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# **APPENDIX C**

**EXECUTIVE REPORT**

# MEETINGS

## **CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS - ONTARIO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The York Federation of Students (YFS), Local 68 of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), has one representative who sits on the Ontario Executive Committee (OEC). The Committee receives updates from the Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario (CFS-O) and member locals alike, to ensure that all locals can stay informed with different issues that affect post-secondary students across the province. The representatives are able to oversee new campaign initiatives and share information on solidarity work, outreach, government and media relations. Vice-President Campaigns & Advocacy, Gemner Sandoval Fuentes is the representative for Local 68.

## **YORK ORIENTATION DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION**

The York Orientation Directors Association (YODA), a committee composed of the eleven College and Faculty Orientation Chairs and Presidents, held weekly meetings throughout the summer with the purpose of planning and executing Orientation Week 2023. Vice-President Campus Life, Shintah Mark, and President, Ashley D'Souza, represented the York Federation of Students (YFS) on the committee and assisted in providing support for all YODA members in preparation for their respective Orientation Weeks.

The Executives of the YFS facilitated workshops and Anti-Oppression training for YODA members and their Orientation Leaders. The YFS Executives express their gratitude to all YODA members and all orientation leaders for their dedicated efforts in ensuring a smooth transition and successful Orientation Week!

## **BOARD RETREAT**

The York Federation of Students (YFS) held their annual Board Retreat from June 8th to 11th. Within this training, several workshops and resources are provided to the board members to equip them for their roles within the student community and their various representative constituencies. These include various presentations from each of the nine departments of the YFS, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), a Robert's Rules workshop and more.

## **CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS - ONTARIO SKILLS SYMPOSIUM**

The Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario (CFS-O) hosted their annual Ontario Skills Development Symposium on June 16th to June 18th. This year, the The York Federation of Students (YFS) was proud to host the Ontario Skills Symposium at the York University Keele campus for the first time in 7 years. The Executive, board members and Community Service Group (CSG) members attended. Everyone was able to strengthen a variety of skills by attending workshops that focused on anti-oppression, successful planning behind the scenes, outreach and communications, lobbying and organizing for policy changes, and more. Everyone that attended the workshops was able to feel more empowered and prepared for the year ahead. They also were able to gain a better understanding of what it means to be part of the student movement.

## **CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS - FOOD INSECURITY TASK FORCE**

Given the growing food insecurity crisis on campuses across the country, the Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy, Gemner Sandoval Fuentes, attended the Canadian Federation of Students Ontario (CFS-O) Food Insecurity Round Table on behalf of the York Federation of Students (YFS). The goal of the taskforce is to develop tangible solutions to address the ongoing crises; currently, the taskforce has plans to launch a food insecurity survey sent to students across

the province. Additionally, the taskforce discussed additional research methods such as interviews with on-campus food centers, developing toolkits, and literature reviews in order to address any gaps within the survey.

## **COLLEGE PRESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

The York Federation of Students' (YFS) President, Ashley D'Souza, sat on the College Presidents Association (CPA) this past year; composed of Presidents from each College and Student Organization on campus. This year the CPA met multiple times over the summer in preparation for the start of the academic year, reviving and reinstating a previously dormant committee.

## **CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS - ONTARIO GENERAL MEETING**

From August 17th to 20th, the York Federation of Students (YFS) Executives attended the Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario (CFS-O) Ontario General Meeting (OGM). The general meeting is the highest decision-making body for the provincial union, where member locals get to discuss current issues on their campuses within various subcommittees, vote on motions, and run for various positions. Vice President Campaigns & Advocacy, Gemner Sandoval Fuentes, and Vice President Operations, Rehaan Lachporia, were elected to Queer Constituency Commissioner and Constituency Commissioner respectively.

## **MEETINGS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION**

The York Federation of Students (YFS) Executive Team met with university administration throughout the summer in preparation for the year. On August 3rd, Executives presented an overview of the YFS and its various services at the Direct Reports meeting for the department leads under the Vice Provost Students, Nona Robinson, leading to follow up meetings to further discuss priorities. These included meetings with the Executive Director of Student Counseling, Health and Wellbeing (SCHW) to discuss the need for an improvement

on mental health support including the addition of counselor profiles; the Vice Provost Students to discuss the rising food insecurity crises; and the Executive Director of Office of Student Community Relations (OSCR) on improvements to the student crisis reporting process.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ROUNDTABLE**

The York Federation of Students (YFS) President, Ashley D'Souza, sat on the Student Representative Roundtable (SRR), which was a forum for dialogue and discussing York University's priorities for students for the upcoming year through the office of the Vice Provost Students. This past year, the roundtable discussed pressing student issues, from the food insecurity crises, to parking and transportation issues, to mental health services for students.

