

# OPUS 2018 Annual Newsletter



**Who Are We?** OPUS is the Organization of Part-time University of Students, a student association providing services and advocacy to part-time undergraduate students at the University of Windsor. OPUS was established in 1969 to provide a means for part-time & mature students to have their voices heard on campus. As OPUS, we believe that part-time students have different needs, concerns and problems distinct from the rest of the campus student body. These students work hard to balance their many responsibilities of home, family, work and education. OPUS attempts to help students cope with the additional pressures of studies and help them adjust to an academic environment.







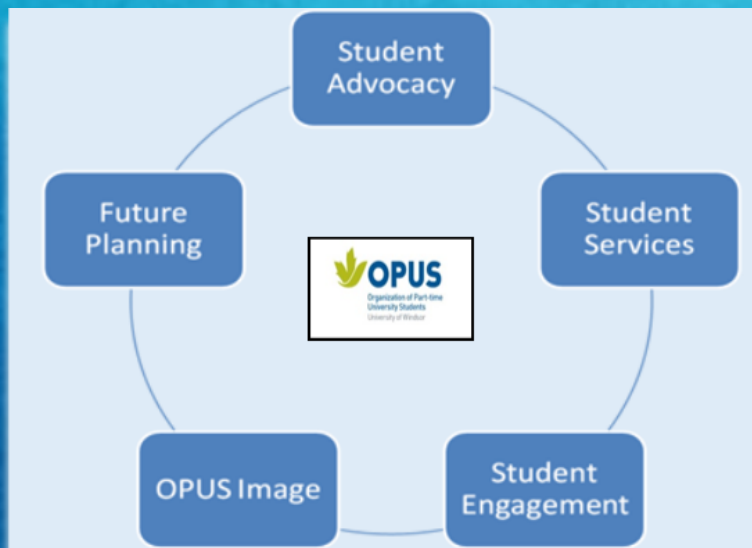
Organization of Part-time  
University Students

University of Windsor

Canadian Federation of Students Local 106

## MISSION STATEMENT:

OPUS is a dynamic organization that advocates and promotes a rewarding University of Windsor experience for part-time undergraduate students.



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# OPUS Board Members and Staff

<b>President</b>	<b>Dr. Edward King</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Chris Baillargeon</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Sameena Sultana</b>
<b>Directors at Large</b>	<b>Diana Marion, Shaista Akbar, Mohammad Akbar, Bernarda Doctor, Aftab Anwer, Eric Sternberg</b>
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Maryan Amalow</b>
<b>Health Plan Administrator</b>	<b>Steve Jancev</b>
<b>Work Study Students</b>	<b>Aicha Merheb, Mawadda Mohamed, Nitish Shah, Manpreet Sekha, Rawan El-Ghourani</b>



# OPUS BOARD MEMBERS 2017-18



**Dr. Edward King**  
President



**Chris Baillargeon**  
Vice President



**Sameena Sultana**  
Treasurer



**Shaista Akbar**  
Director at Large



**Diana Marion**  
Director At Large

**Eric Sternberg**  
Director at Large



**Mohammad Akbar**  
Director at Large



**Bernarda Camello-  
Doctor**  
Director at Large



**Aftab Anwer**  
Director at Large





# A Message from the President

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS), I would like to welcome all part-time students to the University of Windsor. We hope that your time at the University will be fruitful and fulfilling. OPUS represents part-time students, provides a number of services, and advocates for students. We host orientation events for new students in January and August. We also have a number of activities for part-time students including a barbecue, an awards dinner, some potluck lunches, and several meetings with speakers on topics such as financial awards, student rights and responsibilities, stress management, and academic help. We are also members of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and through this organization, we lobby both the Federal and Provincial governments. We provide a health plan to our members with our CFS membership at a very competitive price.

We are primarily an advocacy organization. We are voting members of the Board of Governors, which makes all financial decisions on behalf of the University. Along with three other OPUS members, I also sit on the Senate that makes the academic decisions for the University. Members of OPUS sit as voting members on all Senate Committees as well as many other committees at the University. In this way, we are able to represent the interests of part-time students on all issues both academic and financial. If you have a problem or think that any policies at the University should be changed, you can come to the OPUS office or email us at [opus@uwindsor.ca](mailto:opus@uwindsor.ca), and we will see that the issue is taken to the appropriate committee, or person responsible for such decisions.

