

# Striking teaching faculty reject colleges' contract offer

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An academic strike continues to be in effect at all Ontario Colleges, including Sheridan College, whose Oakville campus is on Trafalgar Road, following Nov. 16 faculty vote results.

All classes are cancelled for full and part-time Sheridan students and apprenticeship students, in Oakville, Brampton and Mississauga; however, the majority of continuing education classes continue to run, according to Sheridan.

Voting for the forced contract vote, which was conducted online and by phone, began 9 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14, and ended at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16.

Results of the vote had 86 per cent of faculty reject the offer.

On the eve of the forced contract vote, the students of Sheridan College held a show of solidarity on Monday, Nov. 13, joining faculty on the picket line.

More than 300 students and faculty demonstrated outside Sheridan College in Oakville.

Students at Sheridan College once again showed their support for faculty, following the vote, by staging a sit-in at the Trafalgar Road campus.

On Tuesday, Nov. 14, the students fought back with legal action.

A class-action lawsuit was filed on behalf of the province's 500,000 students, seeking tuition and fee refunds from the colleges based on lost class time, with full refunds for those who choose to drop out.

The strike is now in its fifth week.

News of the vote result prompted Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne to say she'll immediately meet with both sides in the



A few dozen Sheridan College students, mostly music and dance majors, rallied inside the college's Trafalgar Road campus SCAET building over the noon hour Thursday (Nov. 16) wanting a fair settlement to the strike and to get back into class. The students then marched out of the building down to the picket line to show their support for the striking faculty, where they were greeted with a few hugs from picketers.

| **Graham Paine/Metroland**

ongoing labour dispute.

"Students have been in the middle of this strike for too long and it's not fair," she said in a statement.

"We are looking at all of our options, but I am hopeful that an agreement to return students to class immediately can be reached by the parties."

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