

# 2017 OCUFA Lorimer Award

Citation for Linda St. Pierre

The logo for OCUFA, consisting of the letters 'OCUFA' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The 'O' and 'C' are connected, and the 'U' and 'F' are connected. The 'A' is separate and has a slightly different shape.

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations  
Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario



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## **CITATION FOR LINDA ST. PIERRE**

*Read by Rahul Sapra, OCUFA Vice-President*

The Lorimer Award was established in honour of Doug and Joyce Lorimer, who were instrumental in advancing faculty association collective bargaining in Ontario. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to improving the conditions of employment of university faculty through bargaining.

As a sessional lecturer at Laurentian University, Linda St. Pierre has taught thousands of students the importance of neuroscience. Perhaps more impressively, over the *five* consecutive terms she has been elected Chief Steward of the Laurentian University Faculty Association, Linda has taught dozens of university administrators the importance of respecting workers' rights and collective agreements.

Over the past nine years, Linda has played a pivotal role in seven rounds of bargaining. With a remarkable ability to cultivate collaborative and focused bargaining teams, Linda has prevailed against relentless attacks from successive university administrations. At the table, she has the attention and respect of everyone in the room. Her years of experience and keen strategic instincts make her an extraordinarily effective advocate for her members.

During a one-week strike in 2017, Linda's team was able to not only repel the employer's concessionary demands, but make gains for every employee group in the bargaining unit, including important wins around collegial governance, academic freedom, and brand new privacy language. Linda has the implicit trust of LUFA's members. When they were walking the picket line, they knew Linda was at the table fighting for their rights.

The gains made under Linda's leadership have been inspirational. Just weeks after LUFA won a reduced courseload for Laurentian's Master Lecturers, teaching-intensive faculty at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology were able to achieve similar gains by pointing to Laurentian.

Linda led the certification of instructors in the Centre for Continuing Education in 2011 and nursing clinicians in 2016. After twenty years with no wage increases, the nursing clinicians saw their salaries almost double. When Laurentian opened a campus in Barrie, Linda was on the front lines, ensuring new faculty were protected. When Laurentian closed the Barrie campus, Linda negotiated exit and transition packages for all LUFA's members.

Selected as LUFA's first Chief Grievance Officer in 2012, Linda confronted a university openly ignoring collective agreements and a grievance file devouring LUFA's resources. Through years of bargaining and work enforcing the collective agreement, Linda has substantially improved the grievance process and taught the university a thing or two about their responsibilities.



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The bargaining and grievance experience Linda has developed have made her an invaluable resource. She has participated in numerous committees, including OCUFA's Collective Bargaining and Grievance Committees, and the Canadian Association of University Teachers Collective Bargaining and Economic Benefits Committee. Through her work, Linda has improved model clauses, bargaining advisories, and policy statements read by grievance officers and chief negotiators across the country.

For the countless hours she has spent defending academic freedom and fundamental labour rights, for her passionate fight for fairness and equity, and for the exceptional contributions she has made to collective bargaining, I am truly honoured to present Linda St. Pierre with the 2017 Lorimer Award.