



**YORK FEDERATION OF STUDENTS**  
**LOCAL 68 CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS**

**NOVEMBER 2018**  
**ANNUAL**  
**GENERAL**  
**MEETING**  
**EXECUTIVE REPORT**

# MEETINGS

## CFS OEC

As Local 68, a member local of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), we take part in the Ontario Executive Committee by sending one representative; Sebastien Lalonde, our VP Campaigns and Advocacy, is the L68 Rep! The Ontario Executive Committee allows us to connect with student unions from across the province, but also allows for consistent updates from The Canadian Federation of Students Ontario is working on quite a few new campaign initiatives such as the Fairness for Students Campaign but especially the VoteLocal Campaign. This concentration was to further empower post-secondary student voices within the municipal elections to vote by providing non-partisan materials and outlining some of the issues that affect post-secondary students. During these meetings, there was an overview of the Federations campaigns, government relations, media relations, solidarity work, etc.

## CFS JUNE NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING

The executive members and the executive director of the York Federation of Students took part in the National

General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students from June 8th to the 12th. During this meeting, we took part in important debates surrounding the campaigns that will be introduced this year. The YFS was proud to introduce a motion calling for all Provincial locals to support its member locals within specific geographical locations to create focus groups and resource hubs around the Fight the Fees campaign and the exploration of a strike. As the motion passed, it guarantees that these groups would exist so long as tuition fees continued be put on the backs of students.



## CFS SKILLS

The CFS held their annual skills symposium from June 18th to the 20th at the University of Toronto Mississauga Campus (UTM). The YFS executive, staff, and some board members were incredibly excited to attend. A special thanks to CFS Ontario as well as University of Toronto Mississauga Students Union for hosting an incredible symposium that allowed students to get a great understanding of the student movement.

## BOARD RETREAT

The York Federation of Students hosted their annual board retreat from July 11th to 13th at Geneva Park in Orillia. Board members were given the opportunity to learn about every aspect of the YFS and explore all three of our pillars. They also received Anti - Oppression training and Active Bystander training. Throughout the retreat, they learned all about their new roles as directors, and how to effectively reach out to the York community and allow them to engage with our services. It was an incredible experience.

## CFS OGM

From August 23rd to 26th YFS executives and staff attended the Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario General Meeting. President, Rawan Habib, had the opportunity to speak on a panel surrounding sexual violence and consent work on individual campuses. Workshops also included organizing spaces around Fight the Fees, the Vote Local Campaign, and a panel on student victories on campuses. Rawan Habib was also elected as the Council of Constituencies Representative Chair.

## **YODA**

The York Orientation Directors Association (YODA) is a board comprised of all 11 College and Faculty Orientation Week teams. Meeting weekly throughout the summer, the purpose of YODA is to provide a holistic and inclusive transition for incoming students who are taking part in the university's frosh week. Vice President Campus, Life Anthony Fernandes acts as the York Federation of Students (YFS) representative on the board and was able to provide multiple avenues of support to YODA members, such as being an active member of the consent committee and providing multiple services resources for orientation teams.

## **CFS NOVEMBER NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING**

From November 15th to the 19th, Vice-President Operations, Jordan Madeira, President, Rawan Habib, and Executive Director, Murtaza Ghulam, attended the annual NGM of the Canadian Federation of Students. The YFS delegation had an opportunity to vote on motions put forward from student unions across the country, as well as participate in various workshops surrounding ReconciliAction, Federal Elections, and various student victories. Rawan Habib was also elected as the National Racialized Constituency Chairperson.

## **SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL**

The YFS holds a seat on the President's Sustainability Council Advisory Committee. This committee is committed to working on projects that work to make York University a more sustainable university through various means. Currently, the committee is working through the cut to the Ontario Cap & Trade program but assures us that it will continue on with the original plan to cut its carbon emissions progressively throughout the next few years. This plan is summarized in the YORK 2050 plan which breaks down the strategies that will be used to attain this level of sustainability but is still in the development process. We continue to assure that these decisions are made with the student voice and perspective by voting to see a more sustainable and green York University.