We have an excellent "History of OPUS," written by Mary Schisler, a past president of OPUS. It is available online at [www.uwindsor.ca/opus](http://www.uwindsor.ca/opus), where it is continuously updated.

We also represent part-time distance education students who are taking distance education courses. I would recommend getting involved at the University outside of classes if your schedule allows. Going to the gym, being on an intramural team, joining a club or society, or getting involved with your students' union will make your university experience richer.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Edward King





# A Message from the Vice-President

Dear members,

My name is Chris Baillargeon, and I am your elected Vice-President for OPUS (Organization of Part-time University Students) for the 2017/2018 semester year. I have been involved on a volunteer basis for quite a few years. As many of you can relate, it is a constant juggling act between school, work, family and other responsibilities. This especially becomes apparent with the financial commitment one makes in attaining individual goals and meeting overall objectives towards success.



I have remained involved with this organization, simply because I believe in its core values and commitment to believing in students through establishing a place for part-time students in the campus community-at-large. I advocate on your behalf as a part-time student myself to the needs and issues that arise, as well as attend various committees in this capacity. We continue to do this to improve the overall student experience through constant growth and change.

We all work together to help inspire and motivate you to be at your very best. Part of this is done through the involvement of various initiatives on campus such as sponsorship of the Syrian Refugee initiative, many social events held throughout the semester, especially orientation and the annual OPUS BBQ. Our Strategic Plan helps guide our attention to the organization's mission, vision and values as demonstrated in our dedication to part-time students' rights.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the individuals in the OPUS

Office, both staff and work study students, for their continued dedication and commitment in making it all happen on a consistent, daily basis to provide us board members with an opportunity to be proud and be a part of something great. A reliable and supportive network of people makes for a great TEAM. OPUS offers the systems, resources and supports necessary to help encourage students' enthusiasm to be a great success.

Post-secondary education should be free, shown as a continued renewable resources and investment to the potential growth of the economy. Other countries have free tuition – why don't we?

# A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS), I would like to offer a warm welcome from the University of Windsor.

To all of the new and returning students at the University of Windsor, WELCOME. I am very pleased with your decision to attend UWindsor, and am sure that before long Windsor, especially OPUS will feel like a second home. I would like to begin my message by thanking the many people associated with OPUS who have made this past year an enjoyable and memorable one, with events like the OPUS Awards, Potluck, Orientation, Head Start and OPUS Part-Time Fall and Winter Social Receptions.



I am proud to be a part of the OPUS team and grateful for the assistance and support from the Board of Directors, our work-study students and our volunteers. What we have been able to achieve together this year has benefited our students and that makes all the hard work worthwhile. I will just say a simple, collective THANK YOU to all!

I would like to thank the University community that has helped us achieve this success in advocating for part-time student rights and access to a better education at the University of Windsor. We are always striving to create awareness of our organization and have developed programs to support that goal.

This past year our efforts have been directed at making clear the distinct advantages of facilitating the growth of the part-time student body by making services more user friendly and making more resources available for part-time students including our distance education members. OPUS strives to ensure that services are provided to meet the academic and social needs of part-time undergraduates on campus at UWindsor. The objectives of OPUS services are to advance the quality of the total educational experience, in its broadest sense. For part-time students the best possible undergraduate education means one in which part-time students has the option of participating equally in all aspects of campus life.

This newsletter will help to inform you and let you know what OPUS was up to during the past year. OPUS has been on the lookout for new services and programs for part-time and distance education students. There are many sponsors who helped OPUS throughout the year. Thank you all (sponsors, part-time students, board members, health plan administrators, family members and volunteers) for your past and present involvement with OPUS. Your commitment and dedication have helped us to make OPUS a 'UNIQUE' student organization at the University of Windsor. I hope we can continue with this tradition in the coming years. I am confident that by working with our members and university partners, we can ensure that OPUS remains the best organization on campus by providing services and advocacy to meet and exceed the needs of the membership. "Working together works." Get connected with OPUS!

