

# Ontario campuses plan protest

OTTAWA (CUP) -- Ontario campuses are gearing up to plan activities to demonstrate their opposition to the recently-announced tuition fee hikes for the province's colleges and universities, preliminary reports indicate.

As of Jan. 27, seventeen student unions have reported plans for some form of action on or about Feb. 10, according to reports from the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) and member papers of Canadian University Press.

More are seeking, or have already received, support from students for a half-day class boycott, in response to a call from OFS member unions and supporters at a strategy meeting on the tuition hike Jan. 15.

Those planning boycotts, or referenda seeking support for a boycott, include the universities of Carleton,

Laurentian, Windsor, York and Toronto, and Algonquin, Confederation, and Centennial colleges of applied arts and technology. Ryerson polytechnical institute will be holding a referendum on class boycott for Feb. 10.

Those holding other types of activities -- ranging from mass meetings to poster and button campaigns -- include the universities of Ottawa, Lakehead, Guelph, Queen's and Sir Wilfred Laurier, and the colleges of Cambrian, Sault-Ste-Marie and Niagara. Cambrian College held a full-day class boycott a few days after the announcement of the hike Nov. 25, and now is considering a mass meeting of students, according to OFS.

At Algonquin college in Ottawa the annual general meeting of students Jan. 26 overturned their

student union's decision not to hold a referendum on the boycott which if passed will be held in mid-February.

The University of Ottawa students rejected a proposed class boycott last December, but a march on the university senate chambers Feb. 7 is planned.

The University of Windsor students union had already found strong support from students for a class boycott in a referendum a week prior to the OFS strategy session, and has now set the boycott for Feb. 10.

The University of Guelph has not ruled out a boycott, but so far has planned a mass meeting Feb. 3, while Lakehead University in Thunder Bay has an ongoing poster and button campaign in the works, according to OFS.

The Student union at the Univer-

sity of Western Ontario in London, where students voted to drop their membership in OFS last October, dismissed a proposed boycott referendum in OFS last October, dismissed a proposed boycott referendum at its regular meeting Jan. 26 and plans no other action, according to sources in the National Union of Students.

The fee hikes amount to a \$75 increase in fees for the province's 22 government-run community colleges, and \$100 for the 15 universities and Ryerson, bringing fees to \$325 for colleges and \$700 for universities.

Campuses across Ontario initiated petition campaigns last December, collecting 25,000 signatures opposing the hike, which were presented to Ontario minister of colleges and universities Harry Parrott Dec. 10.

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