



Durham Region Labour Council

January 17, 2022

To: Ontario Tech University President, Steven Murphy:

The Durham Region Council stands in solidarity with Post-Secondary Educators in the Durham Region.

The Durham Region Labour Council would like to send solidarity to the UOIT Faculty Association and PSAC 555 at Ontario Tech as well as OPSEU 354 at Durham College. The UOITFA and PSAC 555 represent the vast majority of faculty, instructors, lecturers and researchers at the university and OPSEU 354 represent faculty and instructors at Durham College.

PSAC 555 and the UOIT Faculty Association are currently in conciliation with Ontario Tech and OPSEU 354 has recently begun a work-to-rule campaign. This marks the first time that all three unions are either approaching or currently undertaking labour action concurrently and we are particularly concerned about what this means for the state of post-secondary education in the Durham Region.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and intensified numerous challenges faced by members of all three unions representing faculty, instructors, researchers, and lecturers across the Durham Region. Members of these unions have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to maintain high-quality education that puts students first. As a result, many are experiencing burnout and the deterioration of work-life balance because of overwhelming workloads, an ongoing lack of teaching and research support, and, for those working contracts, a lack of job security. This status quo cannot continue. Faculty working conditions need to be addressed to improve student learning conditions at both Ontario Tech and Durham College.

With Ontario Tech President Steven Murphy's recent renewal, we urge him to provide the direction needed to prioritize high-quality education and end the uncertainty that comes with all faculty and instructors being in conciliation at Ontario Tech. As a part of President Murphy's renewal, Ontario Tech asked for advice regarding the university's involvement in the local community. We believe that if President Murphy is serious

about strengthening the school's involvement within the local community then he will ensure that faculty have the resources to continue the crucial service work that they are already doing within the Oshawa Community.

As well, we encourage the College Employer Council to return to the bargaining table and reach a deal that prioritizes student success at Durham College. Students and educators across the Durham Region have had enough unpredictability over the last two years and we all need strong leaders that are willing to prioritize good jobs, and strong educational opportunities within the Region.

It is important now more than ever that we come together to ensure that our university and college administrations prioritize exceptional post-secondary education in the Durham Region. We believe that a robust public sector, including strong post-secondary institutions that prioritize faculty's working conditions and students' learning conditions, is vital to the region's economic recovery from this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Durham Region Labour Council, Executive Board.

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