Truthfully,

Maryam Amalaw



# A Message from the Benefits Administrator

Dear Members,

I'd like to welcome all part-time undergraduate students to the University of Windsor. As the Benefits Administrator, I manage the operations for the OPUS drug and dental plan including the handling of all student inquiries and ensuring that each issue is dealt with efficiently.

The OPUS Drug and Dental Plan is providing its 11th year of service to part-time undergraduate students for the 2017-18 benefit year. The benefits plan is the most important service we provide for our students.

Part-time undergraduate students have different needs from those of the other student groups on campus. As a student government that represents part-time undergraduate students at the University of Windsor, our first and primary commitment is to the OPUS membership.

The benefits plan provided by OPUS is based on a pay direct system through the insurance carrier, which is primarily Green Shield for drug and dental services. The pay direct feature benefits members who require and utilize the plan because they are not required to pay up front for a drug or dental claim in full and get reimbursed later. Students are only required to pay the difference they owe to the provider.

For students who wish to opt-out of the OPUS Drug and Dental Plan, they must have existing comparable coverage and complete an opt-out form online or in the OPUS office during the opt-out period. Part-time students can also purchase benefits for their dependents for an additional fee. Distance education, co-op and senior students must opt-in to obtain this plan as they do not get charged through their student account. Detailed information regarding the plan can be found on the OPUS website at [www1.uwindsor.ca/OPUS/drug-dental-plan](http://www1.uwindsor.ca/OPUS/drug-dental-plan), on the Green Shield Student Centre at <https://student.greenshield.ca> or students can visit our office in the Student Centre.

Steve Jancev



# A Message from the Treasurer

Hello Students,

To be a part time student, there can be many situations that can lead to a number of challenges, and require you to prepare ahead of time before considering any of your school work. It's very important to find a balance between your interests, household responsibilities and an academic life. I am a mother, student and a visible minority that can hopefully relate to many of the struggles and stresses with which you might be dealing. I have an understanding of the different challenges students face during such situations while trying to acquire a degree on a part-time basis. We, as students, are consistently part in dealing with many concerns such as increased tuition fees and other services provided to us on campus.

My name is Sameena Sultana, and I have been involved with OPUS Board for two years as Director-at-Large, and the past year as your Treasurer. It's an honor to be given the opportunity to be your voice and to represent your interests in various committees. It's our goal to advocate for you as a part-time student, on all issues and concerns related to your education. We would love to hear your feedback on any concerns or services that effect the student body and would honestly request and plead for you to do so. We request the students to bring up their concerns to us, or can drop it off in our suggestion box outside the office, so that we may address it accordingly. If we are able to address your problems, by doing that we will be able to accomplish our goals. It's our mission to advocate for you on issues and concerns that could affect your academic life.

OPUS offers services such as new student orientation, Barbeque, Potlucks, Pizza lunches on Fridays, social events and much more. All our events are always open not only to part-time, but all students which includes full-time and graduate students. We offer food and beverages on most of our events. The events are a great opportunity to all our students to meet new people and socialize and share stories and ideas that can help one another. We would like to make your time on campus a thrilling, comfortable and relaxing experience. We have a very kind and wonderful staff who makes you feel that you are always welcome.

OPUS is always thriving on bringing up concerns that have to do with the student body, and trying to increase possibilities for learning and achieving your goals. For some, it could get challenging trying to balance out work, family and school life, and some of you could be returning and upgrading after an absence and some could be looking for a new ambition. OPUS offers night time courses, distance education courses and are still always working on bringing in new initiatives and resources that can help broaden the possibility of completing a degree; while dealing with the commitments and priorities for students wanting to achieve their goals that can fit into their individual schedules.





# A Message from a Director at Large

Hello Students,

Wow what a year this has been, filled with opportunities to serve as your OPUS Director-at-Large.

We who serve are always mindful of the conflicting pleasures and pressures that exist for Part Time

University of Windsor students. Our office works hard to provide both an inviting and solution- providing space for our students. Our work-study students, staff, and members of the OPUS board strive to be of service to you, our student members. Please do continue to regard the OPUS lounge as your lounge. You will find great conversation, provided pizza Fridays, complimentary coffee and such in our kitchen, quiet study and work spaces, computer and printer services, and numerous printed resources and novelty items that both inform and reflect the many topics of concern that you, our student members share. Please join us often and do attend our Social Events held to bring all part time students together to participate and to celebrate our shared experiences.



