

Statement of Solidarity from the Department of Geography, UC Berkeley

We, as faculty, instructors, staff, students and alumni of the Department of Geography at the University of California, Berkeley stand together in support of improving the conditions for scholarship and study at the University of Toronto and York University.

As members of a community deeply committed to the quality, integrity and necessity of public education, we recognize that the conditions under which academics work are inseparable from the condition of the academy as a whole. The precarious labor conditions of teaching assistants, course instructors and sessional instructors are fundamentally detrimental to the quality of undergraduate education and research at the university level.

We know from our own efforts to preserve our public institutions that it is impossible to further their missions, while teaching assistants and instructors live below the poverty line, and PhD students lack sufficient funding to carry on their research or contribute to the education of undergraduates.

As a community of scholars, teachers, staff, and students committed to the future of intellectual work, we support the efforts of members of University of Toronto and York University to address these inequalities and build universities where all members learn and work with dignity.

Signed:

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