

PRESS BACKGROUNDER - March 2, 2020

- On Friday, January 24, 2020 Ryerson University unilaterally terminated the RSU Agreement that has existed since September 1, 1986. The Agreement governs the relationship between both parties including the collection and remittance of membership fees. Ryerson University has terminated the agreement after a year of negotiations with the RSU after financial mismanagement in the 2018-19 executive term.
- Both CESAR and the RSU have similar Operating Agreements. Any decision on interpreting the RSU agreement will set precedent for interpreting the CESAR Agreement. Further, the interpretation of this ruling will have long-term implications on the analysis of students' union agreements at campuses across Canada.
- CESAR cooperatively runs services with the Ryerson Students' Union, including the seven Equity Service Centres, and also collaborates on similar services such as legal aid, student appeals, tax clinics and graduate photos.
- Ryerson University has unilaterally, without consultation or request for applications, appointed a Student Government Process Committee to choose candidates to succeed the Ryerson Students' Union. The Committee has also been given authority to disqualify candidate applications.
- Ryerson University has established an aggressive timeline to choose a new Student Government which includes roughly two weeks to submit a proposal, ten days to campaign and only two days to vote. Little to no resources were provided to students to research, propose and collaborate on new students' union structures. The University has also imposed rules that have effectively banned campaigning for a new student government and allow the University to change election rules throughout the campaign. No quorum has been set to validate the referendum.
- Ryerson University has failed to abide by their own governing documents on referendums that require three to four months of planning and approval at Board of Governors meetings. No public meeting or records can be found showing that this process was approved at the Board of Governors.