## **COMMITTEES:**

### **SENATE**

The York Federation of Students (YFS) has one student representative seat in the Senate, which is the highest academic decision-making body at York University. President, Ashley D'Souza, holds that seat and has been attending meetings for this academic year. Additionally, President, Ashley D'Souza, holds a seat on the Student Senate Caucus, a committee composed of all Student Senate members.

### **RACE INCLUSION AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS (RISE)**

The York Federation of Students (YFS) holds a seat on the Race Inclusion and Supportive Environments (RISE) committee. President, Ashley D'Souza, and Vice President Operations, Rehaan Lachporia, attended meetings of the RISE committee throughout the year with members of the York University administration. The main focuses of the committee were to complete their Terms of Reference (TOR) in order to fulfill their mandate of bringing forth issues of race and racism to the President's Advisory Committee on Human Rights (PACHR). The YFS looks forward to holding the

university accountable when dealing with issues of racism on York's campuses.

### **SEXGEN**

The York Federation of Students (YFS) holds a seat on York's SexGen committee attended by executives Vice President Campaigns & Advocacy, Gemner Sandoval Fuentes, and Vice President Equity, Olivia Ferguson. The committee met and discussed updates on University-wide advocacy work around issues and concerns of sexual and gender diversity. The first meeting attended by the Executives there were plans of hosting a drag ball event which was advertised to the community. There were also conversations of the lack of funding this committee had from the University to produce programming for 2SLGBTQIA+ community members.

### **ENABLE YORK**

The York Federation of Students (YFS) holds a seat on the Enable YU committee. Vice President Operations, Rehaan Lachporia, attended meetings of the Enable YU committee throughout the year with members of the York University administration. The primary goals of this committee were to complete their Terms of Reference (TOR) to provide them with their mandate and methodology to support and advocate for students, staff, and faculty with disabilities. The YFS looks forward to pushing this administrative committee to accelerate their TOR processes in order to begin tangible advocacy work for York community members with disabilities.

### **HIRING COMMITTEES**

During the month of August, Vice President Operations, Rehaan Lachporia, sat on the hiring committee with other York University stakeholders for the Assistant Vice President Ancillary Services on behalf of the York Federation of Students (YFS). The committee met with a number of candidates from both York University and other post-secondary institutions, as well as large corporations. The YFS recommended the committee hire the candidate who had shown to have a higher focus on student affordability and experience for students. The committee had decided to hire the

new AVP Ancillary Kim Mclean.

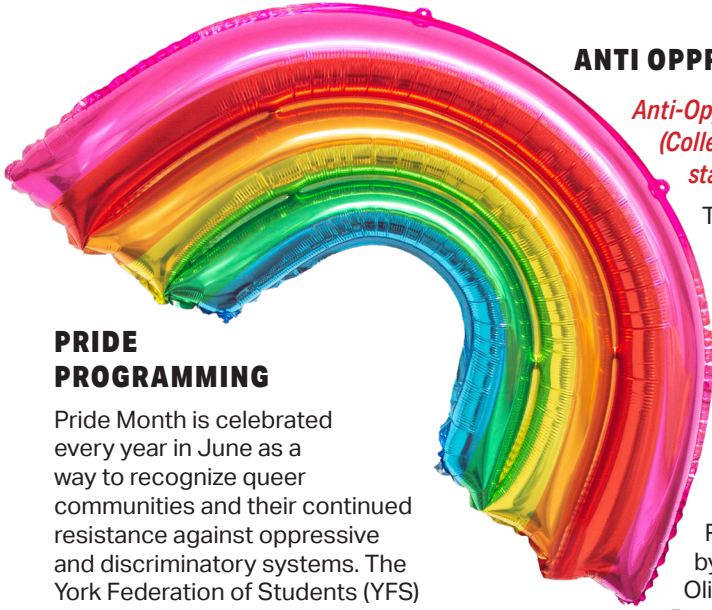
## **FOOD INSECURITY ROUNDTABLE**

The Food Insecurity Roundtable is run by the York University administration. The roundtable is led by Nona Robinson, Vice-Provost Students, and is made up of faculty, staff, and student organizations. Members have discussed initiatives to fight food insecurity and alternatives for on campus, but the university ended up signing a new contract with another large conglomerate. Compass Group continues to provide food to the cafeterias that is overpriced, does not meet religious or dietary restrictions, and lacks nutritional value. In response to concerns raised at the roundtable, the York Federation of Students (YFS) relaunched the grocery shuttle, a bus that takes students between campus and the nearest Canadian Superstore bi-weekly. The YFS also continues to run the Food Support Centre, a food bank on campus that offers different grocery packages based on religious and dietary restrictions.

