

February 24, 2015

Dr. Ron Owston
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York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3

SENT BY EMAIL – rowston@edu.yorku.ca
Original to follow by mail

Dear Ron:

As you are aware, CUPE local 3903, representing contract faculty, teaching assistants, graduate assistants and research assistants at York University, is currently in a legal strike position, and has set a strike deadline of March 3, 2015.

OTF Policy VIII Teacher Education, A. General, states:

6. That in the event the faculty of a teacher education institution declares a strike in the course of collective bargaining, OTF would consider the practicum to be suspended for the duration of the strike, and OTF members would not provide associate teaching services to teachers in pre-service programs.

Should the CUPE strike occur, the practicum of all teacher candidates in the Faculty of Education will effectively be suspended.

The Federation would appreciate your cooperation in informing both Associate Teachers and teacher candidates at York University of the Federation's policy.

I will be sending a letter to the Faculty of Education Student Association (FESA) today to advise them of OTF's position on the strike situation.

During previous strikes by faculty at York University, a great number of questions and concerns arose regarding the role of teachers seconded to the Faculty of Education during strike situations. In order to avoid a repetition of the confusion and frustration that transpired then, I am attaching a document detailing OTF's position regarding the role of secondees during strikes. Here again, we would appreciate the cooperation of the Faculty of Education in forwarding this information to the teachers seconded to your Faculty. Since secondees are not part of the striking bargaining unit, OTF is advising them that they should **not** join the strike, and that the expectation is that they will continue to fulfil their contractual obligations to the university. It follows, of course, that secondees **should not perform any duties normally assigned to the employees who are on strike**. Moreover, as in any strike involving picketing

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of the work place, secondees are within their rights not to report to work if they are unable to cross the picket line. In such instances, they have been told to contact York immediately to inform their employer of their inability to report to work. I am attaching herewith OTF Policy VI Section G, which addresses the issues of strikes by other unions and the crossing of picket lines.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding any of the above, please do not hesitate to be in touch. I can be reached by email at lindy.amato@otffeo.on.ca or by phone at 416-966-3424 x 316.

Yours sincerely,



Lindy Amato
Director, Professional Affairs

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Encl.

cc: Celia Haig-Brown, Associate Dean
Diane Vetter, Practicum Coordinator
Daniel McRae, Chair, OTF Teacher Education Liaison Committee