

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

ONTARIO  COUNCIL

FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES FEMMES DIPLÔMÉES DES UNIVERSITÉS

The Hon. Dalton McGuinty,
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Toronto, ON. M7A 1A1

February 1, 2008

Dear Premier McGuinty,

The Canadian Federation of University Women Ontario Council (CFUW OC) is committed to promoting quality, accessible post-secondary education in this province.

We are particularly concerned over the uncertain funding and possible closure of the First Nations Technical Institute (FNTI). If our governments are committed to closing the gap in post-secondary education for our Aboriginal people, it is therefore imperative that both levels of government work together to establish a cost sharing agreement that will provide stable funding to the FNTI and all other First Nations schools.

In order to receive funding, the Province of Ontario requires that Aboriginal institutions deliver provincially approved programs and follow provincial standards, yet, in the case of the FNTI, the government fails to commit to the stable, secure funding which other Ontario colleges, universities and Aboriginal programs receive.

On Wed. January 30, 2008, the Hon. Chuck Strahl, federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, announced a very short term solution to the Institute's funding dilemma with a "one time contribution for the current school year" of slightly more than \$531,000.

With the failure to commit adequate, long term funding for the Institute by both the provincial and federal governments, how is it possible for its administrative and teaching staff to plan beyond this current year? A commitment to long term stable funding will provide the standard of education to which our Aboriginal people are entitled.

CFUW OC is looking to your leadership and that of your government to end the funding dilemma and ensure that the FTNI remains a factor in contributing to the social and economic health of both the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory and the province of Ontario.

Sincerely,

Linda MacGregor
President, CFUW Ontario Council