## **ACTION PLAN ON BLACK INCLUSION**

The Black Inclusion Action Plan is a part of the York University's long term strategy to address the rampant anti-Black racism within the university, after years of advocacy work from the York Federation of Students (YFS). Vice President Equity, Olivia Ferguson, and Vice President Campus Life, Shintah Mark, hold seats on the Black Inclusion Advisory council, ensuring the action plan is inline with the needs of students. This year, an additional seat was extended to the Black YFS Community Service Group, York University Black Students' Alliance (YUBSA). The YFS and YUBSA Executives continue to provide necessary student input and critique to be incorporated into the framework and its action items

# CAMPAIGNS & EQUITY



## PRIDE PROGRAMMING

Pride Month is celebrated every year in June as a way to recognize queer communities and their continued resistance against oppressive and discriminatory systems. The York Federation of Students (YFS) collaborated with the Community Service Group, Trans, Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Asexual at York (TBLGAY), to plan a series of events aimed at educating and celebrating with students throughout the month of June. These events addressed sexual health and confidence skills, navigating different intersecting identities, and spaces to meet other students.

## IHM PROGRAMMING

Indigenous History Month is celebrated every year in June as a way to recognize the diverse history, heritage and traditions of Indigenous peoples. The York Federation of Students (YFS) collaborated with the Community Service Group, Indigenous Students' Association at York University (ISAY), to plan month-long programming aimed to educate and celebrate along with students throughout the month of June. These events included beading workshops, conversations about alternative policing and colonial roots of homophobia and transphobia.

## ANTI OPPRESSION TRAINING

*Anti-Oppression Trainings  
(Colleges, YUSC, campus PT staff)*

The York Federation of Students (YFS) remains firm in its stance of building an anti-oppressive, anti-discriminatory, and equity-focused campus. Anti-Oppression Trainings are an important equity initiative of the YFS.

Revamped and updated by Vice President Equity, Olivia Ferguson, and Vice President Campaigns and

Advocacy, Gemner Sandoval Fuentes, the Anti-Oppression training is provided to the wider York University community and is facilitated by the YFS Executives over the course of the year. This year, Anti-Oppression training sessions were provided to colleges and faculties, the York University Student Centre staff, and on-campus part-time staff. The presentations work towards sharing available resources, services and overall support from the YFS to students of all constituencies, and the organizations that represent them, while the Anti-Oppression Training provided a thorough understanding of equity issues.

## RECKON THIS: ANTI-BLACK RACISM CAMPAIGN

The York Federation of Students (YFS) launched the Reckon This: Anti-Black Racism Campaign in early June. This campaign was released in response to the ongoing Anti-Black racism experienced by

students, staff and faculty at York University. The YFS hosted Black at York, Black on Campus, which was an honest reckoning about Anti-Black Racism at York University.

## CSG RETREAT

Each year, the five Community Service Groups (CSGs) of the York Federation of Students (YFS) attended the CSG Retreat which serves as an orientation, and a chance to hear about expectations and goals for the upcoming year. One of the primary focuses of this year's retreat was to ensure that incoming executives were well versed on the history and the importance of each of their respective organizations. Vice President Equity, Olivia Ferguson, is the liaison between all CSGs and the YFS and provided all five groups with an outline of YFS services and supports to ensure they are properly equipped to serve their memberships.

## ISAY POWWOW

The All Nations Pow Wow is hosted annually by the Indigenous Students' Association at York (ISAY), one of the five Community Service Groups (CSGs) of the York Federation of Students (YFS). This year ISAY held their 21st All Nations Pow Wow on April 29th at Tait McKenzie Centre. The Pow Wow is a celebration of Indigenous Nations and their culture through music, song, food, dance and storytelling, and the event was a major success with great attendance! The YFS Executives would like to thank the ISAY team and community members for hosting this wonderful event!

