

2014 Status of Women Committee
Award of Distinction
CITATION FOR DR. KATHRYN CHURCH

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Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
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CITATION FOR KATHRYN CHURCH WINNER OF THE 2014 STATUS OF WOMEN AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Dr. Kathryn Church is Director of the School of Disabilities Studies at Ryerson University and has been a professor in the program since 2004. Her nomination cited her strong record as a feminist disability studies scholar “whose research includes exploring the everyday invisible labour of disabled women and gendered domestic work.”

Dr. Church has been particularly active as an advocate for community building and economic development for those with psychiatric disabilities. Her groundbreaking work with the Canadian Mental Health Association in the 1980s led to changed social and health policy towards ensuring inclusion and employment for people with psychiatric disabilities. That work still supports and informs continued research and social justice activism across Canada.

She has been lauded for demonstrating outstanding feminist leadership throughout her academic career. In particular, her original and rigorous scholarship on creating disability-positive spaces in the academy has made a tremendous positive impact on the lives of students, staff and faculty with disabilities.

Personal evidence of her contributions come from a post-doctoral fellow whom Dr. Church supervises: “Dr. Church has provided me with strong mentorship in the areas of teaching, research, and community engagement. More than this, with care and attention, she offers me the rare guidance for how I might become a strong researcher and professor as a woman with a disability.”

Another colleague, who has worked with Dr. Church for over a decade, spoke to her unwavering encouragement for women with disabilities to pursue scholarly, employment, and community opportunities.

Throughout her career, Dr. Church has encouraged and continues to encourage women academics with disabilities to pursue their educational and career goals in ways that they otherwise may not have thought possible.

For this exceptional record of activism, advocacy, and scholarship, we are thrilled to present Dr. Church a 2014 Status of Women Award of Distinction.