## **LEADERSHAPE**

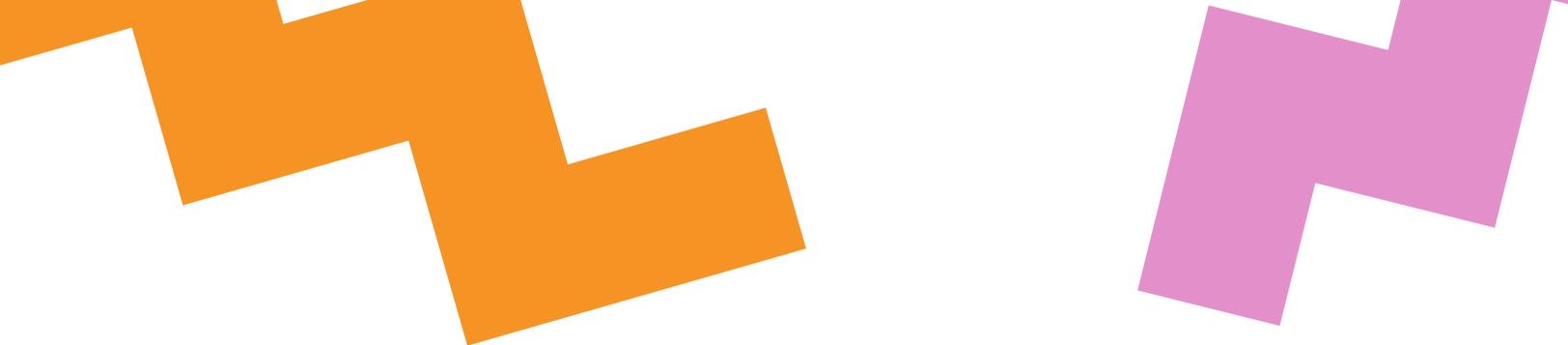
LeaderShape is a contracted company used by York University in order to hold a leadership conference over six days off of campus. This year, the YFS was able to sponsor one delegate, the Vice-President Campaigns & Advocacy, in order to further develop the leadership skills of its members and take part in the process. Unfortunately, this LeaderShape was unlike other years as there were certain incidents which resulted in the cancellation of

programming for the last two days in order to assure the proper care for delegates mental health.

Upon coming back, the YFS met with the on-campus coordinators of LeaderShape in order to provide our feedback and recommendations based on our delegates experience. We continue to work with the office of Student Community & Leadership Development to assure that another LeaderShape like this one does happen again.

## **SENATE**

The York Federation of Students has one student representative seat on Senate, which is the highest academic decision making body of the university. President, Rawan Habib, holds that seat and has been attending meetings for this academic term. Discussions surrounding the strike, academic accommodations, and the new mandated free speech policy have occurred within the space thus far.



## FOOD SUMMIT

As the YFS Food Support Centre continues to grow and food security at York University is progressively worsening, it is important that we continue to research ways to fight food insecurity and develop new partnerships and projects with other groups and organizations who continue this work. For the first time, the York Federation of Students sent a delegate from November 1st - 5th to the National Student Food Summit which was held in conjunction with Resetting the Table - Food Secure Canada 2018. During this summit, we had the opportunity to learn a lot about what the relationship between post-secondary

institutions and food tycoons such as Chartwells and Aramark look like and how we can intervene to make food more accessible and diverse. These connections with individuals across the country will be pivotal in the work that we do regarding food security.