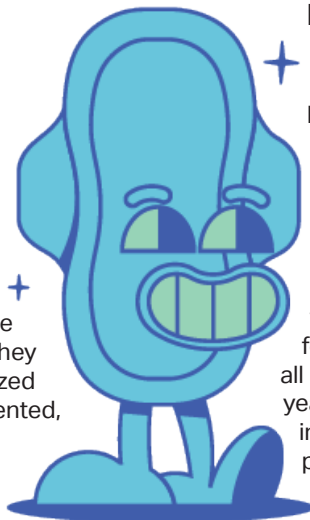
## TBLGAY NAME CHANGE CAMPAIGN

Trans, Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Asexual @ York (TBLGAY) created the campaign #DropTheDeadName to help trans students attain a functioning, transparent, and swift name change process. This campaign ran in response to York University's outdated name change process, which caused humiliation from administrative offices, students being denied insurance coverage, and strict policies that further harmed students. TBLGAY successfully achieved the demands of their campaign, creating a safer and more equitable environment on our campuses.

## CSG WELCOME BACK EVENTS

The York Federation of Students (YFS) attended welcome back events of three of the Community Service Groups (CSGs) helping with the setup of these events while providing their support. Recognizing the importance of the CSGs and the work they do to ensure that marginalized students are heard, represented, and given spaces to find community, the YFS continues to extend their support and services during programming

throughout the year. The YFS Executives attended the York United Black Students Association (YUBSA), Black Student Alliance (BSA) Welcome Back Event on September 28th. The event welcomed back all BSA clubs to campus for the new school year as well as bringing Black community together through food, music and much more. The YFS also attended the United South Asians at York (USAY) Jalebi Junction Welcome Back Event on October 3rd. The event brought the South Asian community together through food, music and games. Lastly, YFS Executives attended the Indigenous Students Association at York's (ISAY), Welcome Back Drum Circle on September 14th. The Drum Circle is a celebration of Indigenous Nations and their culture through music, song, food and dance. All the CSG events were a major success with great attendance. The YFS Executives would like to thank the CSGs for their continuous work and programming providing a safe space for community to gather.



## MENSTRUAL EQUITY

The York Federation of Students (YFS) firmly believes that menstrual products are a necessity and not a luxury, and as such, menstrual equity has been a long-running campaign of the YFS. Recognizing that menstrual equity is a right, the YFS has long advocated for free menstrual products in all bathrooms on campus. This year, the YFS is pushing for the implementation of menstrual product dispensers and free menstrual products in all bathrooms in York University.

## STUDENT AUTONOMY ATTACKS

The York Federation of Students (YFS), in collaboration with the York University Graduate Students Association (YUGSA), and Glendon College Students Union (GCSU), launched a recent campaign as a response to the senior administration intervening in union democratic processes, and threatening sanctions and resignations of elected executives of all three unions. The demands of this campaign are simple: to revoke the harmful Regulation Regarding Student Organizations policy, and to stop silencing student voices on campus.

Thus far the campaign has been well-received from members of the community, including both undergraduate and graduate students, alumni, faculty, teaching-assistants and the general public. The YFS has received multiple letters of support and solidarity from both student clubs and organizations, faculty departments, and community organizations. Thus far, the campaign has acquired well over a thousand signatures, and continues to grow. Additionally, the campaign has seen support and attendance from many members of the York Community through various actions and demonstrations held on campus.

## XPRESSIONS AGAINST OPPRESSION

The York Federation of Students' (YFS) Xpressions Against Oppressions (XAO) is an annual series of workshops, panels, and discussions centered around social and political topics. This series aims to both engage with and educate students on sociopolitical issues, while providing criticisms on the many oppressive structures and systems in our society. This year's XAO series took place from October 23rd to October 27th. It included panels and events highlighting the significance of solidarity across movements, resistance through art, and free and accessible education; each of these events were inspired by the overarching XAO theme of Unity through Liberation.



The XAO series ended with our annual Keynote event featuring labour activist Chris Smalls. During the event, many topics were discussed, including the importance of student autonomy and academic freedom of speech relating it to the autonomy of labour unions in New York.



## **FIGHT THE FEES!**

### **FIGHT THE FEES CAMPAIGN**

The Fight the Fees campaign is a longstanding campaign within the Canadian

Federation of Students (CFS) calling for a Free and Accessible Education for all students, both domestic and international. The campaign aims to break down the barriers involved in accessing education, and ultimately achieving a free post-secondary education for all. This year, students across the country hosted a National Day of Action on November 8th for Free Education, mobilizing students, and reigniting the demands for a Free Education for all students. Through dedicated outreach, the York Federation of Students (YFS) Executives met and educated students, colleges, clubs and organizations across campus, while collecting over 6000 petition signatures in support of the campaign. On November 8th, after an on-campus rally, the YFS executives led a delegation of York Students to Grange Park, before marching over to Queen's Park with other unions. President Ashley D'Souza, was one of many speakers throughout the action, speaking at Queen's Park about the importance of free education for all and mobilizing students to advocate for radical change.

