



WHAT IS PSAC 610?

PSAC 610 is a directly chartered local of the Public Service Alliance of Canada.

As a labour union, we represent Graduate Teaching Assistants and Postdocs for collective bargaining with Western University.

With our partners, including other graduate academic labour unions at Ontario universities, we have put together this manifesto to demand the provincial government secure more funding for higher education and stop the commercialization of the academy.



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Come to the RESPECT OUR RESEARCH RALLY

- September 20th, 2023
- 12 PM
- UC Hill, Western University

We will have a gathering of faculty, staff, students, workers in the university and the general public to protest the commercialization of the university and demand more public funding.

To learn more:



RESPECT OUR RESEARCH

WE BELIEVE:

- Research is crucial for an enlightened society.
- Profit-driven university models harm society.
- Inadequate funding impacts graduate researchers, faculty, and staff.
- Fair working conditions are needed for knowledge producers.

WE DEMAND:

Higher education should be a public good and NOT a commodity!

More public funding to higher education

Better funding for graduate student researchers

More funding opportunities for international graduate students locked out of tri-council grants

More faculty and tenured positions for adjunct labour

RESPECT OUR RESEARCH!



Why does the university exist, if it is not to produce knowledge? And how can we researchers produce that knowledge if our working conditions are inadequate?

Research is not a business, it is a fundamental component of maintaining a forward-looking and enlightened society. It is priceless: its contributions are timeless and the people engaged in it serve all of humanity. Your computers, your cellphones, the satellites that criss-cross the heavens, your health, reflective ideas in society, they all exist because of research. It is a public good.

Across the world, universities are being transformed from institutions which produce knowledge into educational service institutions driven by profit motives. This hurts everyone. When the university is treated like a business, or an undergraduate education becomes nothing more than a ticket to employment, the whole of civil society suffers.

The increase in cost of undergraduate education in the last forty years has not led to better working conditions for graduate students, faculty or staff. Instead, there are less tenure track jobs than ever before, and less funding from the state for research.

It is in everyone's interests that young researchers make a living wage. The modern world is fighting a resurgence of barbarism and reactionary forces which seek to end democracy. We desperately need a new generation committed to the continued free existence of the arts and sciences. This can only be done if new researchers are given the space to thrive.

If our civil society is to survive the arts and sciences must continue. Only universities can provide the space that will allow this to occur. Industry is no substitute. We must not let universities be commercialized.

This is why we demand Western
RESPECT OUR RESEARCH!