

Dear Chair and Faculty of the Centre for Medieval Studies,

On 21 January 2021, the contract student educators (Teaching Assistants, Course Instructors, Invigilators) of the Centre for Medieval Studies held our first meeting for the 2020/2021 Unit 1 bargaining session. At this meeting we unanimously voted to endorse the following letter and formally request that the chair of the Centre for Medieval Studies acknowledge receipt of and endorse the following statement:

The chair of the Centre for Medieval Studies acknowledges that Unit 1 of CUPE 3902 (Teaching Assistants, Course Instructors, and Invigilators) is beginning its bargaining process with the University of Toronto. CUPE 3902's main priorities for this round of bargaining are to improve workload standards, foster inclusion and anti-oppression at U of T, increase compensation and job security, and promote (mental) health and safety. As chair of the Centre for Medieval Studies, I support our graduate students' and CUPE3902's efforts to achieve a fair, safe, and just workplace at the University of Toronto.

The graduate student workers at the Centre for Medieval Studies greatly appreciate the support that has previously been given by faculty and staff in the department, especially their hard work and concern for student welfare during the pandemic. However, many of our concerns can only be addressed at a higher institutional level, one that may be receptive to the positions of departmental leaders and other faculty members. As such, an expression of your solidarity with graduate student workers would be sincerely appreciated as we work collectively for a better, more equitable university for all.

Best wishes,

The Graduate Students of the Centre for Medieval Studies