

An Open Letter to the University of Toronto Scarborough

April 4, 2017

Food service workers at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus have been on strike for 8 weeks now, demanding living wages and decent health and retirement benefits. These the past 8 weeks, students, staff, faculty and visitors to UTSC have heard their demands from the picket line. Workers want the same pay as food service workers at the St. George Campus, who make \$6.00 more doing the same job. As representatives for all 13,000 full-time and part-time students at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus, the Scarborough Campus Students' Union reinforces our support for Aramark food service workers on strike at UTSC. SCSU has engaged with thousands of students at UTSC during the strike, who have all been particularly receptive and supportive of the striking food service workers fight for justice and fairness.

Sub-contracted cafeteria workers at UTSC are among the lowest paid workers at any university in the GTA. At York's Keele campus, cafeteria workers recently settled their new, fairer contract. With that in mind, it's time the University of Toronto Scarborough step up and follow suite.

The Scarborough Campus is so diverse, with a surrounding community of low income families, racialized people, and immigrants. Food service workers at UTSC hold similar identities; most workers are first generation Canadians, they are women, and they are racialized. When these workers are faced with inequities, students know the University has a responsibility to set a standard for decent work. We know that UTSC can and must do better.

As food service workers go into settlement negotiations this week, we urge the University to take leadership and ensure that all workers on our campus earn a living wage, direct employees and sub-contractors alike.

Yours truly,

The 2016-2017 Scarborough Campus Students' Union Executive

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