

April 30, 2021

Dear Members of the Laurentian University Board of Governors,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Carleton University Academic Staff Association (CUASA), the certified trade union representing over 950 professors, instructors, and librarians at Carleton University.

We stand in total and unwavering solidarity with the students, faculty, staff, and broader community of Laurentian University. It is unacceptable that over a hundred Laurentian faculty members have been terminated (over group zoom calls!) and that dozens of programs have been cut. These draconian measures will destroy livelihoods, educational opportunity, and will have disastrous consequences for the Sudbury community and for French and Indigenous communities and education in particular. There are two actors responsible for this disaster: the provincial government and the upper administration at Laurentian University. I have joined others in calling out the provincial government elsewhere; this letter focuses on the administration.

I won't belabour facts that you already know. Suffice it that in the administration's hands Laurentian University has been treated like a corporation rather than the important public institution that it is. The secrecy, the mass terminations, the CCAA proceedings that are entirely unfitting, the severing of relationships with the federated universities, the total lack of respect for students, faculty, and staff and much else make it clear that the administration either fails to understand the importance of a northern university like Laurentian or it is out to destroy it. Either way, they have shown that they cannot be trusted with such a valuable public institution.

CUASA supports the Laurentian University Faculty Association's letter to you dated April 27 2021. We in particular join LUFA in the five calls that they highlight near the end of their letter. We join LUFA in calling on you to, effective immediately, terminate each of Dr. Robert Haché (President and Vice-Chancellor), Lorella Hayes (VP-Administration), Dr. Serge Demers (Registrar), and Dr. Marie Josée Berger (VP-Academic and Provost). We note that delegates at CAUT Council also voted in favour of a motion calling for these individuals' resignations; the university community has no faith in them. We also join LUFA in calling on you to terminate current Board of Governors chair Claude Lacroix and instate Sonia Del Missier, current vice-chair, as interim chair. We also join LUFA in calling on Sonia Del Missier and the entire Board of Governors to act upon all LUFA votes of non-confidence.

These steps are necessary for Laurentian University to have some chance at restoring its health and its respectability in the broader academic community. We cannot fathom the loss, and we will do everything in our power to support LUFA and more generally all the faculty, students, staff, and community members who had no part in creating this disaster but are victims of it nonetheless. We trust that you will take these difficult but necessary measures.

Sincerely,



Raj Singh, PhD  
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