### **MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK**

In collaboration with the York Federation of Students' (YFS) Wellness Centre, Vice President Equity, Olivia Ferguson, and Vice President Campaigns, Gemner Sandoval Fuentes, facilitated the YFS's annual Mental Health Awareness Week (MHAW) from November 13th to November 17th. The purpose of MHAW is to highlight the importance of mental health, as well as provide students with various skills to aid them in navigating their own mental health journey's within post secondary education. MHAW events this year included; workshops on both planting and dancing, a teach-in regarding the differences between self care and community care, and events about deconstructing therapy and food wellness.

### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Black History Month is celebrated every February to recognize and highlight the contributions of Black people to our communities, but also to recognize the continued resistance against anti-Black racism deeply embedded into society. The York Federation of Students (YFS), in collaboration with York United Black Students Alliance (YUBSA) and other GTA students unions, will be hosting various events for Black History Month throughout February aimed at educating and celebrating students. Stay tuned for more details regarding the for Black History Month Programming!

## **ACTIONS:**

### **MAY DAY**

On May 1st, the York Federation of Students (YFS) Executives and staff had the pleasure of joining a post-secondary student contingent in the march. This day recognizes the years of actions which are credited for past victories such as the eight hour work day, the provision of benefits and the foundation of unions throughout the world. The YFS and several other students' unions joined together in the annual MayDay rally at Queen's Park held by the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL). It was one of many held all over the world to support the fight for higher minimum wage, decent work, affordable housing, and issues impacting workers everywhere.

### **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH DAY OF ACTION**

The York Federation of Student (YFS) members attended the Ontario Federation of Labour day of action: Enough is Enough. This action brought together almost 20,000 workers from unions across the province demanding real wage increases, to keep schools and healthcare public, to fight for affordable groceries, gas and basic goods, rent control and affordable housing and to make the banks and corporations pay their fair share. This incredibly successful event was a great starting point for folks to get together and learn how to organize around issues that are important to them and that affect people everyday.

### **STATUS FOR ALL DAY OF ACTION**

York Federation of Students (YFS) Executives and staff joined the Migrant Rights Network in their Status for All rally, fighting for permanent resident status and family unity for all migrants and refugees here, and landed status on arrival for those that arrive in the future. It was one of several rallies across the country on September 17th.



## **YORK UNIVERSITY STAFF ASSOCIATION RALLY**

On September 20th, the York Federation of Students (YFS) took part in an action organized by the York University Staff Association (YUSA), along with the York University Faculty Association (YUFA), calling on the York University administration to renegotiate with these unions and achieve fair wages for employees. Since the striking down of the Ford government's Bill 124 as unconstitutional, the wages for staff and faculty have not kept up with the pace of inflation, especially after their hard work throughout the pandemic. The York Federation of Students stands with all faculty, staff, and workers at York University struggling for fair wages and better working conditions!

## **PRIVATIZATION OF HEALTH CARE RALLY**

On September 25th, the Executives of the York Federation of Students (YFS) and staff came together with several other unions in solidarity with the Ontario Health Care Coalition for a protest at Queen's Park. This was one of four rallies held across Ontario to fight against the privatization of health care in this province and ensure access to quality care for everyone.

## **FREE GRASSY: MARCH FOR THE LAND PROTEST**

The York Federation of Students Executives and staff joined a march of 6,000 Land Defence Alliance Community Members and supporters in Toronto to Queen's Park. This march was led by Chiefs from Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation (Grassy Narrows), Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (Big Trout Lake First Nation), Wapekeka First Nation, and Neskantaga First Nation, as a means to protect their lands and waters and to fight against mining on their lands without their consent.

## **PALESTINE SOLIDARITY COLLECTIVE ACTION**

Throughout the month of October, various student run groups have hosted actions in response to the ongoing genocide in Palestine. On October 23rd, the Palestine Solidarity Collective (PSC) hosted a rally for students to mobilize and voice their concerns regarding York University's attempts to silence student voices. The York Federation of Students (YFS) Executives attended the rally and provided marshaling support to the PSC. As well, the President, Ashley D'Souza, provided a speech condemning the York administration's complicity in the ongoing genocide and their attacks on student autonomy.