## CANNABIS WORKING GROUP

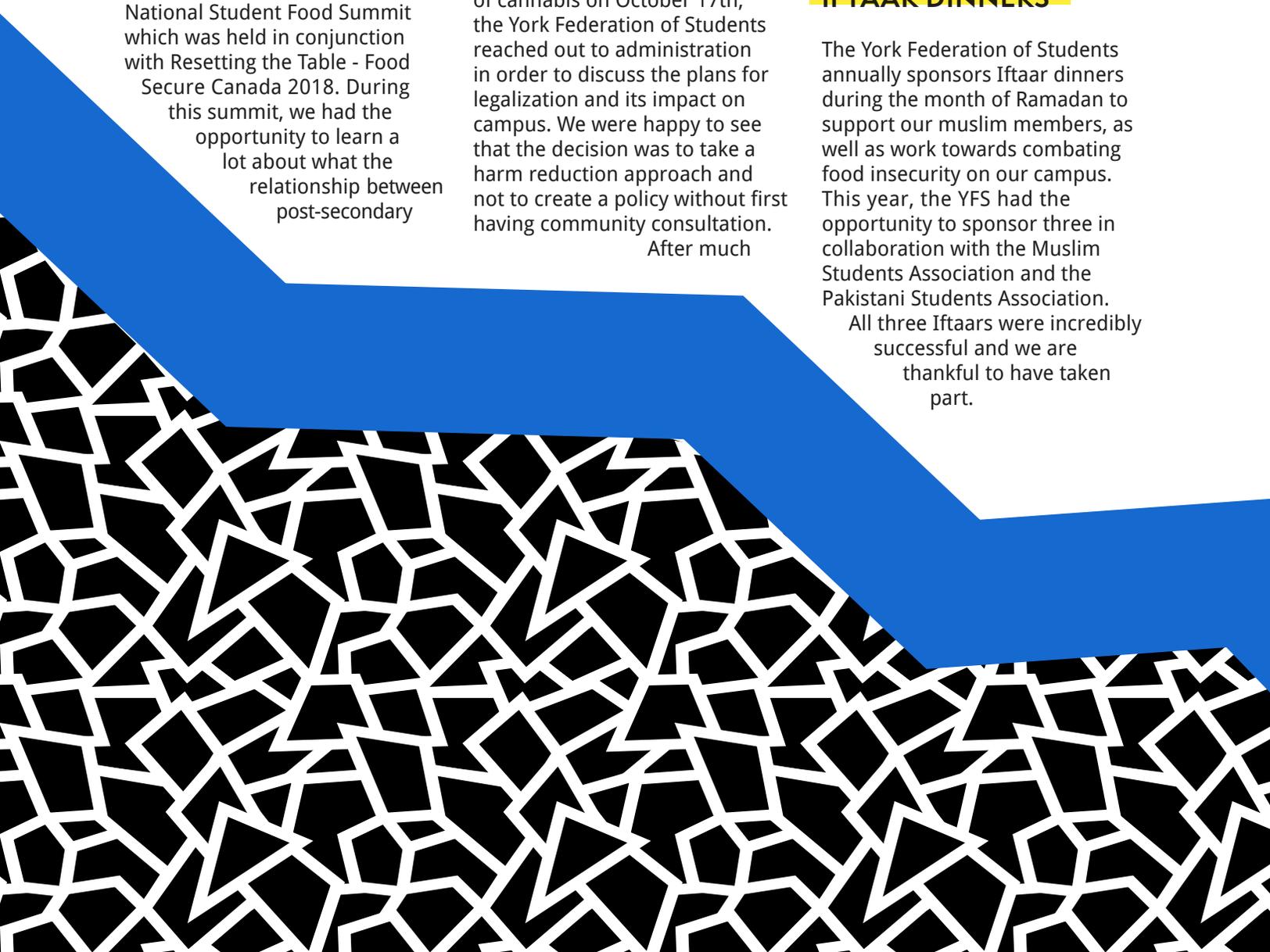
Weeks before the legalization of cannabis on October 17th, the York Federation of Students reached out to administration in order to discuss the plans for legalization and its impact on campus. We were happy to see that the decision was to take a harm reduction approach and not to create a policy without first having community consultation. After much

deliberation, we were able to secure two seats at the Cannabis Working Group which has been responsible for these community consultations and the drafting of a policy which would come into effect next year. The YFS Wellness Centre continues to work with other campus partners to develop resources on the legalities involved as well as the effects of cannabis.

