



**Graduate Students'  
Association**

Local 78, Canadian  
Federation of Students

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Dear BUFA President Dolecki,

On behalf of the Graduate Students' Association at Carleton University, I am writing to express our solidarity with the Brandon University Faculty Association in your fight for a fair collective agreement with Brandon University. History shows that a strong collective agreement for one local allows for stronger collective agreements at other locals. They compel other university administrations to take notice and to bargain fairly and with respect to their own employees. Especially in the current Canadian political climate, an injury to one is indeed an injury to all. Now more than ever, students, faculty, support staff and other allies need to work together to make it clear that universities have an obligation to invest in their employees – anything less is short-sighted .

Regrettably, university administrations across the province have used the current fiscal climate as an excuse to roll back the rights that those before us fought so hard to attain. We support your desires for a balanced workload of teaching and research, job security for sessionals, and fair compensation. These fair demands create a better post secondary experience for faculty, teaching assistants, and students. Likewise, the erosion of these important and reasonable demands sets a frightening precedent for labour and the quality of post secondary education in Canada. It is increasingly clear that the university sector has begun to follow suit in union busting attempts as have been seen across the country. Now more than ever, unions must stand in solidarity together.

Our universities are made stronger as a result of strong communities, many of which unions are central in developing and sustaining. Students do indeed suffer when labour disputes occur, but they suffer even more in environments where a strong sense of community is not valued by university administrations. The administration at Brandon University has an obligation to support students and the community in which they live and learn, and it is our stance that they provide a fair collective agreement, in as urgent a manner as possible, to end this strike.

In your fight, know that we, and others across the country, fully support your fight, which we sincerely believe to be ours as well.

In Solidarity,

Holly Gilroy

Vice-President Academic, Graduate Students' Association, Carleton University  
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