Dear students,

As you now know, members of CUPE 3903 began strike action on Monday, March 5. As I am a member as **[contract faculty/teaching assistant]**, I will not be undertaking any teaching duties for the duration of the strike. This means there will be no lecturing, grading, tutorials, labs, and I will not be answering emails pertaining to course material. **[edit to reflect teaching duties]**

The York administration has declared that classes will continue while 60% of the university's teaching staff is on strike. This is already causing mass confusion, and will continue to do so when we return to work. Make no mistake that students are being used as pawns in York's bargaining strategy, with no regard for what it means for the quality of education you will receive.

You should know that there is a Senate policy that protects students who choose not to cross picket lines in the event of a strike: http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-implications-of-disruptions-or-cessations-of-university-business-due-to-labour-disputes-or-other-causes-senate-policy-on-the/

This means that you cannot be forced to come to classes or submit assignments, and it would be unfair for anyone to pressure you to do so. I do recommend that you try to work on **[relevant assignment here]** as if it was going to be due as usual, but you do not have to hand anything in. When the strike is resolved, new deadlines will be arranged and you will be given reasonable notice of them.

Along with any communications from the Administration, I strongly encourage you to stay informed by signing up for email updates from the union: https://cupe.us17.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=06b0a8c0baeb41aa80f2ed7b3&id=886a8522e3, as well as visit the Information for Students page: https://3903.cupe.ca/students and follow us on Facebook (CUPE3903) or Twitter (@cupe3903comms).

If you have questions about, or would like to discuss the strike beyond what information you find on the website or twitter feed, you can contact me at **[non-york email here]**. I would also be happy to see you if you wanted to come out and join our picket lines at any time.

I will make every effort to help the rest of term go as smoothly as possible for you once we return.

**[Sign off]**