

April 19, 2005

To striking graduate students at Yale and Columbia Universities,

On behalf of the one-half million members of the Canadian Federation of Students, including its 60,000 graduate student members, I am writing to offer our unequivocal support for your strike.

The actions of the Bush administration to prohibit the right of graduate students to unionise is not only illegal under international human rights and labour law, but it is fundamentally undemocratic.

Academic and staff unions have been vital to the effort to improve the quality and accessibility of universities. In Canada, the Federation works side-by-side with trade unions to resist the overt attempts by governments to undermine the labour and student movements through the prohibition of certain forms of collective bargaining.

The Canadian Federation of Students urges the administrations at Yale University and Columbia University to reject the political interference of the National Labour Relations Board and voluntarily recognize the unions of graduate student workers.

It is a shame that President Bush is demonstrating the same commitment to democracy at home as he is internationally.

In student solidarity,



George Soule
National Chairperson