## IFTAAR DINNERS

The York Federation of Students annually sponsors Iftaar dinners during the month of Ramadan to support our muslim members, as well as work towards combating food insecurity on our campus. This year, the YFS had the opportunity to sponsor three in collaboration with the Muslim Students Association and the Pakistani Students Association.

All three Iftaars were incredibly successful and we are thankful to have taken part.



# EVENTS



## PRIDE

The YFS annually partners with the Art Gallery of York University (AGYU) as well as TBLGAY to present a week-long series of events for Pride. This year, we had the opportunity to work with Natalie Wood, an artist that originates from Trinidad. We were able to use the Blue Devil, a group that participate in Carnival, and combine it with the theme: "Whose Party?" This allowed us to speak to the political nature of Pride, and celebrate the differences and nuances within the queer community. We had an incredible turnout at various events throughout the week, and the float was incredibly beautiful and successful.

## YORKFEST

This year, Yorkfest was held between September 24th-29th. Our YorkFest theme was "York Students over Everything." Throughout the week, we saw an incredible amount of enthusiasm and participation from students, with most events

reaching full capacity. Events included our annual bagel and smoothie breakfast, Dirty Bingo, and casino night, but also included newer events such as Yorks Best Dance Crew, and our Break Room Games Lounge. This year's YorkFest concert saw the incredible performances of several DJ's, Lisa Monet as well as headliner Machel Montano!



## FROSH WEEK

Frosh 2018 was a jam-packed and wonderful experience for all new students as well as leaders who were apart of it. This year the York Federation of Students was excited to play an active role supporting the colleges in welcoming first year students to York University. The executives of the YFS were able to participate in the week as Frosh Leaders for Mclaughlin College, Calumet College and Winters College. Vice President Campus Life Anthony Fernandes and Vice President Equity Amina Arigbabu were also able to MC York Orientation Day at York Lions Stadium on September 4th and welcoming over 5000 incoming York students along with the rest of the executive team. Frosh not only allowed students to have a fun time but also taught about

consent culture, inclusivity and many important themes in order to create a campus fit for all York students.



## REDPACK

RedPack is the York Federations of Students (YFS) volunteer program Red Pack is an incredible way to get involved as well as be apart of the student movement. Red Pack are the amazing volunteers who help out not only with events but also with campaigns, services and more. On August 20th-22th the York Federation of Students (YFS) held their annual kit stuffing in which redpack volunteers supported with; as well as on Festival Village Day in which several volunteers were welcoming incoming students. With YorkFest come and gone the YFS thanks our members of the RedPack for working so hard and we are very excited to see what the rest of the year will bring!

## BLACKFEST

The York United Black Students hosted their annual Blackfest on October 17th, 2018; Blackfest is a showcase of black talent such as



spoken word, rapping and producing. The intention is to celebrate black magic and enjoy good food, good music, good vibes and to support the black community. This year, Vice President Equity, Amina had the opportunity to host the event using the platform to speak about the injustice and violence that racialized students face on this campus daily. There was a lot of great talent and vendors this year to celebrate the magic of Melanin by creating a safer space for black talent.

### **FROST WEEK**

This year for Frost Week, The York Federation of Students (YFS) is very excited to provide both returning and incoming students with a welcome back week of events for the Winter Semester. The week shall commence on Monday January 14th 2019 and run through till Friday January 18th 2019. Throughout the week, there are going to be several popular events such as our Winter Carnival as well as new events such as skating at the Canlan Center. We look forward to seeing you there!

### **MULTICULTURAL WEEK**

Things are beginning to gear up for this year's Multicultural week (MCW). Here at the YFS, we have been working towards providing a week of events that epitomizes the diversity and multicultural representation of student clubs on our campus. The dates for this year's MCW will be taking place from Friday January 18th 2019 and run through till Friday January 25th 2019. We are very excited to bring you folks a week filled with events such as our annual fashion show, our food fair and of course cultural explosion to end off the Week. It is definitely a week you do not want to miss!

