



QUFA VOICES

Your Queen's University Faculty Association Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S VOICE

We Have a New Conservative Government in Ontario

What did the last Conservative government do for postsecondary education in Ontario?

By Kayll Lake
President, QUFA

The "knowledge economy" is based on intellectual capital, obtained via postsecondary education, and it typically represents a large component of all the economic activity in developed countries.¹ Since the new Ford Conservative government has declared that Ontario is "Open for business,"² I will briefly review here what the last Conservative government did for postsecondary education in Ontario.

Based on the strength of his "Common Sense Revolution," Mike Harris saw most of two terms as the premier of Ontario. For the first term, he promised to deliver a fully balanced budget within four years "without touching a penny of healthcare spending." He promised that law enforcement and classroom funding for education would be safe from cuts. But, he warned, "that does not mean that savings cannot be found elsewhere in the education system."

QUFA IMAGES

Fair Employment Week at Queen's



Robert G. May

In recognition of Fair Employment Week 2018, QUFA hosted an information table at Mackintosh-Corry Hall. Continuing Adjunct Representative Anya Hageman spoke to students and other members of the Queen's community about the challenging working conditions faced by contract academic staff. Please see p. 3 for more information.

It all began in July 1995,³ when the Minister of Education John Snobelen stated his intention to "invent a crisis" in Ontario's education system. The government of Mike Harris then spent the next six years creating that crisis by systematically dismantling the publicly funded education system piece by piece. The process undermined and underfunded education at every level, and set the

conditions in place for the system to fail.

The centrepiece of the Harris program was a massive cut in funding for Ontario universities. This unprecedented disinvestment in public education destroyed a historical competitive advantage and left Ontario dangerously unprepared to prosper in a modern economy. Can we forget Bill 132? This legislation was

the first attempt to allow private universities to operate in Ontario.

Following their re-election in the 1999 campaign, the Tories once again stepped up their assault on public education with the introduction of Bill 132 in April of 2000, "The Post-Secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act." Bill 132 approved the establishment of private, degree-granting universities in Ontario, including for-profit and not-for-profit institutions.

Hardly without pause, in September 2000, Harris turned his attention back to postsecondary education, with the establishment of the "Investing in Students Task Force." According to the government, the task force was created to advise the Minister on "ways to ensure that students continue to have access to affordable, high-quality education in the twenty-first century." This task force promoted measures that would give more corporate control over universities.

However, it failed to deal with the issue of the maintenance of buildings deferred over a number of years, which resulted in crumbling infrastructures on campuses across the province, with required repairs amounting to billions of dollars.

From 1995 to 2001 (Harris left government in 2002), university operating grants per student, adjusted per inflation, had declined by 18%. At the same time, tuition fees

ANNOUNCEMENT

Tuition Support Plan

Deadline is 1 November 2018

Please find more information here, and be mindful that late applications are not accepted:

<http://queensu.ca/humanresources/wellness-accessibility/employee-benefits/tuition-support-plan>

had gone steadily upward, resulting in a major barrier to access to higher education for many potential students.

Mike Harris, in a relatively short period of time, managed to do major damage to postsecondary education in Ontario, an education system supported and developed by previous Conservative Premiers John Robarts and Bill Davis.

Notes

¹<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/k/knowledge-economy.asp>

²<https://business.financialpost.com/business/open-for-business-what-doug-ford-has-planned-for-ontarios-economy>

³<https://ofl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2002.01.01-Report-EducationPrivatization.pdf>

Kayll Lake can be reached at lakek@queensu.ca.

ANNOUNCEMENT

University Pension Plan

Sign Up to Follow Process

As you may know, QUFA, USW 2010, and Queen's University have been participating, with the University of Guelph and the University of Toronto, their faculty associations and USW locals, in negotiations to create a new, jointly sponsored, multi-employer pension plan for the University sector in Ontario.

More information can be found on the QUFA Web site, here:

<https://www.qufa.ca/member-services/pension-information>

and on the UPP Web site, here:

<http://www.universitypension.ca>

You will be hearing more about the process to convert to a new plan in the coming weeks.

Please sign up to receive updates on this process from the UPP group, here:

<http://www.universitypension.ca/contact>

And watch your e-mail inbox for further information from QUFA and from Queen's.