I have in the past enjoyed our welcome back b-b-ques, our potluck luncheons, our informative guest speakers, our awards presentations and our many bursary presentations. It has been wonderful to share in the distribution of our event door prizes, welcoming packages and OPUS yummy treats. I continue, on your behalf, to attend U of Windsor committee meetings, CFS national and provincial AGMs and Days of Action, and OPUS board meetings and discussions. We want to be there for you.

Thank you to our devoted staff and executive, our board, and YOU our OPUS membership. Let us continue to juggle family, work, household and related responsibilities, all while learning and studying as a Part Time Student at this, the University of Windsor. We are your student organization, OPUS, and I am Diana Marion, your OPUS Director-at-Large.

Diana Marion

# OPUS Services and Advocacy

## **Health Plan: Drug and Dental**

- Extended Family Option
- Option to Opt-out

## **Bursaries and Sponsorship**

- 23 Awards and Bursaries

## **Amnesty**

- Student Advocacy
- Academic advisory for grade appeals, referrals, codes of misconduct and academic advisory
- Student Rights Handbook and other materials

## **Student Space**

- Co-MGMT of Student Centre & Meeting Spaces
- Student Lounge & Kitchen
- Printing, Faxing and Photocopying

## **Student Services**

- Orientation for Part-Time Students
- Social Events
- Student Volunteer Opportunities





Organization of Part-time  
University Students  
University of Windsor





# OPUS Objectives

- ♦ To represent part-time students at the University of Windsor in matters affecting University life;
- ♦ To work with other student organizations for the achievement of common objectives;
- ♦ To promote equal access and opportunity to all education and services at the University for part-time students;
- ♦ To assist and encourage part-time students in their academic achievement;
- ♦ To help provide information of events and services on the University campus to all members of OPUS;
- ♦ To provide from time to time, with the help and participation of the members, extracurricular activities for the members to enhance their University experience;
- ♦ To encourage all members to become active participants in the Organization and to afford opportunity for giving expression to their opinions upon all questions bearing on or affecting their interests.








# Lounge Area

Our OPUS lounge area is a great place for students to come together and communicate with each other. Students can study effectively if they wanted to as we provide tables and chairs, computers for research, and printing services. We have a comfortable seating area as well if students wish to have their lunch. Our kitchen is handy if students would like to make some coffee or keep their food stored properly. We also hold some of our social events in our lounge area as well as general staff meetings when needed. It's a great place to socialize and enjoy our time!





## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

*"Providing the topmost quality of services to students, faculty and staff in all academic areas is something OPUS strives to achieve"*

The Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS) will be recognizing part-time undergraduate students, staff and faculty at our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Banquet on **Friday March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. These awards will celebrate and recognize contributions made by the campus community.

**RSVP your attendance by Friday March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

This awards banquet honours University of Windsor students, faculty & staff member who really made a difference for others in the campus community.

**The 25<sup>th</sup> OPUS Awards Banquet will be held on Friday March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Ambassador Auditorium, Student Centre from 5:00 - 8:30 PM.**

**2016 - 2017 OPUS Awards:**



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifetime Achievement Award</li> <li>• Volunteer of the Year Award</li> <li>• Friend of Students' Award</li> <li>• Faculty Award</li> <li>• Support Staff Award</li> <li>• Disability Campus Community Recognition Award</li> <li>• Teacher of the Year Award</li> <li>• Appreciation award</li> <li>• Staff/Faculty Leadership Award</li> <li>• Administrative Support Award</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student with Disability Achievement Award</li> <li>• Academic Achievement (OPUS) Award (Sponsored by Alumni Association)</li> <li>• Mary C. Schisler (OPUS) Award in Dramatic Art</li> <li>• Kathleen E. McCrone (OPUS) Award</li> <li>• Ken Long Memorial (OPUS) Award</li> <li>• Wayne Girard Leadership Memorial (OPUS) Award</li> <li>• First Year Part-Time Undergraduate Student (OPUS) Award (Sponsored by Alumni Association)</li> <li>• V.E.K. Torney Second Chance (OPUS) Award</li> </ul>
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**2016 - 2017 OPUS Bursaries/Scholarships:**

