

2018 OCUFA
Status of Women and Equity
Award of Distinction

Citation for Dr. Lianne Leddy

OCUFA

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



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Read by Cathy Chovaz, SWEC Vice-Chair and Chair of the Selection Committee

The Status of Women and Equity Award of Distinction celebrates the outstanding contributions of OCUFA members whose work has advanced the interests of professors, academic librarians, and academic staff who are Indigenous, women, racialized, LGBTQ2S+, living with disabilities and/or belong to other historically marginalized groups.

The award recognizes those members who have worked determinedly, and often with little or no recognition, to advocate for equity and promote awareness of equity issues at local universities and in their communities. Wilfrid Laurier University Professor Dr. Lianne Leddy is most deserving of this award and has demonstrated her commitment to leadership, to raising awareness about equity issues, and to her scholarship. She is an Indigenous scholar who contributes incredible amounts of time, energy, and expertise towards the advancement of all Indigenous people in Ontario universities and beyond.

Her research uses community-based Indigenous [Anishinabek] storytelling to decolonize Western historical methods. She has a forthcoming book based on her PhD work that explores the impacts of uranium mining on the community of Serpent River called *Cold War Colonialism: The Serpent River Anishinabek Confront Uranium Mining*. Her current research project, for which she is the primary investigator, has been recognized with significant SSHRC funding.

Lianne shares her knowledge, expertise, and experience on campus as a mentor to Indigenous students and an ally to other faculty and staff. Off campus, she actively engages with Indigenous communities to identify ways in which she can support and further their interests. Her commitment to this service work cannot be overstated.

In addition to her one-on-one mentorship and personal community relationships, her nomination listed an impressive list of service contributions to the Wilfrid Laurier community, including (but certainly not limited to) many administrative roles with connections to Indigenous initiatives, advising university communities on Indigenization, and working with departments and programs to promote reconciliation work.

Dr. Leddy served as the Indigenous Studies Program Coordinator for three years, establishing respect for the program's strong reputation independence. She was a member of the Indigenous Research Ethics Conference organizing committee, actively participates in internal grants adjudication and search committees, leads curriculum changes, and participates at recruitment events, while also supporting other departments and programs in the university with their efforts to incorporate Indigenous curricula.



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In addition, Lianne has worked on renewing Laurier's relationships with the Six Nations Polytechnic Institute in order to partner with nearby colleges to develop a 2+2 Indigenous Studies agreement that will help students taking Indigenous Studies at the college level transfer to university Indigenous Studies programs.

Dr. Leddy has been instrumental in the creation of, and the administration of a program at Laurier called the Indigenous Knowledge Fund. This fund provides both financial and logistical support so that faculty at Laurier can bring Indigenous knowledge holders to speak to their classes, greatly increasing the Indigenous content taught across the university. Lianne also worked with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives and Social Work to develop agreements for an Elder-in-Residence position on Wilfrid Laurier's Brantford campus. This role will be instrumental for supporting Indigenous faculty, for strengthening the Indigenous Studies program, and for supporting Indigenous and non-academic staff and students.

From this small snapshot of the impressive research and service work Dr. Leddy has advanced, it is clear she is a formidable individual whose leadership is greatly improving the lives and working conditions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, staff, and faculty at Wilfrid Laurier University and beyond. For this, and for her incredible dedication and inspiration, I am honoured to present a Status of Women and Equity Award of Distinction to Dr. Lianne Leddy.