

The background features a series of overlapping, angular shapes in various shades of teal and light green, creating a modern, geometric pattern. The OCUFA logo is positioned in the top right corner.

OCUFA

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des associations des professeurs des universités de l'Ontario

2023-2024 OCUFA Service Award

Citation for Gyllian Phillips

The Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations is honoured to present the 2023-2024 Service Award to Gyllian Phillips. Gyllie is the former President of Nipissing University Faculty Association (NUFA). She is also a current member at-large and former President of OCUFA who has served in many roles at the organization. Gyllie is a Professor in Faculty of Arts and Science - Fine Arts and English Studies - English Studies at Nipissing University, which is located in the traditional lands of Nipissing First Nation, an Anishnaabek community along the shores of Lake Nipissing, with several First Nations located within a 100 km radius.

Gyllie's contributions to NUFA and OCUFA over the past fourteen years are inspirational and deserving of the recognition of her peers across the province.

Gyllie's service to her members include the following accomplishments:

- 2010 Vice President of NUFA and OCUFA Board Director
- 2011-2012 NUFA President
- 2012-2013 NUFA President
- 2013-2014 NUFA Past-President
- 2014-2015 NUFA Past-President
- 2014-2017 Faculty representative Nipissing University Senate
- Helped lead NUFAs first strike (and so far, only!) in 2015
- 2014-2015 OCUFA Member-at-Large
- 2015-2017 Chair of the Nipissing English Studies Department
- 2015-2017 OCUFA Vice-President
- 2017-2019 OCUFA President
- 2019-2020 NUFA Vice-President
- 2019-2021 OCUFA Past-President
- 2020-2023 OCUFA Chair of the Board

Gyllie has shown a lifelong commitment to creating real and structural equity-based change. AT NUFA, Gyllie encouraged the Faculty Association to reflect upon their own obligations to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which

resulted in the creation of the position of Indigenization Advisor to NUFA. Which in its own turn resulted in substantial gains for Indigenous faculty in NUFAs most recent round of bargaining.

At OCUFA, Gyllie was instrumental in helping to change the structure and name of the ad hoc Status of Women Committee to a standing committee called the Status of Women and Equity Committee (now the Equity and Social Justice Committee). Gyllie also gave the first-ever Land Acknowledgement in OCUFA history in an Indigenous language.

As OCUFA's Past-President and Chair of the Board, Gyllie continued to help support the organization by handling multiple media appearances to champion Public Universities and OCUFA through the election of the Progressive Conservative government in 2018, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Laurentian University bankruptcy debacle.

In all her work, Gyllie has been a model of mentorship and leadership, and a champion of equity. She has made mentorship and leadership a cornerstone of her work to ensure that both at NUFA and OCUFA, people are encouraged and supported into leadership roles, resulting in continued strong and smart leadership for both organizations.

For her unwavering support of the members at the faculty association, her work ethic and commitment to equity, and for her commitment to service to faculty and workers at the provincial and national level, OCUFA is pleased to present Gyllie with this award.

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The OCUFA Service Award was established to honour individuals who have done, or continue to do, exceptional work on behalf of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations and its Members.