



Unit 1 Contract Education Workers

Department of Economics

February 1, 2021

Dear Chair and Faculty of the Department of Economics,

As you likely already know, Unit 1 Contract Academic workers (namely Teaching Assistants, Course Instructors, and Invigilators) are currently bargaining for a new Collective agreement. The contract education workers of the Department of Economics support our Unit 1 bargaining team, and need a fairer Collective Agreement more than ever before. As such, we formally request that department leadership acknowledge the receipt of and endorse the following statement:

The Department of Economics acknowledges that Unit 1 of CUPE 3902 (Teaching Assistants, Course Instructors, and Invigilators) is currently bargaining with the University of Toronto (U of T). 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 Faculty of the Department of Economics, we support our graduate students from C.U.P.E. 3902 in their efforts to demand a fair, safe, and just workplace at U of T. Specifically, the Department pledges to 1) reject any policies of academic continuity passed by University administration, 2) not hire any contract labour to replace striking workers and 3) refuse to compel any students to perform educational labour independent of labour decisions made by the Union with financial compensation from budgetary lines that

were not already dedicated to wages, or by use of threats to academic completion. By taking this stance, the Department acknowledges the importance of unionized student labour to its teaching operations and upholds Unit 1's right to a good faith bargaining climate. The Department wishes its Unit 1 employees an equitable bargaining round regardless of potential labour disruptions and will contribute to fostering a supportive environment.

The contract education workers of the Department of Economics greatly appreciate the support that the chair and departmental faculty have given to graduate students formally and informally in the past. We believe that the Department of Economics can lead by example again in advocating for an equitable university.

Best wishes,

The Unit 1 Contract Education Workers of the Department of Economics:

[Please enter your signature [here](#); the letter will be open for signatures until February 9, 2021, at which point it will be shared with Ettore Damiano, Colin Stewart and Marcin Peski]

Fetsami Araya

Sixia Xie

Leah Kling

Tasnia Hussain

Xuemin Song

Ruizhi Zhu

James Macek

Mohaddeseh Heydari Nejad

Nicolas Blackburn

Natalia Vigezzi

Nanxi Fu

Reyam Alkobaisi

Christopher Holiday

Xuchuxue Zhou

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Alexandra Ballyk

Alison Cane

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