

Sarah Elshahat- CUPE 3906 International Officer

International Officer's Report (June/July 2021)

Dear CUPE 3906 Members,

I am delighted to provide an update on the initiatives I have been working on to support you in the upcoming academic year as detailed below:

1. Attending the HOUSE Summer Meeting on June 29th, on behalf of 3906 to discuss solutions of the housing issue among students in Ontario. I advocated for all students, however, I also highlighted the criticalness of the problem among international students who unfairly face more barriers to affordable and appropriate housing compared to their Canadian counterparts.
2. Attending the GMM and the monthly executive meeting in June & July.
3. Attending the Orientation setup meeting to co-plan for the orientation sessions to members and introducing them to their rights and benefits.
4. Completing recruitment of new members to the International Committee from different faculties.
5. Holding International Committee meeting, welcoming new members and approving various initiatives.
6. Finalizing the cookbook. I formed a sub-committee to help in providing resources to support students in various aspects by providing lists of available food banks and charities, ethnic grocery stores and restaurants. I also worked with CUPE 3906 staff who generously provided recipes for joining union and protecting their rights.
7. Launching the “Inspiring International Student of the Year Award” program, opening on July 29 and closing on August 31.
8. Launching the “McMaster Fun & Comfy Zone”- a Social Online platform developed in partnership with the GSA and the CUPE 3906 Communications Committee to help students escape the university routine through various avenues (e.g., stories, photographs). Every month has different theme and at the end of every month a contest is held, and 6 prizes are available for the winners.
9. Developing the International & PR student survey to know areas for support this year. This shall be launched soon in early August.
10. Sitting on the International Student Award Committee to set plans with SGS to push the university to maximize support to international students and provide equitable award/scholarship opportunities.