

FOR RELEASE

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College faculty give team strong strike mandate

TORONTO - Faculty at Ontario's 24 community colleges have given their bargaining team an impressive strike mandate.

Members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, the 8,900 teachers, counsellors and librarians voted 80.4 per cent in favour of a strike which could be called March 7 if the two sides are unable to resolve contract issues.

Workload and salaries are the main issues. The colleges' salary offer is inadequate and would erode the position of college faculty salaries with respect to university faculty and secondary school teachers.

"The Rae Report clearly outlines the need for quality improvements in the colleges. Quality is linked to improvements in the workload formula, but management just says 'No' to the faculty team's proposals for improvement," said Ted Montgomery of Local 560 [Seneca College faculty], chair of the union bargaining team.

"I hope this strike mandate will impress upon this employer the need to bargain a fair settlement," Montgomery said.

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