

## **Open letter regarding Carleton University**

November 8, 2010

The Honourable John Milloy  
Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities  
3rd Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Milloy:

Leadership in research can only come about when a university administration works well with campus stakeholders. Carleton University is vying for the prestigious designation as a "research intense" university that would bring both academic clout and funding resources to the university.

As students, staff, teaching assistants and contract instructors, we heartily support making Carleton an institution of academic excellence.

However we are writing you because we are very concerned that Carleton's dismal relations with its employee and student groups are jeopardizing this goal.

Carleton Administration has been pursuing a "scorched earth" policy in dealing with its campus stakeholders. They have alienated every major campus group. Negotiations with the four largest labour groups have been acrimonious. All four groups were forced into setting mid-month strike deadlines. Three of these groups are still in this position. Faculty, staff, instructors, teaching assistants and student groups have denounced the university's refusal to grant academic amnesty to students in the event of a labour disruption. Separate from labour matters but equally important and worrisome is that the University is withholding student associations' fees in an attempt to control those associations' activities.

As representatives of the community that is Carleton University we are requesting a meeting with you, Minister Milloy, to have further discussions about how to create a stable labour and student relations environment that nurtures our aspirations for Carleton University.

We are sure you will agree that the intransigence of the Carleton administration and its fomenting of labour instability are contrary to your policy goals. We would look forward to working with your ministry to enhance post secondary education at Carleton University.

Yours truly,

Wiz Long, President, CUPE 2424  
James Meades/Matt Nelson, Co-Presidents, CUPE 4600  
Alex Sirois, President, Carleton University Students Association  
Kimalee Phillip, President, Carleton University Graduate Student's Association