Welcome to Your Union

OPSEU/SEFPO Local 657

Welcome to OPSEU/SEFPO Local 657. We are the union local representing Canadore College academic faculty, including professors, instructors, counsellors, and librarians.

Whether you are just starting at Canadore or have been here for years, your union is here to support you, protect your rights, and give faculty a collective voice in the workplace.

Start here: five simple steps

1. Register or update your OPSEU membership. Membership connects you to union communications, member services, and opportunities to participate in your local.
   https://hub03.opseu.org/Forms/emaweb
2. Send Local 657 your personal email address. This helps ensure you receive union notices, meeting information, and bargaining updates.
   Send your email our union secretary at: info@local657.com
3. Download and bookmark your collective agreement. The agreement sets out many of your rights and responsibilities at work.
4. Meet your stewards and executive. Stewards can help you understand your rights and discuss workplace concerns confidentially.
5. Attend a meeting or social event. General Membership Meetings, socials, and the Annual General Meeting are where members connect, learn, and make decisions.

What your union does

- Negotiates and enforces the collective agreement.
- Supports members with workload, rights, benefits, and workplace concerns.
- Represents faculty in disputes and grievance processes.
- Advocates for fair compensation, manageable workloads, job security, and academic quality.
- Provides education, networking, and opportunities to get involved.

Which resources apply to you?

Employee group	What to look for
Full-time faculty	Information on SWFs, workload, benefits, seniority, and rights under the full-time/partial-load collective agreement.
Partial-load faculty	Information on the partial-load registry, workload and contact hours, benefits, contract provisions, and partial-load resources.
Part-time / sessional faculty	Current membership and sign-up information, union updates, and resources specific to part-time and sessional faculty.

Your collective agreement

Your collective agreement is the enforceable contract between OPSEU/SEFPO and the colleges. It covers important workplace matters, including compensation, workload, leaves, benefits, job security, and dispute-resolution processes.

If you are unsure which provisions apply to your situation, contact a steward before raising a concern with management. A steward can help you understand the agreement and identify appropriate next steps.

Need help? Contact us

General inquiries: info@local657.com

Steward support: Contact your campus steward or email the local for a confidential conversation.

Meeting notices: Ask to be added to the Local 657 email list.

Common questions from new faculty

Am I automatically a union member?

- Check with Local 657 or OPSEU to confirm your membership status. If you are not yet registered, complete the membership process as soon as possible.

Who is my steward?

- Your steward is an elected or appointed union representative who can provide confidential advice and support. Contact the local if you do not know who your steward is.

What is a SWF?

- A Staff Workload Form, or SWF, documents your assigned workload. Full-time faculty should review it carefully and raise questions early if something appears unclear.

What should I do if I have a concern?

- Keep relevant emails, schedules, and documents. Contact a steward or the local before making a formal complaint so you can understand your options.

How can I get involved?

- Attend a meeting, join the email list, help with communications or events, or speak with an executive member about becoming more involved.

Local 657 is stronger when faculty are informed, connected, and involved. Welcome aboard.