

Memorandum

Re: Equity Award Recommendation

Date: March 28, 2017

To: CAUT Council

From: Wesley Crichlow and Jacqueline Holler, Co-chairs

Established in 2010, the CAUT Equity Award recognizes post-secondary academic staff “who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to challenging exclusionary behaviours and practices such as racism and homophobia and by so doing have made post-secondary education in Canada more inclusive.” Though the award has a relatively short history, it already counts a number of illustrious alumni, demonstrating the extraordinary leadership of Canadian academics in furthering the cause of equity. This year, the Equity Committee is proud to recommend two outstanding academics for the 2017 CAUT Equity Award.

Dr. Aaron Devor is Research Chair of Transgender Studies at the University of Victoria and founder of the world’s largest transgender archives. A global expert on trans issues, Dr. Devor is author of the classic *FTM: Female-to-Male Transsexuals in Society*, most recently re-issued in 2016. Dr. Devor combines his impressive scholarship with equally important advocacy and mentorship. His combined efforts have, in the words of the president of the University of Victoria Faculty Association, “been instrumental in establishing the University of Victoria as an exemplar of inclusive academic space in a Canadian University context.” His work extends well beyond the academy, however, and includes advising medical, law-enforcement, and correctional communities on appropriate interactions with and services for trans people. Numerous letters of support testify to his impact and commitment. For his tireless work on behalf of trans inclusion, we recommend Dr. Aaron Devor.

Dr. Elizabeth Quinlan is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan. A well-published specialist in health, gender, and equity, Dr. Quinlan has published numerous books, book chapters, and articles, and has successfully competed for numerous grants. Her scholarly achievements are made even more impressive by the fact that most of her academic career has been conducted as a CAS member. Meanwhile, she has also demonstrated a continuous and tireless commitment to advocacy and activism in a variety of equity-related areas. Her

production of the play *With Glowing Hearts*, based on her research with striking miners' wives, is an example of how she uses creative means to communicate her scholarship; in the words of one of her referees, "Liz was able to 'commit sociology' in a way that made its 'impact' indisputable and unforgettable." Most recently, Dr. Quinlan has been a leader in discussions of and efforts to end sexual violence on campus. She is lead editor on the forthcoming collection *Sexual Violence at Canadian Universities: Activism, Institutional Responses, and Strategies for Change*. For her multifaceted, multidisciplinary, and tireless efforts to foster equity, we recommend Dr. Elizabeth Quinlan.

The many accomplishments of these outstanding academics are impossible to summarize in such a short document, but we trust that this brief summary makes clear the ample qualifications of both Dr. Devor and Dr. Quinlan. These are two outstanding academics whose scholarly achievements in relation to equity are united with and paralleled by their activism on its behalf. The Equity Committee is proud to recommend both candidates for this award. Further information on Dr. Devor and Dr. Quinlan can be found within their nomination packages.