLY AND MARCH

September 27 was the 39th Annual Toronto Take Back the Night Rally with the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre / Multicultural Women Against Rape. Members from the YFS Wellness served as marshals for the rally and march, and provided 341 Second Student Centre as a meet up point for any York students.
interested in heading down for the march.

**INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA AND BIPHOBIA**

YFS Executives joined other student union leaders from across the GTA on the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia. We used the opportunity to discuss the negative impacts of the Student Choice Initiative on 2S, queer and trans students who will have less access to resources and support through their impacted Pride Centres.

**CLIMATE JUSTICE STRIKE**

Due to the ongoing climate crisis, September 27th saw a national Climate Justice Strike which took place at Queen’s Park. We joined over 50,000 individuals to fight back against corporate greed and demand climate justice now for future generations. This was one progressive step forward in the fight for environmental justice.

**MENSTRUAL EQUITY**

Menstrual equity work is consistently at the forefront of the YFS’ lobby work. We recognize that menstrual products are a necessity, not a luxury. We have successfully worked with the Student Centre board to install free menstrual product dispensers in all first floor washrooms of both student centres. We’re incredibly excited to use this victory to help support future lobby efforts in striving for menstrual equity across our campuses.

**MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK**

The YFS Mental Health Awareness Week was held from November 18th to the 21st, introducing the theme: “Revolutionize your Wellness.” Through various workshops, trainings and self-care events, students were able to have conversations surrounding the importance of various forms of therapy and expression when caring for our mental health. Events included: art therapy, a planting workshop, a Suicide Intervention and Mental Health workshop, a STI Stigma workshop, a Harm Reduction and Naloxone training and our annual Rhymes + Rhythms of Resistance event! Students were able to express and revolutionize their wellness through spoken words, poetry, and dance performances. The YFS is happy to continue to create spaces to talk about the importance of wellness within student spaces.

**INCLUSIVITY TRAININGS**

Over the summer, the YFS executive team was able to lead Inclusivity trainings for different bodies including YODA, Student Centre Staff training and college specific Frosh trainings. We had many informative and educational conversations with students and community members which included topics like colonialism, white supremacy and heteronormativity.

**CENTRE FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE, SUPPORT, AND EDUCATION**

The York Federation of Students continues to work collaboratively with the Centre for Sexual Violence, Support, and Education to provide sexual violence support on both
campsuses. YFS executives acted as Active Bystander Facilitators for the Centre and helped provide anti-sexual violence trainings for the greater York community.

**STUDENT CHOICE INITIATIVE**

On January 2019, the provincial government announced the implementation of the Student Choice Initiative along with other regressive reforms to post secondary education. This initiative introduced guidelines that categorize levy fees are categorized as either “essential” or “non essential fees.” This initiative does not enhance choice but rather is a regressive policy that unfairly targets student-run and student-funded organizations that provide essential services. The YFS was assigned an essential rate of 38%. This rate excludes the events, campaigns, equity work, club services and funding, member services, and printing services we provide to our members. Students were able to opt out of “non essential services” between August 15th and September 18th.

**LEGAL CHALLENGE**

The Canadian Federation of Students and the York Federation of Students filed a legal challenge against the so-called Student “Choice” Initiative. We the students will not passively accept this direct attack on our ability to organize and provide essential services to members. We filed this lawsuit for all our members but also for all student associations, campus newspapers, campus radio stations, campus clubs in the province, and all future students. We will continue to use all the tools available to us to protect students’ autonomy and rights in the face of regressive governments. President, Fatima Babiker have had the opportunity to speak at a press conference about the impacts of the SCI that affect levy-funded organizations and the larger membership. We are incredibly proud and excited to announce that we won the legal challenge, and that the SCI has been deemed unlawful. Read the Court’s Decision here: www.cfsontario.ca/we-the-students

**LOBBY MEETING**

The YFS executive team has met with the Vice Provost Academics and the Vice President Students and had the opportunity to present three policy initiatives that will benefit the York community.

**Extending access to Scott and Steacie Libraries**

Access to spaces in which to study and places in which to access educational resources is pivotal in the academic achievements of students. Our goal is to see as many of the barriers to education be eliminated as much as possible; this includes access to both Scott & Steacie libraries.

**Reimagining refund table deadline**

Students pay a lot for their education and they should be able to receive that which they pay for, not pay for that which they never receive.

**Removing the requirement for doctors notes**

Students in university already face so many bureaucratic and financial barriers within their education, demanding a doctors note for missed classes, examinations and assignments is only one more way those barriers manifest. In exploring a more holistic educational experience, doctors, employers and even university institutions are seeing the ineffective and damaging effects of demanding a doctors note.