## **UNION SOLIDARITY FRONT ACTION**

On October 25th, the Union Solidarity Front (USF) held their "The Students United Will Never Be Defeated" rally outside of Vari Hall. The action was in response to the York University administration's threats to the students unions and students right to mobilize and use their voices. The York Federations of Students (YFS) Executives attended the rally and President, Ashley D'Souza, gave a speech regarding the administration's attacks on the students unions and their attempts to silence dissent from the student body on their threats on their unions. The YFS looks forward to the ongoing actions that student groups will hold in response to the University's attacks.

# CLUBS & SERVICES

## CLUBS FUNDING UPDATES

The York Federation of Students (YFS) is proud to ratify hundreds of student clubs each year and provide a variety of different services and benefits to support their work. This year, the YFS Board of Directors passed motions amending the club policies to provide clubs with additional funding options. This included increasing the eligible base funding amount to \$300; increased funding for athletic equipment rentals; and increased funding for space booking fees.

## WELCOME BACK KITS

The York Federation of Students (YFS) continued to provide resources to YFS-ratified clubs using the Welcome Back Kits. Within these kits, clubs were able to receive items that will assist with their operations throughout the year. The items in the kits included cups, plates, sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, tape, tote bags, and more. Additionally, clubs received a Clubs Guide which provided all necessary information and deadlines required to function throughout their year ahead.

## CLUBS SKILLS SYMPOSIUM

This year, the York Federation of Students was proud to introduce the first-ever, Clubs Skills Symposium! The Clubs Skills Symposium, held on September 13th, was a day-long event which brought together club executives in different sessions to train and prepare them in their operations and roles throughout the upcoming year. With great early reviews from Club Executives, the YFS looks forward to continuing to host the Clubs Skills Symposium in future years!

## CLUBS TOWN HALLS

The Clubs Town Hall is a mandatory meeting for all YFS-ratified clubs. The Clubs Town Hall provides the opportunity for club executives to learn and provide direction about all club-related material including club policies and services. As per YFS Club Ratification Policies, at least one club executive from all YFS-ratified clubs must attend one of the Clubs Town Hall meetings. This year, Vice President Operations, Rehaan Lachporia, hosted and facilitated two meetings which occurred on August 23rd and October 18th.

## CLUBS SERVICES & RENTALS

Clubs ratified with the York Federation of Students (YFS) have access to free rentals including popcorn machines, cotton candy machines, snow cone machines, PS4, Xbox One, water coolers, board games, and more. This year, the YFS was excited to introduce a Nintendo Switch with a selection of games, cables for various devices, and continued to expand the number of board game rentals.

## GRAMMARLY

This past year, the York Federation of Students (YFS) launched the discounted Grammarly service available to all members of the York community. With a dedicated in-house Grammarly Coordinator, students have access to support and can ask questions directly related to their account. Additionally, Vice President Operations, Rehaan Lachporia, met with members of the administration to discuss, educate and expand the university's academic policies in regards to Artificial Intelligence (AI) to ensure that all students have access to these services.



## SELF-SERVE PRINTING

The York Federation of Students (YFS) first opened the Self-Serve Printing Centre, located in room A1-106, Second Student Centre, in 2019. Since then, the YFS has received feedback from its membership and are proud to implement new features to continue meeting the needs of students. This year, printers will have access to the PaperCut system, allowing students the option of cashless printing. Students will be able to create an account, upload funds, submit files and print through any linked printers at either the Self-Serve Printing Centre or the Members' Services Office (MSO).

## FREE GROCERY SHUTTLE

Recognizing the continued effects of food insecurity for students on York's campuses, the York Federation of Students (YFS) relaunched their free grocery shuttle program this past year to provide students with accessible transportation from campus to grocery stores. The free grocery shuttle will continue to run throughout the remainder of the fall and winter semesters on a bi-weekly basis, with pickup locations at Calumet bus Loop, Winters College bus loop, and the Second Student Centre parking lot.



## **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

This year, the York Federation of Students (YFS) was proud to relaunch their discount school supplies program. The re-introduction of school supplies in the Members Services' Office (MSO) strives to provide supplies such as pencils, pens, erasers, highlighters, and notebooks to students at a heavily reduced cost. As the cost of these basic necessities for students continues to rise, members are able to purchase these items in the MSO located in Room 106 on the first floor of the First Student Centre.

