

Jan. 12, 2021

Dear Faculty of the Department of French,

On December 9th 2020, the graduate student contract educators of the Department of French (Teaching Assistants and Course Instructors), held their first meeting for the 2020/2021 Unit 1 bargaining session. At this meeting, a motion to endorse the following letter and formally request support for the following statement was passed unanimously:

As a member of the Department of French faculty, I acknowledge that Unit 1 of CUPE 3902 (Teaching Assistants, Course Instructors, and Invigilators) has begun 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. I support our graduate student workers' attempt to negotiate a fair, safe, and just workplace at the University of Toronto.

The graduate student educators of the Department of French greatly appreciate the support that the department's faculty has given to graduate students in the past. Once again, we hope that our department can lead by example by advocating for an equitable university. The Covid-19 crisis has exacerbated the precarity faced by many workers throughout the department and the university. In this context, it is more important than ever that all parties uphold their commitment to bargain in good faith, which is the only way that meaningful progress can be achieved.

Best wishes,

The graduate student educators of the Department of French