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excalibur

A fire-side chat with two York presidents on pages 6-7



OFS and CFS win 75% of vote

by Jeannine Amber

Early Friday morning, a group of tired and anxious students gathered in the senate chambers to hear the results of last week's OFS/CFS membership referendum.

Wild applause followed the announcement of a 76 per cent vote in favour of OFS membership and a 74 per cent vote in favour of CFS membership.

"I am extremely excited," said YFS president Jean Ghomeshi, who gave a short speech after the victory was announced.

"Support came from a massive group of students who fundamentally believe in strength in numbers," said Ghomeshi, responding to the allegations

that the YES-Coalition did not accurately represent the student body. "They have unequivocally voted for change."

The coalition, of which Ghomeshi is a member, rigorously campaigned for the YES vote.

Two thousand nine hundred and fifteen students cast votes despite a "don't vote" campaign launched during the referendum.

"I couldn't take a stand on anything until I went to my college, explained Shelly Becke, president of Calumet college. "And they decided they wanted to [support the YES-Coalition]."

Becke said that the support for the YES-Coalition did not reside exclusively with the "student elite."

Other YES coalition members, who gathered to celebrate the victory, included members of the Women's Centre Collective, York International Socialists, Political Science Students

	OFS	CFS
Yes	2218	2148
No	574	623
Spoiled	123	144
Total	2915	2915

Unofficial results of OFS/CFS referendum Oct. 23-25

Association, as well as representatives from a majority of the colleges and Osgoode law

school.

Kate Collins, Vanier college representative, explained that as a member of the OFS, York students will have the support of a provincial lobbying group to effect change.

Collins cited rent control, a pertinent issue for students in residence, as something she would like to see dealt with by the OFS.

"York can't do it alone. Something of that magnitude can only be handled by a provincial wide effort," Collins said.

Members of the coalition said the input of the student body will be crucial in determining the position York representatives will take at the OFS/CFS meetings.

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