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Statement made in Ontario Legislature by Rosario Marchese

Mr. Speaker, the community colleges have been in contract negotiations with their faculty for over five months.

Without warning, on November 12 the negotiators for college management broke off talks and announced they were going to unilaterally impose their terms on the faculty.

OPSEU is attempting to implement the recommendations of the independently-chaired workload task force that examined **workloads, academic freedom and quality of education.**

Rather than negotiate, the colleges have refused to accept their responsibility and are simply going to impose terms and conditions of employment, many of which will weaken the college system and hurt students.

These actions will destroy staff morale in the colleges. They will do damage to the college system and to students.

Allowing this to happen also calls into question the McGuinty government's respect for collective bargaining.

This government claims it puts students first, but by-passing the negotiation process also by-passes the needs of our students.

Imposed settlements always have negative, long term consequences.

The Minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities must tell the college negotiators to get back to the bargaining table to negotiate fair, equitable and long term solutions to many of the problems facing our community colleges.

It is time for the colleges to get back to the bargaining table.