

2018 OCUFA Service Award

Citation for Jean-Charles Cachon

The logo for OCUFA, consisting of the letters 'OCUFA' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

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



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Read by Gyllian Phillips, OCUFA President

The Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations is honoured to present Jean-Charles Cachon with a 2018 OCUFA Service Award. This award recognizes those remarkable individuals whose work has strengthened OCUFA and advanced the interests of professors and academic librarians across Ontario.

Throughout his academic career, Jean-Charles has been a driving force for advancing the interests of professors and academic librarians at Laurentian University, and a tireless champion for workers in Sudbury. In 1978, he worked with OCUFA and CAUT to organize a faculty association at Hearst University, of which he became the founding president. That was only the beginning.

In his thirty-five years at Laurentian, Jean-Charles has served as President, Vice-President, and Secretary Treasurer of the faculty association, in addition to sitting on the university's senate. He has played an integral role advancing equity for indigenous peoples and spearheading Francophone initiatives at the university. Eloquent in both English and French, Jean-Charles has been a remarkable spokesperson for LUFA members. In hundreds of interviews, he has calmly and clearly articulated the faculty association's priorities and positions to the public.

Throughout his leadership, Jean-Charles bolstered LUFA's financial foundations, securing the faculty association through several labour disputes. In advance of the 2017 strike, he may have been overseas on sabbatical, but he still provided regular support to his colleagues. The day after returning to Canada, he was at strike headquarters ready for action.

Jean-Charles has set an example, not just for the faculty at Laurentian, but for faculty across Canada. He has served on the OCUFA Board of Directors, the OCUFA Salary Committee, and has been President, Chair, and Trustee of the CAUT Defence Fund. His work has been vital for ensuring the strong participation of northern Ontario faculty in both organizations. He possesses a keen understanding of how local developments can influence outcomes at other universities.

As a strong believer in collective political advocacy, Jean-Charles takes a broad view of labour organizing and activism. When the Conservative government was making cuts across the public sector, Jean-Charles helped build a coalition of dozens of labour unions to fight back. This work culminated in the largest street demonstration in Sudbury's history. Shortly thereafter, he brought LUFA into the Ontario Federation of Labour and the Sudbury and District Labour Council. With extensive experience fighting for better, more equitable working conditions for faculty, miners, and nurses, his influence in Sudbury will be felt for generations to come.

Jean-Charles Cachon firmly believes in the power of the union and strength in numbers. Even now, he remains dedicated to improving working conditions for faculty – through LUFA, OCUFA, CAUT, and Sudbury's labour movement. For his devotion to equity, unwavering focus on bringing people together, and his continued commitment to the members of the Laurentian University Faculty Association, we are honoured to recognize Jean-Charles Cachon with a 2018 OCUFA Service Award.