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First call for nominations: UMFA awards

UMFA is now accepting nominations for the following awards:

ROY VOGT MEMORIAL AWARD

The Roy Vogt Memorial Award is to be presented to an Association member or past member in recognition of outstanding service to the Association. The award will be a certificate, as well as a contribution to the charity chosen by the award winner.

PAUL FORTIER PRIZE FOR STUDENT ACTIVISM

The \$500 Paul Fortier Prize for Student Activism is presented to a current University of Manitoba student who demonstrates an active involvement in union related activities and/or community activism and/or activities aimed towards improving student life and/or working conditions of student employees, including markers, research assistants and sessional lecturers.

CAUT DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD

The CAUT Dedicated Service Award was established to recognize exceptional service provided by individuals at the local or provincial level. This award is granted by CAUT upon receipt of a recommendation from a local, provincial or federated association.

Deadline for nominations is **4 pm Friday, March 5, 2021**. For details see <http://www.umfa.ca/news/118-2021-awards-nominations>.

Claim your benefits! Health Care Spending Account year ends March 31

A reminder that all Healthcare Spending Account claims must be incurred by March 31. Check your Health Care Spending Allowance account at [Great West Life](#) to make sure you have used up your entire \$825 balance.

If you did not use all the HCSA benefits in the benefit year of April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020, the Canada Revenue Agency has authorized adding those unused benefits to your current year account (ending

March 31, 2021). The amount you did not spend will appear in your HCSA around Friday, February 20. You only have until March 31, 2021 to incur those expenses. The email from administration was sent out on February 8 with more complete information – check your inbox.

CAUT statement re: Laurentian University

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) is deeply concerned over the unprecedented situation at Laurentian University, which filed for court protection under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* on February 1.

Factors contributing to the situation at Laurentian include a lack of transparent and accountable institutional governance by the Laurentian administration, recent cuts by the Ontario government, and the long-standing erosion of public funding for post-secondary education. The implications for faculty, students and Indigenous and francophone minority access to post-secondary education in Ontario are grave.

Read the rest of the statement here: <https://www.caut.ca/latest/2021/02/caut-statement-laurentian>.

Anomalies Committee – adjudication delayed until March

Once a year the Anomalies Committee reviews applications from Members who raise concerns about the fairness of their base salaries. Usually that process is completed by the end of December, and decisions are communicated to applicants thereafter. This year, between contract negotiations and the Pandemic, the committee's work has been extended until March 1, 2021. Applicants won't hear from the committee until that process is complete.

Take this Survey! Violence and Harassment at Work

The Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children at Western University is working with researchers at the University of Toronto and the Canadian Labour Congress to launch a national survey on workplace harassment and violence. According to the CLC, this survey is the first ever on violence and sexual harassment in the workplace with a national reach in Canada. For more information, and to take the survey, click [here](#).

Next UMFA Board meeting – February 24 @ 6:00 p.m.

Did you know that UMFA Board meetings are open to all members of the Association? If you've ever wanted to be involved in discussions, but weren't sure how, now is as good a time as any! Join the conversation at the next meeting on February 24 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Email faum@umfa.ca to get the meeting link.

If you have information or an event that you'd like to share in an upcoming issue, please email the item to umfa-communications@umfa.ca for consideration.