



Media Release: Solutions to end the York University Strike

MEDIA RELEASE

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Solutions to end the York University Strike: 50,000 students more important than 50th Anniversary

Toronto As the contract faculty, teaching and research assistants strike at York University enters its fourth week, almost 50,000 undergraduate students are still unable to return to their classrooms. The York Federation of Students (YFS) is calling upon the York University Administration to immediately allocate a portion of the more than \$ 160 million raised in the "York to the Power of 50" fundraising campaign in order to end the strike.

"The York Administration has repeatedly stated that there is no money to meet the demands of CUPE 3903," stated Hamid Osman, YFS President. "We understand the need to celebrate the University's 50th anniversary, but during these tough times it's more important to get 50,000 undergraduate students back into the classroom."

The "York to the Power of 50" fundraising campaign had reportedly raised \$160 million as of May 2008, towards its \$200 million goal. The campaign has four main priorities: Chairs and Professorships; Scholarships, Awards, and Student Aid; Infrastructure; and Pioneering Programs and Research. CUPE 3903 members represent over half of the University's teaching component and already fulfill many of the objectives of the 50th anniversary campaign.

"A reasonable solution to the strike is within reach; the University must prioritize its students over an anniversary party with specially branded York wine bottles and balloons," said Osman. "The money to end the strike does exist. The York Administration must keep these dollars in mind and get back to the bargaining table so that students can get back to class."

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For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:

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