



McMaster University Academic Librarians' Association  
c/o MUFA (McMaster University Faculty Association)  
Hamilton Hall Room 103A  
McMaster University 1280 Main St. W. Hamilton ON L8S 4K1

**Dr. Alan Shepard**

President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Western Ontario

**Dr. Florentine Strzelczyk**

Provost and Vice President (Academic), University of Western Ontario

**Mr. Keith Gibbons**

Chair, Board of Governors, University of Western Ontario

**Ms. Sarah Shortreed**

Vice Chair, Board of Governors, University of Western Ontario

**Ms. Catherine Steeves**

Chief Librarian, University of Western Ontario

8th September 2023

Dear President Shepard, Provost Strzelczyk, Board Chair Gibbons, Vice-Chair Shortreed, and Chief Librarian Steeves,

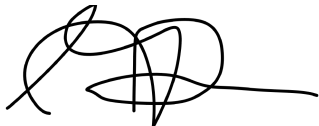
McMaster University Academic Librarians' Association (MUALA) stands in solidarity with the University of Western Ontario Faculty Association – Librarians and Archivists (UWOFA L&A) in their efforts to secure a fair and equitable collective agreement.

Librarians and Archivists serve many critical functions in a university environment: they curate and develop digital and physical collections which are essential to the research of faculty members and students; they teach students the information literacy skills which are increasingly urgent in a global context rife with misinformation and disinformation; they are indeed academic researchers in their own right, contributing invaluable expertise about collections, instruction, and information architecture.

Western University continues to expand its student enrollment disproportionate to its resourcing of UWOFA's Librarians and Archivists: there are now 900 Western students for every one Librarian or Archivist. If this situation continues, Western will struggle to meet its academic mission and will cause needless challenges for the faculty and students affiliated with the institution.

We urge the UWO administration to meet UWOFA Librarians and Archivists' reasonable demands for a fair monetary package and an increase in the number of Librarian and Archivist jobs proportionate to student enrollment increases. This will ensure Western's continued success in research, teaching, and learning and will demonstrate its commitment to fair working conditions for its employees.

On behalf of the membership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gillian Dunks

**President, MUALA**

**CC: Chief Steward Shawn Hendrikx, University of Western Ontario Faculty Association – Librarians and Archivists**