



MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty, Staff, and Students, Department of Human Geography
From: Professor William A. Gough, Vice-Principal Academic & Dean 
Date: 2 June 2023
Re: **Academic Administrative Appointment - Acting Chair, Department of Human Geography**
Note: For distribution broadly

It is with great pleasure that I write to inform you that the Agenda Committee of Academic Board has approved the appointment of Professor Susannah Bunce as Acting Chair of the Department of Human Geography from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 while Professor Thembela Kepe is on leave.

Susannah Bunce is Associate Professor in the Department of Human Geography at U of T Scarborough with a graduate appointment at the Department of Geography & Planning. She holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Studies from York University, joined U of T Scarborough as Assistant Professor (Contractually Limited Term Appointment (CLTA)) in 2008, Assistant Professor, Tenure Stream, in 2010, and received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in 2018.

As a researcher and teacher, she focuses on the geography and planning of sustainable urban communities and neighbourhoods, environmental gentrification, urban commons, and urban community land trusts and urban ecovillages. She has a strong publication record with numerous peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, reports, and guest editorials. She is the author of “Sustainability Policy, Planning, and Gentrification in Cities” and co-editor of “Critical Dialogues of Governance, Development and Activism: London and Toronto.” Professor Bunce is currently co-Lead on the Affordable Housing Project at the School of Cities and Principal Investigator (PI) on a Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) funded project that explores community engagement and Indigenous place-keeping in the Highland Creek watershed. Her expertise is recognized widely with various speaking engagements in Canada, USA, and UK, and media appearances.

Professor Bunce is a dedicated member of the Department having served twice as Associate Chair (2017-2018 and 2020-2022), Co-Chair of the Curriculum Committee (2020-2022), and on other departmental committees. She also has a solid service record in various committees on campus and across the University. She has served as the Interim Director of the Collaborative Specialization in Community Development graduate program (2021), the University College London (UCL) -U of T Partnership Working Group for the Office of the Vice-President International (since 2018), the Publicly Engaged Scholarship Working Group for the U of T Scarborough Office of the VP Research & Innovation (2023), and on a sub-committee for the Presidential Committee on the Environment, Climate Change & Sustainability (2017-19).

I am grateful that Professor Bunce is willing to take on the responsibility as Acting Chair of the Department of Human Geography. She is highly respected by her colleagues and staff in the Department, and other academic administrators on campus. I, along with the decanal team, look forward to working with her in this role.