

Dr. Cathy Bruce, President  
Trent University  
1600 West Bank Drive  
Peterborough, ON K9L 0G2



February 10, 2026

Dear Dr. Bruce and Trent University Senior Leadership,

We write intent to add OPSEU 365's collective voice to your ongoing discussions on Trent University's 2026-2027 budget.

Attached, we are proud to present a petition signed by over 500 students, community members, faculty and staff who are committed to ushering in a bright future for our institution. We stand united behind the call for you to properly invest in OPSEU 365 and the service we provide to students and the broader community.

Our members care deeply about our roles within this institution. We take pride in delivering the highest standard of service on already-lean operating budgets – through good times and bad. In this moment of financial challenge, our hope is for OPSEU 365 members to be empowered as partners in delivering your vision for a sustainable future for Trent University.

We remind our decision-makers that Trent University cannot deliver a world-class educational experience without us. A properly staffed OPSEU 365:

- Enhances recruitment efforts by bringing more brilliant minds to our campuses at the undergraduate and graduate levels
- Bolsters retention by ensuring that supports and services are readily available when students need them most
- Frees faculty from administrative tasks to allow them to focus on our primary collective goal: delivering education and advancing research
- Keeps our graduates connected to and invested in Trent long after their departure
- Maintains the facilities and grounds on our campuses
- Keeps our buildings clean and in good repair
- Allows our communities in Peterborough and Oshawa to thrive by attracting talented staff who set roots and contribute to our local economies



We understand the gravity of this moment. We know that our reality points toward a need for a reduction in Trent University's operating expenses to produce a sustainable budget. Still, we put to you that many of our members have steadfastly delivered for the institution with flat or reduced staffing compliments over the last half decade, despite rapid enrolment growth. It will be unsustainable to meet our own service standards should reductions compound next year and in the years ahead, as your budget communications imply.

We urge you, our decision-makers, to chart Trent University's course cautiously, recognizing that reductions to the OPSEU 365 bargaining unit will degrade the student and community experience and may have a detrimental impact on Trent University's reputation in the years to come.

We believe that there is a better approach. Rather than show the provincial government that Trent University is willing to endorse a workplace that encourages overtime, staffing shortages, and worker burnout, we should reject this approach for what it is: unsustainable and costly. We urge you to push our province and our leaders towards a funding model that works for post-secondary institutions. We stand ready to join you in these efforts, but do not believe your current budget proposals for Trent University accomplish this goal. We can and should show the province how short of adequate the current funding regime remains by rejecting steep reductions this year and upholding the quality and standard of service our community expects and deserves.

Trent University works because we do. A strong OPSEU 365 leads to a strong Trent University. A strong Trent University yields benefits that trickle beyond our campus perimeters and into the communities we serve.



We trust that you will bear this submission in mind as you continue with your deliberations for the University's 2026-2027 budget, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Will Dowkes, Acting President  
OPSEU Local 365

Michael Audet, Secretary  
OPSEU Local 365

Adam Murphy, Action Committee  
OPSEU Local 365

Alisha McGregor, Action Committee  
OPSEU Local 365

Adele Devlin, Bargaining Committee  
OPSEU Local 365

Sheri Erickson, Bargaining Committee  
OPSEU Local 365

Mark Bedlington, Bargaining Committee  
OPSEU Local 365

Chris Johnston, Staff Representative  
OPSEU Local 365

cc: All OPSEU Local 365 members  
Trent University Senior Administration