

Hon. Ross Romano  
Minister of Colleges and Universities  
Ministry of Colleges and Universities  
5th Floor, 438 University Ave  
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5  
ross.romano@pc.ola.org

February 22, 2021

Dear Minister Romano,

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 solidarity with the students, faculty, staff, and broader community of Laurentian University as they try to find a way out of their current financial challenges. In particular, we call on the Ontario government to provide the short-term and long-term funding needed to ensure that Laurentian's revenues exceed their expenses as required under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA). There is also a role for the federal government to increase its funding, given the tri-cultural mandate to support English, French, and Indigenous communities.

Laurentian University is a public institution and doesn't neatly fit under the CCAA process, which was largely written with for-profit corporations in mind. Universities create public goods and they rely on public funds. There are other unique aspects to the university sector that aren't properly accounted for in the CCAA, such as tenure and its connection to academic freedom, collegial governance, financial exigency clauses, and funding through research grants.

The provincial and federal governments have a responsibility to support this vital body. Without increased funding, Laurentian is in a vulnerable position at risk of having to close or merge programs, layoffs or terminate employees, reduce salaries, and possibly even file for bankruptcy. Laurentian University is a crucial public institution in Northern Ontario, and its faculty, staff, students, and the broader Sudbury community will suffer immensely and needlessly unless the provincial and federal governments increase their funding and restore Laurentian to good financial health.

Sincerely,



Raj Singh, PhD  
External Relations Officer  
Carleton University Academic Staff Association

CC: Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario. [doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org)

Francis Drouin, MP for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell. [francis.Drouin@parl.gc.ca](mailto:francis.Drouin@parl.gc.ca)

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Chris Glover (Spadina—Fort York), the Official Opposition's Colleges and Universities critic. [CGlover-CO@ndp.on.ca](mailto:CGlover-CO@ndp.on.ca)

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Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada. [justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

Kathleen O. Wynne (Don Valley West), Liberal Party's Colleges and Universities critic. [Kwynne.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:Kwynne.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

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