- 2 Alumni Association Part-time Undergraduate Student Bursaries
  - 3 Jeanne Latessa - Iannetta (OPUS) Bursaries
- 2 OPUS Part-time Undergraduate International Student Bursaries
- 1 OPUS Part-time Undergraduate Distance Education Student Bursary
- 1 OPUS Part-time Undergraduate Aboriginal Student Bursary
  - 1 Dr. Edward King (OPUS) Bursary
  - 3 Campus Dental Centre Education (OPUS) Bursaries

*Please note that the 2017 OPUS Award Recipients will be announced soon.*

STUDENTS ADVOCATING FOR STUDENTS  
CAW Student Centre, Room 172, University of Windsor; 401 Sunset Avenue,  
Windsor, ON N9B 3P4 Tel: 519-971-3603 Fax: 519-971-3623







# UNDERGRAD OR GRAD STUDENT? PICK UP YOUR BUS PASS

*It's tuition-based and you've already paid for it.*

More information on the Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) at:  
[WWW.UWSA.CA/UWSA-SERVICES/BUS-PASS](http://WWW.UWSA.CA/UWSA-SERVICES/BUS-PASS)



**We Offer Total Dental Health Care!**

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University of Windsor in the  
**CAW Student Centre (lower level)**  
for easy staff, faculty and student access.

**519.973.7000**

[www.campusdentalcentre.ca](http://www.campusdentalcentre.ca)  
[campusdentalw@gmail.ca](mailto:campusdentalw@gmail.ca)



## STUDENT CENTRE PHARMACY

University of Windsor  
CAW Student Centre

**519-971-3644**

[universitypharmacy.ca](http://universitypharmacy.ca)  
[pharmacy@uwindsor.ca](mailto:pharmacy@uwindsor.ca)



# 15th Annual BBQ

OPUS held their 15th Annual Barbecue to welcome students into the Fall 2017 semester. This was another success for the organization which allowed for students, staff and alumni to come together and enjoy free foods and drinks!





# Fall Social



OPUS held their Fall Social on October 19th, 2017. This was another successful event through which students were able to come together, socialize, and enjoy free food and drinks. Students were also granted the opportunity to win door prizes and a \$250 money prize! Further, students were able to discover Windsor's historical heritage thanks to Matthew Pritchard who was kind enough to join us from the Windsor Community Museum.

ORGANIZATION OF PART-TIME UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

**OPUS**  
Organization of Part-time University Students  
University of Windsor  
Canadian Federation of Students Local 106

## FALL SOCIAL

OCTOBER 19, 2017  
5:00 PM  
CAW SC AMBASSADOR AUDITORIUM  
DISCOVER WINDSOR'S HISTORICAL HERITAGE & OLD SANDWICH TOWN

Come get your **ISIC card!**

All are welcome to join us for food and refreshments!

**DOOR PRIZES!** **\$250 MONEY PRIZE FOR PART-TIME STUDENT!**

Please RSVP to [opus@uwindsor.ca](mailto:opus@uwindsor.ca) by October 17th





# Winter Social



OPUS held its Annual Winter Social on February 14th, 2017. The event was another great success. We were able to welcome Dr. Mohsan, who covered the important topic of mental health in his talk titled "Opening our Hearts and Minds to Mental Health." Students were also granted the opportunity to win both a \$250 and \$650 dollar prize! The event provided the perfect opportunity for students to come together, enjoy a great dinner, and have a great night!





# Celebration of Nations



OPUS took part in celebrating the diversity of the University of Windsor's campus during the Celebration of Nations on March 9th, 2017. OPUS is a firm believer in the importance of celebrating differences among students in order to ensure and open and safe space for students. At the Celebration of Nations, students, from many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, joined one another in the CAW Student Centre to enjoy performances and visit booths set up to celebrate the culture and traditions of countries from all over the world.