## **NEW DISCOUNTS**

The York Federation of Students (YFS) endeavors to provide students with access to a wide range of cost-saving services throughout the year. This year, the YFS continued to maintain pre-existing discounts such as discounted Canada's Wonderland and Ripleys Aquarium tickets, discounted Blue Jays and Raptors game tickets, as well as discounted Screemers and WinterFest tickets. In addition, the YFS has been able to introduce two new services: discounted prices for ChungChun Rice Dog purchases from the on-campus location at the Quad, as well as discounted prices on single races at K1 Speedway go-karting at both the Downsview and Mississauga locations!

## **FOOD SUPPORT CENTRE**

The Food Support Centre (FSC) is the on campus food bank which strives to provide free access to food for students amidst a growing food insecurity crisis. The FSC continues to see rapid growth, amassing over 600 visits per week from January to November, totalling to approximately 2500 visits per month. In addition, there have been over 2500 new students registered for the FSC's services within this past year alone. Registered members can access non-perishable food hampers reflective of their dietary needs on a weekly basis by visiting the centre located in Suite 005 of the Second Student Centre, found in the basement across the elevators. To learn more about the YFS Food Support Centre, please visit [yfs.ca/fsc](http://yfs.ca/fsc).

## **WELLNESS CENTRE**

The YFS Wellness Centre is a student-run space on campus that serves members through four main pillars: mental health, physical health, harm reduction and combating sexual (and gender based) violence. The Wellness Centre is a result of years of lobbying efforts to provide access to much-needed resources and support to students, while hosting events, trainings and collaborating with campus partners.

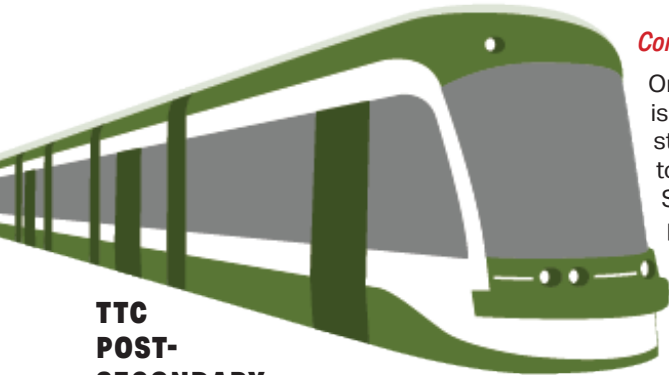
## **SERENITY SPACE**

The Serenity room is a newly added extension of the YFS Wellness Centre that serves as an accessible, sensory friendly, and calming space open to all students. Within this space, students are able to destress through a variety of means - assorted teas, coloring books, yoga space and the ever-popular ball pit.

## **STATEMENTS OF SOLIDARITY**

Throughout the past year, there were multiple statements released by the York Federation of Students (YFS) to bring awareness or reaffirm solidarity for various issues affecting both students on campus and in the global community. These included: Statement of the YFS' Divestment from the Bank of Montreal (BMO), statement regarding gender violence on campuses, statement of solidarity with Palestine, and a statement on the university's attacks on student autonomy. All statements can be found at [yfs.ca/statement](http://yfs.ca/statement).

# EVENTS



## TTC POST- SECONDARY PHOTO ID DAY

On September 15th, the York Federation of Students (YFS) partnered with the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) to host a post-secondary photo identification picture day on the Keele campus. Students were able to purchase an identification card which is used to then purchase a discounted TTC post-secondary Metropass. With a massive commuter population, this service was important to allow students to easily access discounted transportation costs.

## YORKFEST

YorkFest is the York Federation of Students (YFS) annual welcome back week for all new and returning students, with a full week of free events! This year, YorkFest was held from September 18th to the 22nd, and featured incredible events such as Drag Bingo, hosted by Makayala Couture, Nasty Doll, and Vice President Campus Life, Shinia Mark, along with movie nights, talent shows and much more!

### *Festival village*

Festival Village was one of the largest events held during YorkFest this year and featured over 100+ campus clubs and student organizations that participated, with over 10,000 students attending throughout the day. These groups were able to outreach throughout the York University Commons to showcase their clubs, upcoming events and encourage new members to join! The York Federation of Students (YFS) Executives also handed out their branded No Campus Without Us kits and collected over 1500 signatures for the Fight the Fees Campaign.

### *Concert*

One of the highlights of Yorkfest is the free concert held for all students. This year, the concert took place at Sobeys Stadium on September 21st, featuring two prominent Afrobeats artists, Ayra Starr and Uncle Waffles, opened by the incredible DJ Shannyn Hill. This year marked a significant milestone for the YFS and indicated a successful concert as the event amassed an impressive turnout with over 2000 attendees.

