



By email: psepolicy@ontario.ca

July 18, 2019

Nancy Mudrinic
Assistant Deputy Minister
Post-Secondary Education Division
Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities

Dear Ms. Mudrinic,

I write to you on behalf of the Association of Professors of the University of Ottawa (APUO), the union representing 1,311 full-time professors and librarians at our institution, to express my grave concerns regarding your consultation on faculty pension. As is the case with many other faculty associations in the province, we in no way view this consultation as a sincere step to promoting faculty renewal and sustainability in the post-secondary education sector. It is clear for the APUO that this consultation is a part of a broader attack on public sector workers and their right to collective bargaining and fair working conditions.

This consultation is taking place following the adoption of an addendum to the Budget Bill, which gave the Minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities the powers to override collective agreements and reduce, including to zero, the compensation of faculty working while collecting their pension. The APUO was appalled by this legislative change and viewed it as an attempt by this government to rob senior faculty of their hard-earned money, and as a clear form of age-based discrimination. The APUO will not indulge this government in entertaining discussions that aim to erode our collective bargaining rights, that work against the best interest of our members and of the post-secondary education sector in Ontario.

We echo the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations' (OCUFA) concerns and questions listed in their July 10 letter which we include as an attachment to this email for your reference. While the APUO would welcome a meaningful dialogue about faculty renewal, we are not interested in partaking in a disingenuous consultation that could have negative implications for our members and the post-secondary education sector in our province.

Sincerely,

Dimitri Karmis
President
Association of Professors of the University of Ottawa