### **MEET AND GREETES**

The York Federation of Students Executive Team is fortunate enough to be able to attend Meet and Greets hosted by our ratified clubs. So far this year we have attended Meet & Greets for several clubs including; the Ghanaian Students Association, the Nigerian Students Association, MESA, Tamil Students Association, Indian Cultural Association, Organization of Latin American Students, York University Musicians Students Association, Guyanese Student Council, Refugee Aid, Oromo

Students Association, Marvel Club, Ethiopian Students Association, Somali Students Association, African Students Association and Egyptian Students Association. We also attended different games nights and Art Attack events hosted by Jack.org, Poet's Pulse and A Thousand Words. The YFS Executive look forward to seeing what amazing events our student clubs have in store for the winter semester!

### **DIWALI DYNAMITE**

Vice President Campus Life Anthony Fernandes and Vice President Equity Amina Arigbabu had the opportunity to attend "Diwali Dynamite" hosted by the Indian Cultural Association (ICA) on November 9th, 2018. Diwali, also known as Deepavali which means "row of lamps", is the Hindu festival of lights which is celebrated every autumn season. Diwali symbolises the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. During the celebration, the executives enjoyed several performances from different students, as well as a lovely decorated space with a delicious meal that was provided. We congratulate the ICA on a very successful event!

# CAMPAIGNS & EQUITY



## RALLY FOR DECENT WORK

The York Federation of Students took part in the Rally for Decent Work which brought together the \$15 & Fairness campaign, the Ontario Federation of Labour and many other stakeholders regarding workers rights and the minimum wage increase. The rally brought together over 2000 people from throughout the province, who joined together to speak against the provincial government's announcement to cut the increase of the minimum wage from \$14.00 to \$15.00. The YFS is committed to fighting for \$15 and Fairness, and will continue to work towards ensuring that we see an increase in minimum wage, as well as changes in labour law to create more equitable, safe, and fair workplaces.

## REPEAL RALLY

After the proposed repeal of the new 2015 sexual education curriculum, a group of high school students planned a rally at Queens Park. The YFS attended this rally in

order to support better access to education and the right for students to access a curriculum that is inclusive of various concepts. We recognize and support the fact that this curriculum had the most community consultation than any curriculum before it. At the rally, we had the opportunity to hear different individuals speak, including: a high school student activist, Rayne Fisher-Quann who was one of the organizers of the event, Jill Andrews the newly elected MPP for Toronto - St. Paul's and many other speakers. We were moved to see such a genuine type of activism coming from the students who would be most affected by the change, and are committed to continued support of them.

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS HANDBOOK

The York Federation of Students has created a Know Your Rights Handbook that students and community members are able to access to better navigate their different legal rights. The handbook will include rights around being a tenant, interactions with the police, use of cannabis, and much more. This handbook will soon be available online and in person.

## EQUITY HANDBOOK

The York Federation of Students is in the process of creating an equity handbook that students and

community members are able to access. The handbook will provide an overview of different equity concepts and definitions, a breakdown of systems of oppression, a guide to allyship, and will also provide resources for students to access based on various communities and identities.



## YURIDE

Students deserve access to their education in a way that is affordable, accessible and safe. The recent changes in transit happening at York University have compromised and limited the access of our campuses to our students. The YRT, the public transit operator in York Region, has announced that all YRT/VIVA Purple and Orange lines will no longer be coming to York University due to the opening of the TTC Subway. Thereafter, GO Transit (Metrolinx) announced that as of January 5th, the buses will no longer be coming onto the Keele Campus but instead be stopping at the TTC 407 station. The YFS has launched a campaign called YURide at [www.yuride.ca](http://www.yuride.ca) where you will find three things; the first being the petition with the three demands of the campaign, the second being a letter-writing portion and the third portion being the survey

which will allow us to gather more data on transit use on campus and further provide us with tangible information when negotiating with transit providers for a possible universal transit pass. We are proud to say that over 17,000 signatures have been added and over 2,000 letters sent. We are working on phase three of the campaign which will include a meeting with the transit providers.