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QUFA Voices is published by the Queen's University Faculty Association (QUFA), 9 St Lawrence Avenue, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 3N6, Canada (qufa@queensu.ca). It is distributed electronically to all QUFA Members via the QUFA-NEWSLETTER-L listserv. Past issues are archived on the QUFA Web site at <http://www.qufa.ca/publications/>.

QUFA Voices publishes QUFA-related news and information for QUFA Members and provides QUFA Members with a forum to express their QUFA-related ideas and opinions. We want to hear from you! Please send your QUFA-related story ideas, news items, opinion pieces, letters to the editor, photographs, and other submissions to the editor.

QUFA Voices is edited by Robert G. May. He can be reached at mayr@queensu.ca.

QUFA EVENTS

Fair Employment Week at Queen's

Fair Employment Week shines a light on precarious contract and part-time work at Canada's colleges and universities

An increasing number of teachers at Canada's colleges and universities are trapped in precarious contract and part-time work. Contract and part-time work has quietly gone from a short-term stepping stone to a career-long condition, where many earn less than a living wage.

During Fair Employment Week, which ran this year from 22 to 26 October 2018, faculty associations across Canada organized events to recognize the dedication and hard work of contract faculty.

At Queen's, Continuing Adjunct Representative Anya Hageman hosted an information table at Mackintosh-Corry Hall on 23 October. Anya spoke to students and other Queen's community members about the challenging conditions faced by contract faculty.

These posters, designed by the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), helped drive home the message that contract faculty deserve opportunity, security, and respect.

MAKE IT FAIR

Across 17 public universities in Ontario, 50% of undergraduate courses are taught by part-time academic staff.

Source: Council of Ontario Universities (2018), "Faculty at Work: The Composition and Activities of Ontario Universities' Academic Workforce"

OPPORTUNITY. SECURITY. RESPECT.
MAKEITFAIR.CAUT.CA

MAKE IT FAIR

37% of contract academics surveyed reported negative mental-health impacts from the contingent nature of their employment.

Source: Canadian Association of University Teachers (2018), "Out of the Shadows: Experience of Contract Academic Staff"

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MAKE IT FAIR

In Canada, the number of part-time academics grew 79% from 2005 to 2015 while regular professors increased 14%.

Source: Canadian Association of University Teachers (2018), "Out of the Shadows: Experience of Contract Academic Staff"

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Lunch and Learn with QUGA

Queen's University Faculty Association

Join fellow QUGA Members over lunch to learn about financial planning, workplace issues, and more!

Lunch and Learn about Contract Rights	Lunch and Learn about Financial Planning	Lunch and Learn about Workplace Issues
<p>Contract Rights of Term Adjuncts 18 Sept. 2018, 12 noon – 2 p.m.</p>	<p>Planting Seeds: Early-Career Financial Planning 11 Oct. 2018, 12 noon – 1 p.m.</p> <p>Growing Crop: Mid-Career Financial Planning 30 Oct. 2018, 12 noon – 1 p.m.</p> <p>Reaping Harvest: Late-Career Financial Planning 27 Nov. 2018, 12 noon – 1 p.m.</p>	<p>Cultivating Respectful Workplaces 27 Sept. 2018, 12 noon – 1 p.m.</p> <p>Providing Constructive Feedback 23 Oct. 2018, 12 noon – 1 p.m.</p> <p>Having Difficult Conversations 16 Nov. 2018, 12 noon – 1 p.m.</p>

All Lunch and Learn events take place at The Conference Room, The University Club

Soup and beverages will be served. Please RSVP to ep43@queensu.ca

QUGA VOICES
Voice Your Views!

If you have an opinion about anything you read in *QUGA Voices*, send us a letter to the editor!


mayr@queensu.ca



The thumbnail shows the September 2016 issue of QUGA VOICES. The cover features the QUGA logo and the title 'QUGA VOICES Year Queen's University Faculty Association Newsletter'. Below the title, there is a table of contents listing articles such as 'Welcome Back to the New Academic Year!', 'Labour Day Parade', and 'Contract Rights of Term Adjuncts'. A photograph of a woman holding a QUGA flag is also visible on the cover.

QUGA VOICES
Spread the Word!

QUGA invites you to print out and post this issue of QUGA Voices in a visible place in your department or unit. Thank-you!



This thumbnail is identical to the one in the previous block, showing the September 2016 issue of QUGA VOICES with the same table of contents and photograph.