



## VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

150 Charles St. West, Room 127  
Toronto, ON, M5S 1K9  
(416) 585 - 4473  
[www.vusac.ca](http://www.vusac.ca) | [fb.com/vusacuoft](https://fb.com/vusacuoft)

**November 4, 2022**

### **RE: CUPE Education Workers and Defending the Right to Strike**

We, the executive of the Victoria University Students' Administrative Council, express our solidarity with CUPE education workers against whom the Ford Conservatives, instead of continuing negotiations over their collective agreement, unprecedentedly proposed legislation imposing a contract which violates their constitutional right to collectively bargain and strike, and allows the backbone of public education in Ontario to remain impoverished.

Ford's unconstitutional legislation, Bill 28, fines any worker represented by the CUPE who walks out as well as the union itself for striking. Furthermore, his government's use of the notwithstanding clause (Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms) removes workers' rights to challenge what would otherwise be considered unconstitutional legislation.

Students cannot ignore the Ford government's actions in the way they ignore our constitutional rights. The disruptions caused by their refusal to respect fair wages for workers will impact the lives of many students, staff, and faculty at the University of Toronto, and more specifically Victoria College. Additionally, it means less safety in schools, less support for the young, and less support for children with disabilities. The VUSAC condemns the Ford government's punishment of those who simply wish to be fairly compensated.

The VUSAC expresses its support for education workers rallying across the province on Friday, November 4, 2022, and encourages all members of the Victoria College community to show their solidarity with CUPE workers by joining them. **The closest picket line to Victoria College campus is Queen's Park, at which a rally will take place from 8am to 3pm EST.** Show your allyship with education workers and demonstrate that the right to bargain collectively, access high-quality education, and receive fair wages for one's hard work are integral values to us as Victoria College students and members of the Ontario community.

In service and solidarity,

**The Victoria University Students' Administrative Council Executive**

**Shane Joy**, Vice-President External

**Sooyeon Lee**, President

**Jackson Leslie**, Vice-President Internal

**Michael Elsaesser**, Vice-President Student Organizations