



May 31, 2017

Carlos Rivas, President
Colombian Federation of Education Workers (FECODE)
Email: presidencia@fecycle.edu.co

Dear President Rivas:

On behalf of the 45,000 members of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, I would like to echo the message from the Canadian Teachers' Federation and offer our support and solidarity in your struggle for fair wages and working conditions, while condemning the use of violence against FECODE.

We are incredibly disturbed by the news that an explosive device has been used to discourage Colombia's teachers and education workers from advocating for yourselves and your students. We commend your determination to continue with negotiations and collective action in the face of such threats. We hope that the perpetrators of this attack will be identified, and that the leaders and members of FECODE will take some strength from the knowledge that teachers around the world are standing with you as you seek recognition of previous agreements and vital investments in public education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Hawkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ann Hawkins
President

AH/lp

c. Juan Manuel Santos, President of the Republic of Colombia