



TRENT UNIVERSITY FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Trent University, 1600 West Bank Dr.
Peterborough ON K9J 7B8

trentfaculty.ca

April 6, 2021

The Honourable Ross Romano,
Ministry of Colleges and Universities
5th Floor
438 University Ave.
Toronto ON M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Romano,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Trent University Faculty Association to urge that you take immediate steps to stabilize the operations of Laurentian University and, in light of Thursday's extraordinary announcement, its formerly federated partners: the University of Sudbury, Huntington University, and Thorneloe University. We recognize the situation at Laurentian to be unique -- as a comprehensive regional university serving Ontario's North, Laurentian and its federated institutional partners have discharged a historic mandate to support French, English and Indigenous communities across an enormous catchment area.

As academic staff at one of Ontario's other universities, one that also has a historic commitment to Indigenous education and the social benefits that flow from it, we fear the enormous harm that will be done to northern communities, including of note Indigenous communities, if the government does not intervene to restore Laurentian to a normal operational footing. If this is not done soon, the damage will be profound, permanent and, when viewed in hindsight, entirely preventable.

Simply allowing the (wholly unsuitable) CCAA process to unfold is proving enormously wasteful of financial resources. Millions that could be much better spent shoring up the University are now being diverted to the lawyers and other functionaries dismantling it. Every day that the province declines to lead on this issue deepens a self-fulfilling death spiral as prospective students pick other institutions to attend or postpone their decision to enroll in university altogether.

We, along with all the other citizens of Ontario, have spent hundreds of millions of dollars over the years building a world-class university in Sudbury. In turn, we as a society have all benefited from the economic and social value produced by our colleagues at Laurentian in serving and advancing the complex mission of that university.

Please do not strand our assets or negate our investment through inaction. It is within your capacity, authority, and duty to arrest the CCAA process and deploy the resources necessary to restore public confidence in Laurentian by guaranteeing its financial stability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fergal O'Hagan".

Fergal O'Hagan
President

cc. The Honourable Greg Rickford
The Honourable Caroline Mulroney
The Honourable Vic Fedelli
The Honourable Guy Bourgouin
The Honourable Taras Natyshak
The Honourable Sol Mamakwa
The Honourable Laura Mae Lindo
The Honourable Amanda Simard
The Honourable Michael Coteau
The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
The Honourable Stephen Blais