



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

## **Ontario poll: Public believes fair university workplaces are key to high quality education**

TORONTO – According to a recent poll commissioned by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA), 64 per cent of Ontarians want professors with job security and benefits teaching university courses. Among youth considering a postsecondary education, support was even higher, with 71 per cent stating this as their preference.

“This poll reaffirms the public’s support for fairness for contract faculty,” said Gyllian Phillips, President of OCUFA. “With an election on the horizon, it is time for all political parties to make postsecondary education a priority and commit to investing in good jobs at our universities.”

The poll of 2,001 individuals shows strong support for better working conditions for contract faculty, including 87 per cent supporting equal pay for those teaching the same courses as their full-time colleagues and 84 per cent supporting equal access to benefits, including health insurance and pensions. Further, three out of four Ontarians agreed that declining faculty working conditions would negatively impact education quality.

As part of the poll, youth across the province were asked for their perspectives on precarious academic work. Precarious work is a significant concern for them, with a majority worried they won’t be able to find a well-paid, full-time job upon graduation. These results show that students firmly support improving working conditions for contract faculty.

“Students appreciate how hard it is to make ends meet and plan your life when you are working contract to contract and have to apply for your job every semester,” said Kimberly Ellis-Hale, a contract professor at Wilfrid Laurier University. “Faculty working conditions are student learning conditions, and students want their university courses taught by professors with job security, fair pay, and benefits.”

Founded in 1964, OCUFA represents 17,000 faculty and academic librarians in 28 faculty associations across Ontario. For more information and to download the poll results, please visit the OCUFA website at [www.ocufa.on.ca](http://www.ocufa.on.ca).

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