

STRIKE UPDATE: DAY 23

November 7, 2017

Council has put forward proposals that will have

**devastating
negative
consequences
on the college
system for
generations to
come.**

REJECT

Let's be honest, this was their game plan all along. Leave us out in the cold for weeks and then force a vote that doesn't support education for the future. Stand Strong.

#StandWithFaculty



Standing up for Quality Education

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 16

FLEMING FACULTY UNION

NOVEMBER 7, 2017

Standing Strong



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Class name is Local352

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WHY DID COUNCIL NOT FORCE THE VOTE IN SEPTEMBER?

We are on strike because there is a crisis in the college system.

Council refuses to negotiate our issues. In a move out of the Trump playbook, they accuse OPSEU of stonewalling. And it gets weirder: they are forcing a vote on an offer that ignores our issues: equal pay for equal work, a fair ratio of full-time and part-time faculty and academic freedom.

This extends the strike and throws students under the bus.

Members on every line see that this vote is a desperate and dirty tactic. Get back to the table and negotiate!

Riddle:

What tastes better than it smells?

SOLIDARITY



Retired faculty Ann McDonald takes a stand with Heather Cuthbert. Ann brought sandwiches on behalf of herself, Linda Harry and Heather Pollock. Ann walked for us on two strikes.



Members of OPSEU local 373 (paramedic service providers at PHRC) came by with a solidarity donation put towards supporting faculty applications to the hardship committee.

Beware the Bogeyman of Austerity !

“Why is it always that when we want something—in the case of this strike, greater equity and the resources necessary to offer our students a truly outstanding education—there is always need for austerity and fiscal responsibility, but when they want something—a big annual salary increase, more and more staff to do their bidding and increase their power, a shiny new building with a nameplate on it—such demands for fiscal restraint are never heard?” - [Max Simone](#)



OSSTF members came to the line on Friday to show their support. [A page of their newsletter is dedicated to our struggle.](#) This is not their first time showing up on the line: thank you to our high school teaching colleagues for all of this support !

Riddle Answer: A tongue



OPSEU Press Release

The College Employer Council should be working out a deal at the bargaining table instead of calling a strike-prolonging vote on its final offer, the bargaining team for 12,000 striking college faculty says.

“Rather than continue to bargain, the colleges have called a vote that, in itself, could easily keep faculty and students out of their classrooms for another two weeks,” said JP Hornick, chair of the faculty bargaining team for the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU).

Under the Colleges Collective Bargaining Act, votes by unionized college employees must be supervised by the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB), meaning OLRB staff must be in attendance for votes at more than 100 campuses across the province. A strike vote by college faculty in September took two weeks to organize and complete.

“We have said all along that faculty have a better plan for the colleges, and we do,” said Hornick. “Our objective since we began bargaining in July has been to improve education quality for students and fairness for faculty.

“Today, our better plan is this: If the colleges come to the table now and bargain a settlement that our team can recommend, we can have faculty back in the classrooms tomorrow and hold the ratification vote after.”

