



**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
NEW BRUNSWICK - NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK  
SYNDICAT CANADIEN DE LA FONCTION PUBLIQUE**

August 22, 2017

Mr. Tristian Gaudet  
President  
FÉÉCUM  
Centre étudiant, Université de Moncton  
Campus de Moncton,  
Moncton, NB, E1A 3E9

Dear Members of the Student Federation,

The New Brunswick Division of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE NB) wishes to express its support for the "*Mon stage me ruine*" (Stop Unpaid Internships) campaign of the FÉÉCUM.

Your campaign is fully in line with principles dear to the trade union movement, namely the improvement of working conditions for all and the fight against inequalities.

**CUPE NB supports you because the fight against unpaid internships is a fight against precarious work.**

It is unacceptable our governments tolerate the exploitation of students in unpaid internships, in both public and private sectors. It is scandalous that our provincial labour laws, such as the law concerning minimum wage - do not apply to interns because their work remains to be recognized as such. To add insult to injury, those same students are then required to pay to work through the imposition of tuition fees. All this without any guarantee of being hired.

No one - regardless of age, background or level of education - deserves to be "cheap labour". An internship should not only be enriching, but work conditions should be as respectful as those applied to regular employees. Your campaign has the merit of tackling head on a hole in Canadian labour laws.

**CUPE NB supports you because the fight against unpaid internships is a fight against economic inequalities and the commodification of education.**

Canada ratified the 1966 United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, entered into force in 1976, where Article 13 (2)(c) states that "Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education".

Unpaid internships constitute a barrier to the goal of democratization of education - to make education accessible to as many people as possible. CUPE NB is opposed to the idea of education as a privilege for those who can afford to pay.

In closing, I want to highlight how our executive unanimously voted a motion of support to your campaign. CUPE NB, who represents more than 27,000 workers in New Brunswick, stands proudly with FÉÉCUM on this issue.

Daniel Légère,  
CUPE NB President  
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