### **XAO SERIES**

This year, we expanded our historically week-long Xpressions Against Oppression Series, into one that runs year-long. Featuring an event practically every month throughout the year, we're able to have events that spark conversations about the social and political issues that are affecting us on, and off our campuses, through various different platforms and events. We're excited to host XAO events for the rest of the year!



### **XAO KEYNOTE: ANGELA DAVIS**

This year, the annual XAO Keynote brought us Dr. Angela Davis on November 1st. It was an incredibly successful event, with over 500 students and community members in attendance. Dr. Davis spoke on several issues we face as a society, including: anti-racism work, feminism, and labour organizing.



### **FIGHT THE FEES**

This year, a new portion of the Fight the Fees campaign has been introduced through a brand new poster series that has been put up around campus, and will be included in our social media promotion. The series focuses on debunking myths that surround the fight for a free education, as well as seeks to educate members on student strikes. We are excited to use these posters as one tactic to escalate our fight for free education.

### **BILL 47/148 PRESS CONFERENCE**

On November 5th, Vice-President Operations, Jordan Madeira, and President, Rawan Habib, had an opportunity to participate in a press conference at Queens Park regarding Bill 47, and the repeal of aspects of Bill 148.

### **MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK**

Our Annual Mental Health Awareness Week took place from November 19th - 22nd. There were various events throughout the week that focused on therapy,

support, and expression. With everything from Art Therapy, to Community Food Kitchens, to Plant Therapy, to a DIY Self-Care Kit Workshop, all the events were a hit. We also took this week as an opportunity to host the grand opening for our Wellness Centre, and kick off our programming by hosting a Naloxone and harm reduction training, as well as an Active Bystander Training.



### **SEXUAL VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN**

The York Federation of Students has a sexual violence campaign that focuses solely on creative positive space for survivors. The campaign features a poster series with various positive affirmations and have been incredibly well received by the York Community. Students are able to submit their own positive affirmations to: [president@yfs.ca](mailto:president@yfs.ca). The YFS is also currently working on a new anti-sexual violence campaign that will be released in the new year.

### **CENTRE FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE, SUPPORT, AND EDUCATION**

The York Federation of Students continues to work collaboratively

with the Centre for Sexual Violence, Support, and Education to provide sexual violence support on both campuses. Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy, Sebastien Lalonde, and President, Rawan Habib, both act as Active Bystander Facilitators for the Centre and help provide anti-sexual violence trainings for the greater York community.



## WELLNESS CENTRE

As a part of Mental Health Awareness Week, the YFS formally opened their Wellness Centre, located in Rm. 341. The pillars of our Wellness Centre are: harm reduction, mental health, physical health, and sexual violence. The Wellness Centre is a space on campus that is meant to help fill in the gaps when addressing mental health and wellness on this campus. It provides a de-stressing space that is open to students, but also facilitates various workshops such as harm reduction spaces, discussion circles, and more.

We're incredibly excited to continue to expand the services of the centre.

## WELLNESS CENTRE CONSULTATIONS

In lead up to the Wellness Centre Opening, the YFS Executive and Wellness Centre Coordinator had community consultations with various clubs, community service groups, and organizations on campus to ensure that the Wellness Centre was all encompassing of student needs.

## VOTE LOCAL

Vote Local is a campaign launched by the Canadian Federation of Students Ontario in an effort to get more post-secondary students involved in voting for the municipal elections. During this campaign, the York Federation of Students helped to promote it by featuring the Vote Local banner and providing resources to students on information as to how to register to vote as well as pamphlets on the important issues that affect students today. In doing so, we were invited to various classrooms to do talks about registering and how to research potential candidates. Lastly, the YFS was able to successfully secure a voting station in the Second Student Centre in order to make voting more accessible for students living on and around campus.

