

Preliminary Programming

COCAL 2024 XV



COCAL GATINEAU (QUÉBEC) 2024

SCHEDULE

- August 7th, 2024: Networking and Discovery of The Gatineau-Ottawa Region Day
- August 8th and 9th, 2024: XVth COCAL Conference
Université du Québec en Outaouais, 283, Alexandre-Taché blvd, Gatineau
- August 10th, 2024 (from 10:00 to noon): Breakfast and COCAL International Committee meeting

POLITICAL GUIDELINES

The **XVth COCAL conference**, to be held in **Gatineau** in August 2024, will focus on the many challenges facing contract academic staff as contingent academic labour, and the means we can use to mobilize and address them. These challenges, derived directly from the commodification of knowledge, threaten our working conditions, our representation in the University, our academic freedom, our potential in research and community service, and even our very profession. To reverse this trend, collective action remains our most formidable tool for bringing about the changes needed to support free, egalitarian and pluralistic education.

COCAL participants are invited to discuss and debate a range of issues affecting contract academic staff, including their working conditions, their place (and invisibility), and threats to the very mission of universities. We'll also discuss why and how to mobilize, and the importance of organizing a North American day of mobilization.

Preliminary Programming

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7 2024

NETWORKING AND DISCOVERY OF THE GATINEAU-OTTAWA REGION DAY

– *Programing and schedule TBD* –

THURSDAY AUGUST 8 2024

OPENING OF THE XVth COCAL CONFERENCE IN GATINEAU

9:30 to 9:50	OPENING REMARKS from the organizers of COCAL 2024
9:50 to 10:45	OPENING REMARKS from the special invited guests
10:45 to 11:05	Break

THEME 1

Collegiality, academic freedom and political voice contingent academic labour: putting an end to sidelining

11:05 to 12:30	MAIN PLENARY: <i>The managerialization of universities: the source of all ills</i> (working title)
12:30 to 2:00	Lunch
2:00 to 3:30	Precarity, representation, academic freedom and abuse of power in universities Discussion of recent examples of abuses of power by government and administration in higher education.
3:30 to 3:50	Break

THEME 2

Enriching rather than fragmenting the work of contract academic staff: Analysis and solutions

3:50 to 5:30	WORKSHOPS – Analysis of the work and conditions of contract academic staff: challenges and opportunities Some examples of subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intellectuals in precarity rather than “teaching professionals”• Ambitions and research potential for contract teachers: a reality!• Precarity in the university and the impact on mental health.• The meaning of work for contingent academic labour: lack of recognition, loss of meaning, lack of support and networks. How to end the siloing of work? For true university inter-union solidarity.
5:30	GROUP PHOTO AND DELEGATION PHOTOS

FRIDAY AUGUST 9 2024

9:00 to 10:30	<p>PLENARY SESSION – Solutions for better working conditions and a greater recognition of contract academic labour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Putting forward solutions at different levels to enrich the work of contract academic staff.• Promoting the real work of contract academic staff.• Adopting a manifesto and common principles to reaffirm the essential role of contract teachers.
10:30 to 10:50	Break
THEME 3 The fundamental mission of universities under attack: For a free, egalitarian, and pluralistic education	
10:50 to 12:30	<p>ROUND TABLE – The commodification of education in the context of AI, remote learning, and the deregulation of tuition (<i>working title</i>)</p> <p>PLENARY SESSION – Exchange of experiences in defending against these threats</p>
12:30 to 2:00	Lunch
THEME 4 National and international solidarity, local mobilisation: effective action to counter job insecurity for contract academic staff	
2:00 to 3:30	<p>ROUND TABLE – Key elements for a historic union mobilization</p> <p>International panel on the right moves and the key elements for a historic mobilization.</p> <p>Four case studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Québec</i>• <i>The United States</i>• <i>Mexico</i>• <i>English Canada</i> <p>Key conclusions: what are the factors for success in recent historical mobilizations?</p>
3:30 to 3:50	Break

3:50 to 5:00	CLOSING CONFERENCE: Pursuing Mobilisation (<i>working title</i>) PLENARY SESSION – For a North American Mobilization Day Discussion and adoption of the manifesto positions and commitment to international mobilization (<i>date TBD</i>).
FRIDAY AUGUST 9 AT 6:30 – AN EVENING OF SOLIDARY	

SATURDAY AUGUST 10 2024	
10:00 to 12:00	COCAL 2024 ORGANISING COMMITTEE AND COCAL INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING