

November 22nd, 2016

Dear Western Postdoctoral Scholars,

With the recent unionization of postdoctoral fellows at Western University, we recognize that there may be some confusion over the role of the Postdoctoral Association at Western (PAW) in this process and would like to take this opportunity to reach out to Western postdoctoral scholars.

PAW is a community for ALL postdoctoral scholars at Western University. Whether you are a postdoctoral associate, unionized postdoctoral fellow or self-employed (externally funded) postdoctoral fellow, you are a member of PAW. As an organization, we work hard to develop training programs, social events and act as a liaison between postdoctoral scholars and Western's administration.

Our goals as an organization are to:

- Increase the postdoctoral scholar awareness at Western.
- Give postdoctoral scholars a venue to meet with other postdoctoral scholars.
- Work with SGPS to inform them about what postdoctoral scholars need and want from their Western experience.
- Provide a liaison between postdoctoral scholars and Western administration in regards to training needs and professional development.
- Promote and develop effective career development programs for postdoctoral scholars.

Regarding the process of postdoctoral fellow unionization, PAW is not involved in the collective bargaining process or union disputes. Our mission is to improve the postdoctoral experience independent of employment status at Western.

If you have questions about PAW events, ideas for future events, interest in getting involved with PAW or comments/questions about PAW in general, you can e-mail us at postdocs@uwo.ca.

If you have questions specific to unionization (bargaining process, union dues, salary, etc.), please see the PSAC 610 website <http://www.psac610.ca/> and contact the union representatives.

Although PAW is not affiliated with PSAC 610, we consider ourselves to be an information resource for all postdoctoral scholars, and we will, to the best of our abilities, work to ensure all postdoctoral scholars at Western are provided with relevant and up-to-date information throughout this process.

Sincerely,

The 2016-2017 PAW Executive Council