



## **PSAC 555 Solidarity Statement with PSAC 901**

The PSAC 555 at Ontario Tech University stands in solidarity with PSAC 901 at Queen's University. Together, we represent Teaching Assistants, Researchers, Lecturers, and invigilators at the aforementioned universities. This marks the first time both unions have been in conciliation simultaneously, one of the final stages in negotiations before a potential strike or lockout. Both unions have been pushing for meaningful improvements to working and learning conditions at Ontario Tech and Queen's, and the fact they both find themselves in conciliation highlights the University administration's refusal to respect its staff and prioritize high-quality education for its students.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and intensified numerous challenges faced by members of the PSAC 901 community. The members have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to maintain high-quality education, although their mental health has been affected negatively and they were unable to receive the support they need, from management, as students and workers.

The PSAC 555 stands by PSAC 901 members and affirm their rights in reaching an agreement with the employer over their following essential demands:

- Additional Year of Employment Guarantee
- Mental Health Support and Rebate Funds
- Gender Affirmation Leave, Violence Leave
- Mandatory and Paid Anti-Racist Training and Sexual Violence Prevention Training
- Equipment Allowance
- Professional Development Fund
- Increase to Contract Periods for TFs
- Revised Accommodations Process

Continuance of ignorance by the employer and unreasonable refusal of the Union's proposals is doomed by PSAC 555. We demand professional behavior and prompt response of the employer to PSAC 901, and this can begin by returning back to the negotiation table and setting up a reasonable schedule to follow up with the bargaining process. It is important now more than ever that we come together to ensure that the university administrations prioritize students and workers' needs to provide our members with adequate work conditions and genuine support.

In Solidarity,  
PSAC 555