## FROSTWEEK

The York Federation of Students (YFS) prides itself on providing a fulfilling student experience throughout the year, and students are welcomed to the winter semester with FrostWeek. Through a week-long series of winter-themed events, students are able to meet new friends and enjoy a welcome back to campus for free! This year, FrostWeek will take place from January 15th, 2024 to January 19th, 2024. Additionally, students are encouraged to join us for a free back-to-school breakfast on the first day of classes on January 8th, 2024.

## CULTUREFEST

CultureFest is an annual event as a way to celebrate the cultural diversity of our membership. During the week of programming cultural clubs participate in various events to highlight and showcase their unique cultures, while competing for awards to culminate the week. This year, CultureFest will be held from January 26th, 2024 to February 1st, 2024. The York Federation of Students Executive Team are grateful for all the hard work and dedication from all cultural clubs competing in CultureFest and look forward to seeing the hard work come to fruition.

## YORKFEST KITS

As part of YorkFest, the York Federation of Students is happy to provide all students on campus with welcome-back kits. These uniquely branded YFS kits are a staple every year, and contain pens, notebooks, lanyards, t-shirts, sponsorship materials, discounts and so much more!

This year's branding "No Campus Without Us" was intentional. It served as an important foundation for the year. Over the past few months, it has been evident that senior administrators at the university do not ultimately care about its students, only in their personal interests and investors. The recent attacks of autonomy on campus are the perfect encapsulation of the university's consistent attempts to control its students, staff, faculty, and workers. No Campus Without Us is a rallying call, bringing together all members of the campus community together to unite together in solidarity.



## REDPACK

The York Federation of Students (YFS) is proud to offer students an opportunity to volunteer with the union throughout the year. The RedPack program is instrumental in helping facilitate and execute large-scale events such as YorkFest. Furthermore, all RedPack volunteers are able to receive a variety of benefits such as volunteer hours through the university's portal, letters of recognition, as well as prizes and giveaways throughout the year. YFS Executives hosted multiple Redpack training sessions throughout the year, providing important information and resources to all interested students.

## **WINTER CARE PACKAGES**

The York Federation of Students (YFS) is happy to provide students with the annual YFS Winter Exams Care Packages. Each care package contains snacks and juice boxes for students to enjoy while preparing for the exam season. The YFS Executives and Board look forward to distributing the care packages out during the last week of classes.

## **ORIENT THE LEADER**

The annual Orient The Leader (OTL) event serves as a training for Orientation Leaders from all colleges and faculties, equipping them with essential tools needed to ensure the success of Orientation Week for incoming students. This year, OTL took place on August 24th; Executives and Commissioners of the York Federation of Students (YFS) facilitated Active Bystander Training for all orientation leaders. The Active Bystander Training was one of three trainings provided to all leaders.

## **ORIENTATION WEEK**

This year Orientation Week took place from August 26th to September 4th. The York Federation of Students (YFS) was thrilled to be involved in Orientation Week this year to support the colleges and faculties in their programming. YFS Executives and Board Members alike participated as Orientation Leaders for their respective colleges, with many taking on additional roles. Additionally, the YFS was able to provide each college and faculty with 200 YFS Swag Kits to welcome incoming students and receive over 500 signatures from incoming first-year students. The YFS Executives thank the colleges, faculties, and Orientation Leaders for their commitment and diligent efforts in facilitating an amazing Orientation Week and providing a warm welcome for incoming students on our campuses.

## **CLUB & COMMUNITY EVENTS**

This year, there have been an abundance of events and programming on campus. With campus life thriving once again, The York Federation of Students (YFS) Executive team had the pleasure of attending many events hosted by Community Service Groups, YFS-ratified clubs and other campus organizations. These include events from United South Asians at York (USAY), Ghanaian Students Association (GSA), Nigerian Students Association (NSA), Trans Bisexual Lesbian Gay Asexual at York (TBLGAY), Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS), The Happiness Plan at YU (THPYU), York University Tamil Students Association (YUTSA) and the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) to name a few.

The past year also included various opportunities to connect with other unions on campus. The YFS Executive team attended multiple events and actions in solidarity with faculty, staff and workers on campus. These included Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 3903's welcome back BBQ and a joint rally for fair wages with the York University Staff Association (YUSA), York University Faculty Association (YUFA), CUPE 3903, and CUPE 1356. These were an important reminder that the workers and students united will never be defeated!