



Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3908

310 London St, Box 300
Trail College, Trent University
Peterborough, ON
K9H 7P4

office@cupe3908.org
(705) 775-2873

www.cupe3908.org

Contract Faculty and Student Academic Workers of Trent University

Message Regarding National Adjunct Day

Wednesday, February 25th has been designated as National Adjunct Day in the United States with many Canadian faculty associations and union locals supporting American adjunct faculty. Adjunct (used more commonly in the United States) faculty refers to contract and sessional faculty – essentially all those academic workers that are non-tenured or tenure-track. Here is their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Adjunct-Walkout-Day/340019999501000>

We would like to encourage all Trent University academic staff to offer our solidarity in two ways:

- 1) We encourage TUFA and CUPE members to wear black on Wednesday, or a black armband. If you do not teach that day, this could be done on the day(s) you are in the classroom this week.**
- 2) We would also like everyone to take this opportunity to mention the major issues facing adjunct/sessional/contract faculty in the United States and here in Canada.**

We know that strong unions have helped make the Canadian situation, a little less bleak, but there is much work to be done. Topics that can be broached include the precarious nature of sessional work, the comparatively low pay sessional instructors receive despite similar credentials, the disparity in benefits packages for most sessional workers, the limits on how many courses sessional instructors can teach, and others as you see fit. Here are some great resources for potential conversation starters:

<http://www.fairemploymentweek.ca/resources-2/>

Thank you for your support.

In solidarity,

James Onusko, PhD
Vice President, Unit 1
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Local 3908
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