



Dear Colleagues,

The University of Victoria Faculty Association (UVICFA) joins in the expressions of anger and grief over the news of the [recent cuts to over 60 programs at Laurentian University](#). Over 100 faculty members are set to lose their jobs, or have already, and neither the Ontario nor Canadian governments have provided a solution. This is not only devastating to those who will lose their jobs, but also to their current and future students and to the wider academic community. The firing of these faculty members constitutes a tremendous loss of knowledge, talent, and potential, the ramifications of which will only grow over time.

The Canadian Federation of Students – Ontario has also pointed out that these cuts are [particularly damaging to Francophone and Indigenous education](#). As a bilingual and tri-cultural University, Laurentian stood as one of the major providers of French and Indigenous Language programs in the area. These cuts run counter to the Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action 16: “We call upon post-secondary institutions to create university and college degree and diploma programs in Aboriginal languages.”

These program cuts and the associated unjustified losses of employment, tuition, and education are completely unacceptable. We hope that post-secondary educators and researchers recognize the damaging and dangerous precedent this sets, and that we must stand firmly against these attempts to undermine publicly funded post-secondary education.

UVICFA joins the call for Laurentian University’s Administration to be held accountable, and for the Ontario and Canadian governments to provide real solutions for preserving these programs, their faculty, and the value they bring to the community and to academia.

We encourage our members to participate in any or all of the following avenues of support:

- [Use this form-letter to send a message to their MP](#)
- [Sign a petition started by the Laurentian University Faculty Association](#)
- [Add your name to a list of Academics in support of Laurentian University](#)

The Association would also like to express its gratitude for the ongoing work the Laurentian University Faculty Association has been doing to protect its members against these cuts.

Thanks, and all the very best,

Lynne Marks
President, University of Victoria Faculty Association