# Free Friday Pizza!

This year marks OPUS's 5th year hosting Free Friday Pizza! For years, OPUS, in collaboration with the Campus Dental Centre has offered free pizza lunches on Fridays for all Students and staff. Such a gesture has presented students the opportunity to come together, socialize and discuss their concerns, all while enjoying some delicious pizza!





# 15th Annual Potluck



Students, staff and alumni were able to come together and enjoy several different cultural cuisines at OPUS's 15th Annual Potluck! We had dishes from Somalia, India, Pakistan, Macedonia and more! This was the perfect opportunity for students to learn about the diverse cultures and traditions of their fellow students.





On November 16-20th, I attended the 36th National General Meeting of The Canadian Federation of Students in Gatineau as a delegate on behalf of the Organization of Part-Time University Students. I have been participating in CFS conferences provincially and nationally on behalf of the organization for over twelve years. This is the largest national student association movement in Canada that unites over 650,000 college, international, part-time, graduate, and undergraduate students from coast to coast. These meetings bring together students from across the country to discuss student issues, such as tuition fees through the Fight the Fees campaign, student debt, racism, sexism, and a variety of other diverse student issues. Students across Canada have been united within the Federation for over 30 years, and we have worked hard to achieve victories for students.

The Federation was responsible for key changes in government policy that resulted in the creation of the Canada Student Grants program. The Federation also ensures that increases to international student rights, and has launched equity campaigns to continue to work on behalf of students through the Canadian Federation of Students. I have had the privilege of representing local 106 (OPUS – University of Windsor Part-Time University Students) to build student power across Canada, and to return to campus to implement these campaigns and services, also to continue to secure victories for students. Students united will never be defeated. It's been a great movement with CFS and I'm looking forward to attending the 2018 Semi-Annual General Meeting that is coming up on January 18-21st 2018 in Toronto. The day of action is a student movement fighting against rising tuition fees and demanding more accessible, high quality, education! #fairnessforstudents

In Solidarity,

Maryan Amalow - Executive Director of OPUS







CFS Ontario



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cfson

cfsontario.ca  
freesontario.ca**FIGHT  
THE  
FEES!**

# Windsor Essex Action Coalition

**cfs**fcée

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS





# Benefits Summary

## Health Benefits

## Reimbursement & Maximum Allowance

### PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

80% per prescription or refill to a maximum of \$1,500 per person per benefit year for prescription drugs.

## Dental Benefits

### BASIC & COMPREHENSIVE BASIC SERVICES

60% of eligible charges, up to a maximum of \$500 per covered person per benefit year.

### ORAL SURGERY & ENDODONTICS

60% of eligible charges, as part of the basic service maximum of \$500 per covered person per benefit year.

## Vision Care

### EYE GLASSES/CONTACTS

\$150 every 24 months.

## Professional Service

### PRACTITIONERS (CHIROPRACTOR, PHYSIO- THERAPIST)

\$20 per visit, up to a maximum of 20 visits per practitioner, per benefit year.

### HOMEOPATH, NATUROPATH, ACUPUNCTURIST, REGISTERED MASSAGE\*

\$20 per visit, up to a maximum of 20 visits per practitioner, per benefit year.

### PSYCHOLOGIST

\$500/ benefit year, no per visit maximum.



# YOU ARE A MEMBER

## cfs fcée

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS  
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES ÉTUDIANT-E-S

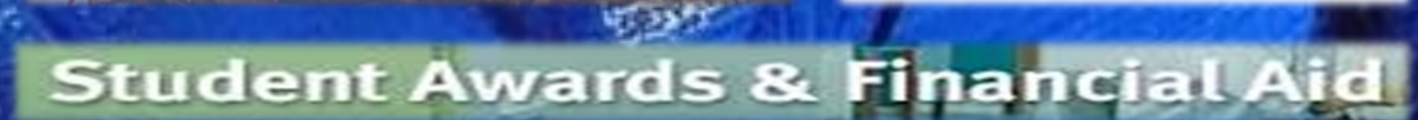
The Canadian Federation of Students is Canada's largest and oldest student organisation, uniting more than 650,000 students across the country.



@CFSFCEE



# Thank You Sponsors!



*Have a Great Summer!*