

COCAL XII



COALITION OF CONTINGENT ACADEMIC LABOUR

Biennial Conference

Edmonton, AB—Aug 5-7, 2016

The **Coalition of Contingent Academic Labour (COCAL)** is a network of North American activists working to improve higher education by improving the work environment of contingent academic labourers. They strive to achieve job reliability, better wages, academic freedom, time and resources for academic research and professional development.

Every other year, COCAL offers an international conference that welcomes 250 delegates from Canada, the U.S., and Mexico. The twelfth COCAL Conference (COCAL XII) will be held August 5-7, 2016 in Edmonton and is being organized by CUPE Local 3911, who represent the part-time academic staff of Athabasca University.

COCAL's biennial conferences include presentations on organizing faculty, gaining equitable working conditions, legislative solutions, and the effects of globalization on higher education.

Empowering Precarious Academic Workers in Perilous Times



Photo : City of Edmonton Photo Gallery

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COCAL XII Conference Programme:

Theme: Empowering Precarious Academic Workers in Perilous Times

Organizing and Reorganizing: In order to be effective, contract staff must be organized, either in their own organization or as part of a larger faculty organization. It is also necessary to reorganize internally on a constant basis.

Diversity, Equity, and Human Rights: Discussions around diversity, equity, and human rights are becoming increasingly important in higher education as more institutions opt to hire on a per course or limited basis, creating numerous disparities for contract academic staff.

Job Security: Repeated surveys of contract academic labourers reveal that their number one concern is job security. How can such security be obtained when academic work is continually being casualized at institutions across North America?

Living Well in a Precarious World: Maintenance of personal well-being and mental health can be extremely difficult for contract academic staff who are often exposed to precarious work conditions with irregular hours and income. This, paired with reduced benefits and resources is a serious obstacle for many workers.

What is to be Done?: To move forward or to even stay where we are, contingent academic labourers must continue to organize and take action. This must be action not just for its own sake but action with analysis that will improve the situation.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Pam Palmater



Dr. Pam Palmater is a Mi'kmaw lawyer, author, social justice activist, and Chair in Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University from Eel River Bar First Nation in New Brunswick. Her degrees include a BA from St. Thomas in Native Studies; an LLB from UNB, and her Masters and Doctorate in Law from Dalhousie University specializing in Indigenous law.

Pam has been volunteering and working in First Nation issues for over 25 years on a wide range of issues like poverty, housing, education, Aboriginal and treaty rights, and legislation impacting First Nations. She came in second in the Assembly of First Nations election for National Chief in 2012 and was one of the spokespeople and public educators for the Idle No More movement in 2012-13.

She has been recognized with many awards for her social justice advocacy on behalf of First Nations generally, and Indigenous women and children specifically, including but not limited to the 2012 Women's Courage Award in Social Justice, and Canadian Lawyer Magazine's 2013 Top 5 Most Influential Lawyer in the Human Rights category, Canada's Top Visionary Women Leaders 2014, and the 2015 UNB Alumni Award of Distinction.

Her books, *Indigenous Nationhood: Empowering Grassroots Citizens* and *Beyond Blood: Rethinking Indigenous Identity*, and legal articles, academic journals, magazine articles and invited news editorials focus on Indigenous law, politics, and governance. She is a well-known speaker and media commentator and is frequently called as an expert before Parliamentary and United Nations committees dealing with laws and policies impacting Indigenous peoples.

Call for Papers:

Paper proposals should support or expand on the conference topics described on the previous page and may be used to populate panels or the breakout sessions that will follow each panel.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Proposals are limited to 250 words and must include a 150 word biography.
- Proposal **deadline —April 15, 2016** (response by May 13, 2016).
- Send your submissions electronically as a PDF file to cupe3911@gmail.com and include ***COCAL XII Paper Submission*** in the subject line.
- Email cupe3911@gmail.com if you have additional questions.



Conference Details

August 5, 6, 7, 2016—Edmonton, AB, Canada—University of Alberta, Lister Centre

Note: Interpretation services for French and Spanish will be provided at the Conference

Cost (CAD \$) (includes August 5th banquet at historical Fort Edmonton Park)

Early Bird - \$225.00 - June 1 Deadline

Regular Fee - \$275.00 - July 1 Deadline

Student Rate - \$200.00 - July 1 Deadline

Spouse/Guest Banquet ticket - \$50.00 - July 1 Deadline

Register Online at www.cupe3911.com

Accommodations (reservation forms/codes and links available at www.cupe3911.com):

A limited number of rooms have been blocked off for COCAL delegates at the following locations:

- Lister Centre (University of Alberta Campus) - \$49.00 - \$69.00/night (private dorm rooms)
- Campus Tower Suites (University of Alberta Campus) - \$179.00/night (one bedroom suites)
- Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel (Downtown Edmonton) - \$125.00/night (King/Queen rooms)



**To learn more about COCAL visit
www.cocalinternational.org**

COCAL XII—

Coordinating Committee:

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