## BILL 47 RALLY

As part of the \$15 & Fairness campaign, Bill 148 was a major victory in the labour movement as it

guaranteed two paid sick days as well as the hike to the \$15 minimum wage. Bill 47 was recently passed which will effectively remove those victories and leave the minimum wage at \$14. Understanding that the YFS represents 48,000 undergraduate students, many of whom work minimum wage, precarious jobs, these are essential to students and workers alike. The YFS executive took part and spoke at the informal depositions held across the province in order to send a message to the current government and make clear that we do not support Bill 47 and the impact that it will have on students at York University and across the province.

## TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Trans Day of Remembrance (TDOR) took place on November 22nd in the Second Student Centre Convention space. The day started with a vigil in remembrance of those who have died due to violence towards trans, Two-Spirit and gender non-conforming people. All people have a right to inclusion, safety, respect and belonging at York University, regardless of their gender, gender identity or gender expression. We donated a canvas to the TDOR event in order to paint a 'Resilience' banner that was put up in Vari Hall later on in the week.



# CLUBS & SERVICES



## SECOND STUDENT CENTRE

The Second Student Centre is the culmination of student activist work on the Keele campus and is a huge victory for students! The building provides students with additional study space, club office spaces, expanded prayer spaces, dance studios, service centers, and much more. On September 19th, 2018 the Second Student Centre held a grand opening, which saw hundreds of students come out for free food, carnival games, and the burial of a student time capsule. President Rawan Habib and Vice President Operations Jordan Madeira addressed the crowd of students and community members during the day.

## YFS WELCOME VIDEO

This year, the York Federation of Students filmed a video that helped introduce the Federation, its services, campaigns, and events, as well as helped introduce the executives for this term. The video was incredibly well received and can be found on Facebook and Youtube for viewing.

## CLUBS TOWN HALL

Vice President Operations, Jordan Madeira and Clubs Services Coordinator, Nyola Matthew have been able to host three Clubs Town Hall meetings for the

semester on August 22nd, September 20th, and November 7th, 2018. At the Clubs Town Hall club executives were provided crucial information on how to maintain upkeep within their club, how to properly apply for club funding, what resources and rentals are available to them through the York Federation of Students and were told about additional resources they can access through campus partners. All three town halls were incredibly successful and informative.

## NEW SERVICES

The York Federation of Students is very excited to continue to provide members with new and exciting discounts for both on and off campus vendors! Subway at the Quad is now providing YorkU students with a 15% discount on Subway Sandwiches! We are also excited to be able to provide a discount code for virtual reality at CTRL V North York, where members will be able to receive a 20% voucher when booking online.

