



Canadian Teachers' Federation

Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants

May 30, 2017

Carlos Rivas
FECODE President
presidencia@fecode.edu.co

Dear President Rivas:

On behalf of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF), a national alliance of provincial and territorial teacher organizations representing over 232,000 teachers, I offer our full support and complete solidarity with members of FECODE, its leaders and all education employees working in Colombia. CTF firmly condemns the recent attack that has caused considerable material damages to your union's building and adjoining residential properties in Bogota.

Deliberate attacks on and threats against teachers and their unions are both a barrier to the democratic right to strike and to a peaceful society. These violent incidents involving the use of force disrupt and deter the lives of teacher leaders and attempt to intimidate them as they strive to secure and improve their working conditions.

We hope that standing tall and strong together across our borders and cultures will give you the strength and courage to face up to the fear and anxiety these acts seek to achieve.

We urge the Colombian authorities to take serious consideration for fostering quality public education and safety for all in Colombia, by intensifying its enquiries to identify the attack perpetrators.

In Solidarity,

Heather Smith
President

cc: Juan Manuel Santos, President of the Republic of Colombia