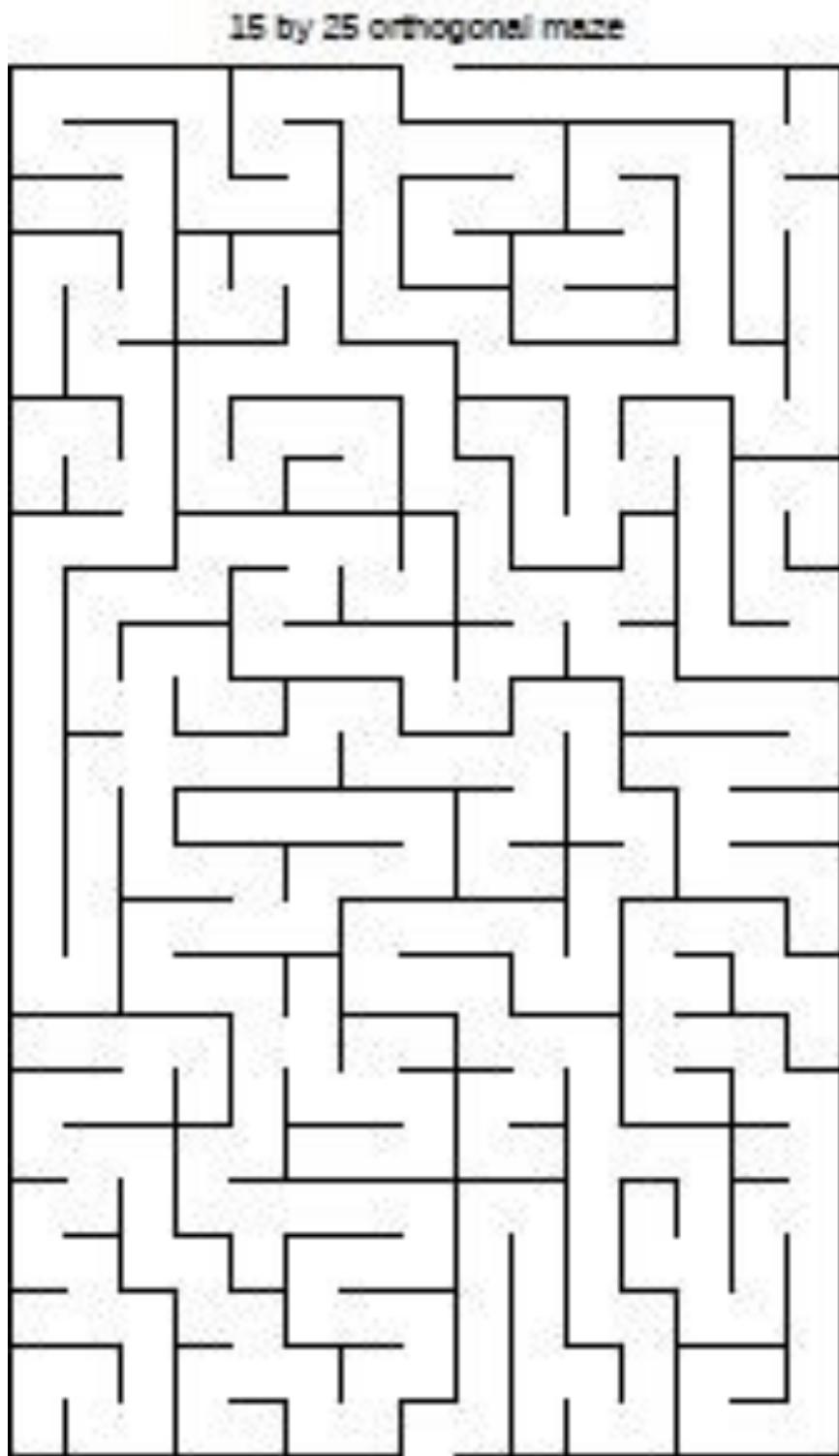
Hornick said the only issue in dispute now is a no-cost item about faculty making decisions about what’s best in their classrooms. Council, however, has insisted on keeping serious concessions in to undermine the progress that had been made at the table, she said. The parties had worked on a plan with the provincial government to create a joint task force that would move higher-cost items, such as precarious work, staffing, and governance issues, “into an arena where those items would be directly funded by government and addressed in that way.”

“Negotiation is the only way to go at this juncture,” OPSEU President Warren (Smokey) Thomas said. “I agree completely with recent statements by the Premier and by Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews that the solution to this strike is at the bargaining table,” he said. “The strike has gone on long enough, and we don’t need employer-caused delays making it go even longer.”



Colleges have been pulling out “semester end plans” and this is a part of their coordinated PR strategy. The bargaining team will review Return to Work protocols with our lawyers, and it will be negotiated centrally by the bargaining team. There will be local variations, but the basic ground rules are determined provincially. This will have faculty input and work entirely within the collective agreement.

Games and Distractions



Send pix, articles & ideas to local352website@flemingcollege.ca

Joanne's composition is intriguing: grey clouds, grey car, grey road and clothes punctuated by bright pylons and a stop sign: warning! *Something's up. Pay attention to the crisis in education.*



Going the extra mile on Saturday to welcome logger sports athletes and fans to Frost campus.

The archaic idiom (“mile”) is apt given the heritage sports loggers do. Faculty welcomed them with a smile and leaflet that stated we are “on strike for more full-time jobs and academic freedom (who do you want making decisions in the classroom, a faculty expert or a manager who wouldn’t know birling from Swede sawing?). It’s neither fair nor safe.” We are nothing if not fair and safe (insert your own bad pun here about management axing full-time jobs or denuding /clear-cutting a complement of faculty...).



Thank you, Todd Steenburgh, for this point of view !



Joanne and her toque report that Raymond Yip Choy, picket captain at the Farmhouse, keeps his team's spirits up by telling jokes: “Today he told me he lost his Thesaurus and now he is at a loss for words. If you know Raymond, that is rare.”