

March 17, 2025

To the Queen's University Administration

Dear Principal Deane, Provost Evans, and Queen's Administration,

I am a Queen's University alum who attended your university for years, and who has continued into higher education after graduating from your establishment. I am writing to express my unwavering support for Queen's University's graduate student workers, represented by PSAC 901 Unit 1. It is deeply troubling to witness Queen's neglect of Graduate Workers' fundamental needs as workers and the university's refusal to meet the priority demands for fair wages, a guarantee to address Queen's impact on housing affordability in the community, tuition minimization for workers, paid hours to learn teaching content, and equitable funding and labour balance. Graduate workers' labour in teaching and research is critical in building Queen's reputation, but not only that, contributing the knowledge, research and researchers who can better our societies, and change our world. It is time for the University to recognize the true value of public sector research for us all.

I strongly urge the administration to take my fellow university members seriously by addressing their legitimate demands, which support our whole community's needs. I urge the university to provide PSAC 901 members fair compensation, as well as the resources and support they deserve. Our community is made stronger by strong public services, which PSAC 901 provides. I stand with these workers in condemning Queen's neglect of critical issues, including poverty wages, funding packages that have remained stagnant for decades, and rampant food and housing insecurity which harm not only Queen's employees and students, but which inflate costs and make life harder in the wider in the whole community.

I am proud to stand in solidarity with Queen's Graduate Workers, recognizing the vital role they play in advancing education, research and innovation in Ontario and globally.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Lawrence Rochon

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