

OCUFA

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

2022-2023 OCUFA Lorimer Collective Bargaining Award

Citation for Sue Wurtele

**Read by:
Johanna Weststar, Chair, OCUFA Collective Bargaining Committee**

The Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations is honoured to present the 2022-2023 Lorimer Award to Sue Wurtele of the Trent University Faculty Association (TUFA). Sue is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography in the School of Environment at Trent University, which is located on the treaty and traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg. Sue's research and teaching focus on feminist and historical-cultural geography in the Canadian context, with an emphasis on issues relating to aging. Her teaching excellence has been recognized with awards such as the Canadian Association of Geographers Award for Excellence in Teaching, 3M Teaching Fellowship Award, OCUFA Teaching Award, as well as awards from Trent University.

Sue's service work has also been recognized. She has received the OCUFA Service Award in recognition of her work in collective bargaining and pension reform in the university sector, as well as the OCUFA Standing Committee on the Status of Women Award of Distinction, to recognize her contributions to equity in collective bargaining. Sue's contributions over the past two decades in advocating for the rights of faculty, academic librarians, and academic staff in the university sector have been tremendous. Sue has served as the Chief Negotiator of TUFA for an impressive six bargaining rounds. Her involvement at TUFA, however, began prior to her role as Chief Negotiator in 2000 with her membership on the TUFA Negotiations Council. Since then, she has held the roles of TUFA President, member on the Executive and Grievance committees, and Co-Chair and member of joint committees on pension, benefits, and equity. She has also held the role of TUFA Grievance Officer and representative on Trent University's Senate.

In Sue's role as Chief Negotiator, she has bargained in challenging financial times, including negotiating adjustments to the Trent faculty pension plan which safeguarded members' long-term economic security against an evolving solvency crisis. Sue's commitment to ensuring retirement security for TUFA members continued over several rounds, and ultimately led to the negotiation of merging the Trent plan with the University Pension Plan (UPP).

Sue's pension work and expertise is well respected across the province and beyond. In her endeavours to explore a more secure future for TUFA members' retirement, she became involved in OCUFA's work on pensions through her role as a representative and Co-Chair on various coalitions and working groups which eventually led to the formation of the UPP—the first and only multi-employer jointly sponsored pension plan exclusively for the university sector in Canada. As a result of Sue's extensive experience with pensions, and her consistent demonstration of commitment to the principle of good pensions for the sector, she was invited by the Queen's University Faculty Association to serve as their appointee to the UPP's Board of Trustees—a role she is currently serving.

Sue's service also includes work in other areas at the provincial and national levels. Sue has served as OCUFA's President, Vice-President, member of the Executive, Board, and Collective Bargaining Committee, and OCUFA's representative and affiant on the Ontario Federation of Labour coalition's Charter challenge of Bill 124. Sue also served as the Inaugural Chair on the Board of Trustees of the Ontario Non-union Education Trust. Nationally, Sue's commitment to the principle of solidarity is demonstrated by her roles as Trustee, Chair and Member of the Policy and Planning Committee of the CAUT Defence Fund, as well as CAUT Executive member.

The Lorimer Collective Bargaining Award celebrates and further reinforces how widely respected Sue is for the integrity with which she conducts her work on behalf of the rights and interests of faculty, academic librarians, and academic staff across Ontario and beyond.

OCUFA

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

The Lorimer Collective Bargaining Award was established in honour of Joyce and Doug Lorimer of the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association and is instituted to honour and recognize outstanding contributions to improving the terms and conditions of employment of Ontario university faculty through bargaining.