

# UOITFA Express

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## A SAD FAREWELL: UOITFA President Raymond Cox is leaving UOIT



Dr. Raymond Cox, President, UOITFA

I trust this letter finds all of you well as you begin the winter semester applying your energy and talent towards your scholarship. Our UOITFA Bargaining Team has begun face-to-face negotiations with the administration for our next contract and I encourage you to give them your full support. We thank you for your participation in the survey helping us know what your concerns and priorities are for our second collective bargaining agreement. In the meantime, family life with my four adult children and grandchild has changed course such that my wife Ellen and I needed to move to the west coast. This has led to my accepting a faculty position at the University of Northern British Columbia. I am resigning from the University of Ontario Institute of Technology including the President of the UOIT Faculty Association effective March 1st, 2011. I am grateful for my tenure at UOIT especially knowing the faculty and staff; all of who have worked hard to establish a foundation to build the fine reputation we enjoy. Thank you for a happy and wonderful time. I hope we stay in touch. \*\*

## UOITFA has new office digs!

The UOIT officially has a new office as of January 2011. As per the collective agreement, the UOITFA has been offered an office for operations. The new office is located on the *North Campus*, UA 2042. The new extension for the office is X2049. All contact information for faculty representatives and officers remains the same, and of course you can also always contact us at our email address [uoitfa@gmail.com](mailto:uoitfa@gmail.com). Over the next few months we will be making changes to the office to get it looking more like an FA office space. Although the office will not be occupied on full time basis, if someone is there, please stop by and say hello. We now have an office to store FA material and files, hold meetings, and so on. The office will serve a tremendous need. As always, we look forward to hearing from you.\*\*

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## OCUFA: Ontario academic librarians concerned about severe budget cuts: *New report points to reduced staffing, neglected collections, technology delays*

TORONTO: Ontario's university libraries appear to be bearing a sizeable share of the cuts as universities grapple with budget cutbacks. A new report, based on a questionnaire sent to Ontario's academic librarians, describes widespread staffing reductions, neglect of library collections, and delays in technology investments.

"Ontario's academic librarians are at the forefront of supporting students and faculty in their research and teaching, tending to extensive collections, and introducing new technology advances to keep up with the demands of the digital world," said Constance Adamson, an academic librarian at Queen's University and vice-president of Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA). "But librarians are telling us that the level of budget restraint and change being imposed are detrimental to the very foundations of our vibrant university libraries."

### Key Highlights from the Report

- 70% of respondents report that workloads have increased over the past three years to meet an enrolment increase of 28,000 students accompanied by no discernible increase in the number of academic librarians.
- 71% report that universities are using staff attrition to reduce costs.
- 69% report that organizational change or restructuring had occurred in response to budget constraints, technology advancements and expanded student enrolment
- 67% report changes to collections practices to reduce costs.
- 49% report delays in much needed technology investments.
- 40% disagree that their library has a clear long-term purpose and strategy.

"Our librarians report that the changes being instituted are having adverse impacts on workload, collegiality, and the credibility of senior managers," said Adamson.

"Unfortunately, there has been a shift toward top-down management and away from collegial decision-making. This unilateral style erodes trust and confidence, while it raises doubts about the long-term direction of university libraries."

OCUFA invited Ontario academic librarians to respond to an on-line questionnaire. The questionnaire asked about a range of issues affecting university libraries, including organizational restructuring, budget impacts, and service changes. Over 200 responses, from all Ontario universities, and representing a response rate in excess of 30 per cent, were received between September 13 and October 12, 2010. Founded in 1964, OCUFA represents 16,000 faculty and academic librarians in 26 faculty associations across Ontario.

For more information, please visit the OCUFA website at <http://www.ocufa.on.ca>. Contact: Graeme Stewart – 416 979 2117 x232 (office) or 647 280 3175 [gstewart@ocufa.on.ca](mailto:gstewart@ocufa.on.ca)

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