

Resolution on Laurentian University

Whereas the Ontario government has rolled back funding to its universities more than any other province, pushing regional universities without the same access to rich donors, into financial difficulty.

Whereas Laurentian University's use of the federal *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA)* to radically restructure a public institution is unprecedented in Canada.

Whereas Laurentian's upper-management used this mechanism to terminate its relationship with its three federated colleges, break its collective agreements with employees, terminate 69 academic programmes (including one of the oldest Indigenous Studies programs in the country and Canada's only bilingual midwifery program), and layoff hundreds of full-time permanent employees without severance pay.

Whereas Laurentian University's Department of History lost three of its four programs, including all of its French-language programming, and was subject to the layoff of tenured and tenure-track faculty.

The Members of Concordia University's Department of History add our voices to those demanding:

1. That the federal parliament immediately amend the CAA to exclude the possibility of applying this unfair law to the public sector as was the case until the late 1990s.
2. That the Ontario government immediately step in to fund Laurentian University as an important regional university and restore closed programs and full-time employees until such time as a full review can be undertaken.
3. That the federal and provincial governments work to transform one of Laurentian's three federated colleges, the University of Sudbury, into a Franco-Ontarian university.
4. That Laurentian University's French and English undergraduate and graduate History programs be immediately re-instituted as they provide a vital service to Northern Ontario.

We also call on the Concordia University Faculty Association and Concordia University itself to take a stand on this important matter. This represents an existential threat to the public university system as we know it.

Moved by Steven High

Unanimously Approved