



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO EDUCATION WORKERS

300-208 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5S 3B4

☎: 416.593.7057; 📠: 416.479.3941

info@cupe3902.org; www.cupe3902.org

Executive Committee

26 June 2020

Chair:
Amy Conwell

Nathalie Des Rosiers
Principal, Massey College

Secretary-Treasurer:
Mahdi Zamani

Dear Principal Nathalie Des Rosiers,

Vice Chair, Unit 1:
Kyle Shaw-Muller

We, and [thousands](#) of others within the Massey College and University of Toronto communities, demand that: Massey College uphold its [public commitment to address anti-Black racism](#), publicly apologise to the BIPOC Fellows and students made unsafe by Margaret Wenté's appointment, and actively work to eliminate institutional racism within the College.

Vice Chair, Unit 3:
Kristin Cavoukian

Vice Chair, Unit 5:
Christopher Landon

During her career as a columnist for the Globe and Mail, Margaret Wenté has a history of writing inflammatory columns perpetuating [pseudoscience claims of race](#), [harmful misconceptions of transgender children](#) and [stigmatization of mental health challenges of students](#), and has committed numerous acts of [plagiarism](#). Margaret Wenté does not meet Massey College's own standard of "demonstrat[ing] the ethical pursuit of public good" for the junior fellowship and the larger university community to emulate, and should not have been considered for appointment.

Vice Chair, Colleges:
Brian Butcher

*Communications/
Recording Secretary:*
Hamish Russell

Internal Liaison Officer:
Farhana Islam

We urge the administration at Massey College to listen to BIPOC and LGBTQ+ members of the community during this time when our nation and many others around the world are protesting against systemic racism and inequities within our institutions. Margaret Wenté's appointment has made the College a less safe place for many BIPOC fellows, for which the College must issue a public apology. The administration must also show a serious commitment to addressing anti-Black racism and inform the Fellowship of the steps it will take to eliminate institutional racism within the College.

External Liaison Officer:
Glenna Kramer

Grievance Officer:
Jamie Ashby

Executive Director:

Wayne Dealy

We further urge Massey College to restructure the decision-making processes that facilitated this appointment and take a hard look at the composition of the Governing Board. It is of utmost importance that the College examine who is at its decision-making tables and which voices are being heard. We echo Dr. Alissa Trotz, Director of the Women & Gender Studies Institute, in her letter of resignation as Massey's Senior Fellow and Governing Board member: "It feels utterly lonely that I might be the only person at GB to object to Margaret Wenté's presence at Massey College, because it goes against everything I understood the College to be aspiring to."

Staff Representatives:

Tiffany Balducci (on leave)

Sincerely,

Laura Sullivan

CUPE 3902 Executive Committee
chair@cupe3902.org; 416-572-0185

Kathy Johnson

Gina Gignac (term)