ASSOCIATION DES PROFESSEUR.E.S DE L'UNIVERSITÉ D'OTTAWA
ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

Mark Carney,
Prime Minister of Canada

Mélanie Joly,
Minister of Industry

Patty Hajdu,
Minister of Jobs and Families

Mona Fortier,
Member of Parliament, Ottawa—Vanier—Gloucester

November 5, 2026

Remove Bill C-39's proposed restrictions on the right to strike

Prime Minister Carney, Minister Joly, Minister Hajdu, and MP Fortier,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Association of Professors of the University of Ottawa (APUO), representing 1335 workers at the University of Ottawa. I am writing about the proposed changes to the *Canada Labour Code* and what they could mean for workers in our community and across Canada.

While workers and families face real pressure in our daily lives, large corporations continue to post record-breaking profits. At the same time, our members are facing growing workloads because of the chronic underfunding of universities, and mounting pressure on the quality and accessibility of post-secondary education, undermining the academic service and research that Canadians rely on.

Bill C-39 would give the government new and expanded powers to intervene in and shut down legal strikes. This is an unprecedented move that would restrict workers' right to withdraw our labour and use our full bargaining power to reach a fair deal.

I urge you to oppose these changes and protect workers' right to strike.

The APUO represents professors, librarians, language teachers, and other academic staff at the University of Ottawa who advance research, educate the next generation, and contribute to the public good. Our members rely on the right to strike and meaningful collective bargaining to defend their working conditions, academic freedom, and the quality of post-secondary education; expanding government powers to intervene in legal strikes would undermine these fundamental rights and weaken our ability to advocate effectively for our members and the communities we serve.

Collective bargaining is how workers and companies reach agreements that work for both sides. The right to strike gives workers leverage at the bargaining table. Without that leverage, workers

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have less power to negotiate fair wages, safe workplaces, secure jobs, and solutions to the problems we face at work.

This is also an issue that reaches beyond federally regulated workplaces. In Ontario's post-secondary sector, where universities rely on the expertise and collective efforts of academic workers to deliver high-quality education and research, expanding federal intervention powers would set a dangerous precedent that could weaken workers' power and embolden provincial governments to legislate similar broadening of strike intervention powers.

Our members work to build a stronger Canada every day. Our members educate and train the next generation of Canada's workforce, conduct research that drives innovation and economic development, and contribute expertise that strengthens public institutions, local communities, and Canada's long-term prosperity.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these proposed changes with you and hear your views on how they could affect workers at Canadian universities.

Yours sincerely,



Colin Montpetit,
President, Association of Professors of the University of Ottawa