

2017 OCUFA Service Award

Citation for Craig Heron

The logo for OCUFA, consisting of the letters 'OCUFA' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

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



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Read by Judy Bates, OCUFA President

The Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations is honoured to present Craig Heron with a 2017 OCUFA Service Award. This award recognizes those remarkable individuals whose work has strengthened OCUFA and advanced the interests of professors and academic librarians across the province.

For decades, Craig has been recognized as a leading advocate for faculty rights, collegial governance, academic freedom, and union activism in Ontario and across Canada. He possesses a keen understanding of Canadian Labour history, and works tirelessly to ensure those around him recognize the larger political and historical importance of the work we do within our unions.

Craig's career has involved outstanding service at every level. As an active member of the York University Faculty Association, he enthusiastically re-energized the Association's solidarity work, and helped lead the 1997 YUFA strike, purposefully organizing those around him to present a united front to the York university administration. As YUFA's VP External, a departmental Chair, and a member of the York Senate, there are few issues affecting governance, labour rights, or expression rights at York in which Craig has not been involved. He has been a prominent figure in the campaign against the corporatization of the university and a driving force in the fight against program prioritization.

As a member of OCUFA's Board from 2012 to 2016, Craig was an active contributor at meetings. Through his work at OCUFA, he educated faculty members across Ontario about the history of the province's faculty associations and was a key member of the planning committee for OCUFA's Fiftieth Anniversary Conference on the Future of Faculty Unionism. Craig also served as President of the Canadian Historical Association, as a member of the Federation for Humanities and Social Sciences board, and continues to be involved with community-based labour organizations.

Craig Heron's prolific research, selfless dedication, and extensive experience has been invaluable to the work of YUFA, OCUFA, and the Canadian labour movement. For his generosity, his commitment to social justice, and his long and distinguished record of service, we are thrilled to recognize and honour Craig with a 2017 OCUFA Service Award.