

**York Federation of Students**

Local 68, Canadian Federation of Students

**November 2019**

**ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING**



# Annual General Meeting

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

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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:**

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## **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 Indigenous 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

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worldwide; and

**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

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**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

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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

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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



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**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 Regenesys 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 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

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**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

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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

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**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

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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**

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**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: N02**

**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;

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**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



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**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

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**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

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## **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

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**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

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**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.

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## **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

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**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.

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**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



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**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

# Annual General Meeting

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## 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

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**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:** Bididi

**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 store 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

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**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

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**Moved:** Fernandes **Seconded:**

**Result:**



# APPENDIX B

## Financial Statement





# APPENDIX C

## Executive Report

# MEETINGS

## 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 Federations 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

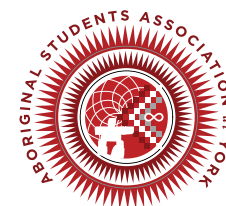
The York Federation of Students has one student representative seat on Senate, which is the highest academic decision making body of the university. President Fatima Babiker holds that seat and has been attending meetings for this academic term. Discussions surrounding the Student Choice Initiative and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



# EVENTS

## 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!



## YORKFEST

Yorkfest was held between September 23th - 27th 2019. This year's theme was We the Students, identifying the current political climate and its impact on students, and the importance of a

united student movement. Events included a Parfait breakfast, Dirty Bingo, Topsy Paint Night, Break Room Games Lounge, and the highly anticipated Festival Village. Throughout the week, there was an incredible amount of enthusiasm and participation from students. The Bring Back the Heat DJ Block Party, featuring DJ Walshy Fire, was a great success! The YFS is excited to see everyone back next year for YorkFest 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 emceed 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!



## REDPACK

The YFS RedPack is a year long volunteer program built to train and develop leaders by providing them with direct on-campus experience. The RedPack aims to give undergraduate students the opportunity to get involved in a diverse range of campaigns and events with the organization. This year, Vice President Mutaz Elhawash and Events Coordinator Cecile des Vignes revamped the RedPack program to offer volunteers the opportunity to be involved in campaigns, equity and wellness work. Without the impressive skills and commitment of our RedPack volunteers, the execution of YFS events and campaigns could not be possible! Thank you to all the RedPack volunteers who have come out so far!

## 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 Greet's hosted by ratified clubs. This year the executive team have been able to attend Meet & Greet's 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](mailto: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

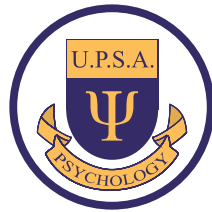
healthy lifestyle, including nutrition and exercise. The YFS recognizes that food insecurity is prevalent within our campus, that is why the YFS is dedicated towards providing healthier and more affordable food options!

### **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.



### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

# **SISTERING**

## **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.

# CLUBS + SERVICES

## 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

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.

students through our services programming. Vice President Operations, Aaron Suresh and Members' Services Coordinator, Renelle Als-Lee worked to combine both the Printing Centre and Members' Services Office into Room 346 of the First Student Centre for the duration of the summer. After a very successful summer of renovations, the organization was excited to be able to open the new and improved Members' Service Office (MSO)







## 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.



## WELLNESS CENTRE SERVICES

### Rentals

The YFS Wellness Centre has both in-house and take-home rentals available. To partake in these take-home rentals, come into 341 Second Student Centre, or email [wellness@yfs.ca](mailto:wellness@yfs.ca) to check availability. The rentals include:

### 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](mailto: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.

# CAMPAIGNS + EQUITY

## 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 indigenous 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.

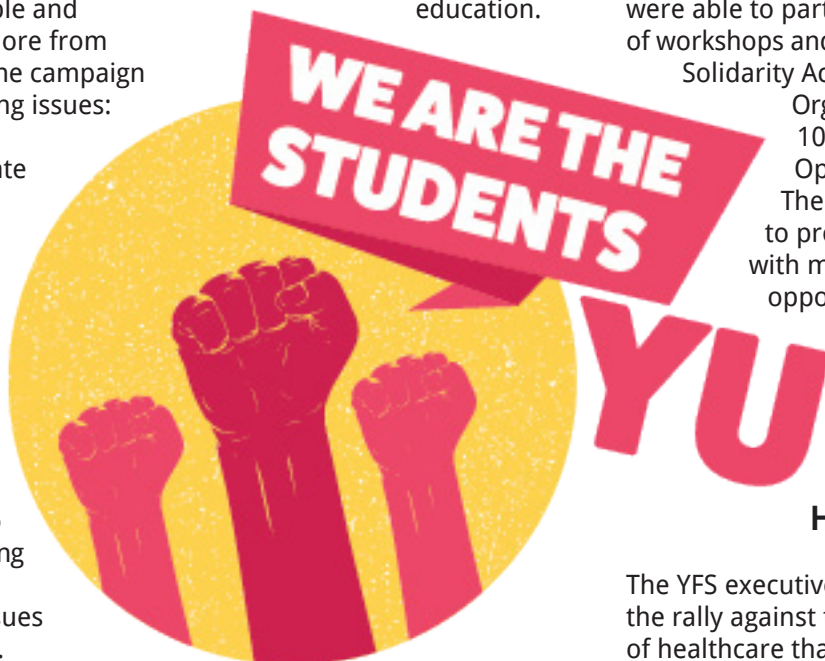
## WE THE STUDENTS

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 (Keele 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.

## **OFL DAY OF ACTION TO WIN AN ONTARIO FOR ALL**

On October 28th, the YFS joined the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) to mark the return of the legislature. The YFS joined other students from across the province on a We the Students float to remind Premier Ford and the

provincial government that the students and workers are united, and will not accept their attacks on public services.

## **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.

## **XPRESSIONS AGAINST OPPRESSIONS**

The YFS is happy to host Xpressions Against Oppression (XAO) events throughout the year. Featuring an event every month, we are able to highlight and address social and political issues that students face on a daily basis on and off campus. The YFS hosted the Social Justice Fair on October 30th, the Activist Assembly on November 1st, and Rhymes and Rhythms of Resistance on November 20th as part of the XAO series.

## **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

campuses. 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](http://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.