

MEDIA RELEASE  
STUDENTS AGAINST SWEATSHOPS-TRENT  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **TRENT UNIVERSITY RULES ON “NO SWEAT” POLICY**

Peterborough, ON--On December 3rd, the Trent senior administration is deciding on whether to adopt an ethical purchasing policy for its clothing suppliers. The policy being discussed has been developed over the past year by a multistakeholder committee made up of students, faculty, administrators and the university bookstore manager. This process was set in motion by Trent Students Against Sweatshops (SAS) and has entailed extensive negotiation within the committee as well as consultation sessions with students and student organizations, faculty, campus unions, administrative staff and businesses supplying clothing to Trent.

To date, support for the proposed “Fair Trade for Apparel at Trent University Policy”, which is based on the conventions of the UN’s International Labour Organization, has been gathered from various academic departments, the Trent Central Student Association, student cabinets and organizations, campus unions and local university clothing suppliers. In addition, members of SAS have been actively informing students about the policy and have circulated a petition calling on the university to adopt the anti-sweatshop policy. This petition has been signed by over one thousand students and professors.

If Trent University adopts a strongly worded ethical purchasing policy, it would join with two hundred universities across the continent, including McMaster and the University of Toronto, that have already committed to trying to ensure that the clothing bought by the institution is being made under fair labour conditions. According to student committee member Tanya Roberts-Davis, “We are urging the university to heed the demand of students, faculty and others in the Trent community to pass the ‘Fair Trade Purchasing Policy For Apparel at Trent University’ in its entirety. Now is the time for Trent to demonstrate a commitment to working towards a more just and fair society for everyone.”

At noon on December 3rd, a press conference will be held in the basement of Bata Library to announce the decision made by the university regarding the adoption of the anti-sweatshop policy.

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