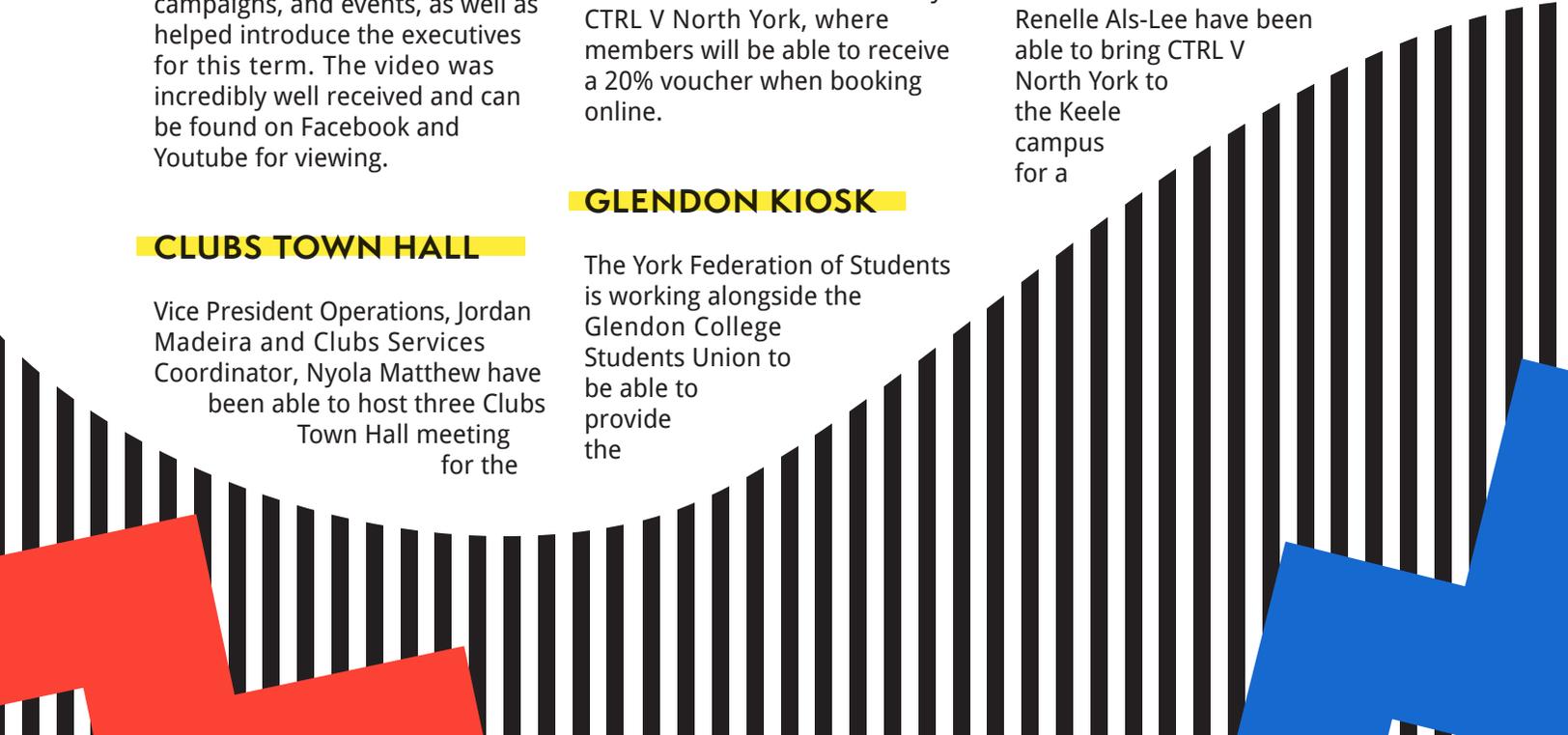
## GLENDON KIOSK

The York Federation of Students is working alongside the Glendon College Students Union to be able to provide the

members on our sibling campus similar resources that are available to members on the Keele campus through our Members Service Office. The Glendon Mobile Kiosk is meant to provide Glendon students with discounted tickets, information on crucial services, as well as general information regarding the Federation. Vice President Operations Jordan Madeira and Services Coordinator Renelle Als-Lee are excited to be able to launch the kiosk as of January 2019.

## SERVICES DAYS

Through our Services Program, the York Federation of Students is able to provide multiple Service Days throughout the academic year where students are able to engage directly with the different vendors that provide student discounts. This semester, Vice President Operations Jordan Madeira and Services Coordinator Renelle Als-Lee have been able to bring CTRL V North York to the Keele campus for a



day of free virtual reality gaming for members. We look forward to providing students with more opportunities to engage with our services in the new year.

### **CLUB & PRINTING RESOURCE CENTRE**

With the opening of the Second Student Centre, the York Federation of Students was excited to introduce additional service centres that are available for use by students. Included in those centres is the new Club and Printing Resource Centre; a self-serve printing centre with additional rental resources for student clubs. Located in Room 340, the new space has been open since September and has proven to be a utilized space by students. Services Coordinator Renelle Als-Lee and Vice President Operations Jordan Madeira were able to provide multiple printers for general student use via USB, as

well as multiple more club rental resources such as a second popcorn machine.

### **FOOD SUPPORT CENTRE**

In August 2018, the York Federation of Students Food Bank made the move from the First Student Centre to the Second Student Centre into a brand new renovated space in order to accommodate for the large increase in applicants. The York Federation of Students' Food Support Centre is located in Room 005 of the Second Student Centre and is now able to provide longer hours of operation and more diverse food options for members who are accessing the service. We are now supporting over 1200 members out of the new space.