



**Jessica Bell**  
MPP University–Rosedale

**Queen's Park**  
Room 372, Legislative Building  
Queen's Park • Toronto, ON M7A 1A5  
☎ 416-325-1620 📠 416-325-1424  
✉ JBell-QP@ndp.on.ca

**Community Office**  
Unit 103, 719 Bloor St. W  
Toronto, ON M6G 1L5  
☎ 416-535-7206  
✉ JBell-CO@ndp.on.ca

Dr. Meric Gertler  
President, University of Toronto  
Office of the President  
University of Toronto  
27 King's College Circle, Room 206  
Toronto ON M5S 1A1  
president@utoronto.ca

Dear President Gertler:

As the MPP for University-Rosedale, and as organizations that work hand-in-hand with the University of Toronto community, we write today with an important request. We are asking you to give students, support staff, and faculty the opportunity to participate in a significant event later this month to address the climate crisis.

Between September 20 and September 27, 2019, people around the world will be rallying to support urgent action to address the climate crisis. It's called the "Global Climate Strike", and details can be found at <https://globalclimastrike.net/>. Here in Toronto, the public is invited to gather at 11 am at Queen's Park on September 27, followed by a march at noon. This will be a peaceful, powerful, and hopefully impactful day.

Climate change is the defining issue of our time. Our scientific experts insist we have only 10 years to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to have a chance at avoiding a global catastrophe. The consequences of our collective action or inaction will be profound.

As a politician, I feel compelled to do everything I can to address this crisis. I will be participating in the Global Climate Strike and attending the march here in Toronto, and I hope many will join me – including students, faculty and staff at the University of Toronto.

Today, we are inviting you to follow the lead of the Université du Québec en Outaouais, as well as Concordia University, by cancelling classes from 11 am until late afternoon, in order to allow students and faculty to participate in this historic action, as well as support staff where possible. The Toronto District School Board has also moved to allow high school students to participate in the day's events by ensuring that no tests or assessments are scheduled, so that students are not impacted academically. My MPP office is prepared to provide a supporting letter to any Toronto-based campus member who participates in the Global Climate Strike.

We realize this may be an unprecedented request, but we live in unprecedented times. We thank you in advance for reading this letter, and look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Jessica Bell  
MPP, University–Rosedale

Jeff Bale  
Associate Professor and Program Coordinator  
OISE – University of Toronto

Maryssa Barras  
External Commissioner  
University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union

Emily Chu  
Secretary  
Trinity College Meeting

Amy Conwell  
Secretary - Treasurer  
CUPE 3902

Felipe Nagata  
Chairperson  
Canadian Federation of Students – Ontario

Simran Sawhney  
President  
Woodsworth College Students' Association