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**Publicity Release**

***For immediate release***

## **The Looming Labour Disruption at University of Sudbury: FAQ**

**(Sudbury – Sept. 20, 2018)**

**I heard there is a possible strike at Laurentian. Wasn't there a strike last year and weren't the issues resolved?**

Laurentian University is a federation, made up of four universities: Laurentian University, the University of Sudbury, Thorneloe University, and Huntington University. All of the courses taught in the federation contribute to Laurentian University degrees, but the professors in the different universities work under different contracts. The professors at the University of Sudbury are currently in negotiations and while there was good progress on a number of issues, the University continues to insist on paying their professors – full-time and part-time – less than other professors on campus. This has been an issue ever since the faculty at the University of Sudbury unionized in 2002. The faculty have been without a contract since July 1.

**When is a strike likely to occur?**

The negotiating team will continue to do its best to avoid job action, but the University of Sudbury has to address the key issues of pay equity and job security for the sessional professionals that it increasingly relies on to participate in delivering the best possible programs to Laurentian students. So far they have not addressed these issues adequately, even with the assistance of the provincially appointed conciliator. If strike action is required to have our issues addressed, then that would happen following reading week in October. There is a meeting scheduled with a mediator on September 25. We are committed to reaching an agreement that is fair to our members.

**Aren't students ultimately the ones who pay for the inability to come to a negotiated agreement?**

The working conditions of faculty are the learning conditions of students. Working conditions in most universities are negotiated with faculty unions, which entails the possibility of a strike or lock-out if the parties cannot agree. It is part of the democratic process of determining working conditions in Ontario.

We are only seeking what is fair: equitable pay and more security for our many sessional members. These are the conditions that will ensure that students will get the best possible education. It is also important to realize that no student in Canada has ever lost a term because of a faculty strike.

### **If there is a strike, what will happen if I come to the university?**

There will be faculty picket lines at the university's entrances that you will need to cross. The faculty will be handing out information on the work stoppage and you can also ask questions. Traffic may be a little slower as a result. City buses will not cross the picket line, so you will have to walk to and from the entrance if you need to take one.

### **Would there be any classes during the strike?**

Because these negotiations are between faculty and the University of Sudbury, classes in the other federated universities, including Laurentian, may still take place, though individual faculty have the right not to cross the picket which may cause some disruption in those classes. Remember we all share in the work of providing you the best possible education. The University will continue to be open with all of the other employees coming to work. The residences will remain open. Students will not be impeded by picketers as they come and go.

### **Will the strike affect distance and online courses?**

Distance and online instructors affiliated with the University of Sudbury are part of the faculty union, so they would not be available for academic consultation or marking of papers during the strike. You should contact your instructor in advance.

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