



October 29th, 2015

Marianne Berube, Chair, Board of Governors
Mike DeGagné, President
Harley d'Entremont, VPAR and Provost

October 27, 2015

Dear Ms. Berube, Dr. DeGagné and Dr. d'Entremont,

We represent nearly 1500 graduate teaching assistants, teaching fellows, and postdoctoral fellows at Queen's University, and we write to express our solidarity for the Nipissing University Faculty Association.

In just a few short days, Nipissing University could be facing its first ever faculty strike. There is not much time to avoid this outcome; it is essential that the Nipissing University administration take steps immediately to reach a fair and just settlement with the NUFA.

NUFA's proposals represent a prudent, responsible compromise in a time of difficulty. If accepted, this package will help Nipissing save money through retirement incentives, rebuild the faculty complement, and take small steps to close the salary gap with other comparable universities. It will revitalize the collegial governance structures so integral to the university's mission, and this community's expectations. It will eliminate gender inequities in parental leave, which is surely a goal we can all get behind.

The North Bay community can little afford to lose more good jobs. You must commit to protect tenured positions. Without them, we cannot sustain delivery of the quality of education that Nipissing University is known for, and that the North Bay community expects from this institution.

Please return to the bargaining table this weekend and agree to a fair and reasonable settlement with NUFA. The academic community is watching, even here at Queen's, and we expect no less from you.

Regards,

Craig Berggold
President
Public Service Alliance of Canada Local 901
On behalf of the Executive Committee