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Lakehead University Faculty Association members, joined by reps from associations across the country, staged a rally Monday to protest the four-day shutdown at the Thunder Bay university.

# Work to be done

## *Profs protest university shutdown*

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Members of the Lakehead University Faculty Association, representatives of faculty associations from across Canada, and even Santa Claus, gathered in front of Lakehead University on Monday to express their feelings about the four-day university shutdown.

Dozens of faculty members marched from the Oliver Road Community Centre to the university Agora Circle with signs reading: "We are here to work."

The faculty and students are shut out of the university for four days as part of a budgetary plan to save

money and produce a balanced budget as required by the board of governors.

"This rally was a demonstration against what the administration has done," LUFA president Joey Farrell said in an interview. "They've arbitrarily chosen to close the university down for four days and not pay anybody."

The LU campus was locked down, and students and faculty are only allowed in if they made arrangements with security in advance.

"Work will go on," Farrell said. "There's no way in a professor's job and the work we have to do that we can just stop for four days. The work is still there."

About 370 full-time professors and lecturers are affected by the shutdown, as well as other employees. Even university president Fred Gilbert will go without pay while the campus is shut down between Monday and Christmas Eve, Thursday.

Gilbert declined to be interviewed on this issue, saying it would be inappropriate now that the dispute with the professors is in arbitration.

During the rally, representatives of faculty associations from Newfoundland-Labrador, Nova Scotia, P.E.I., New Brunswick, Québec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan were in attendance and some gave a short speech offering their support to the Lakehead faculty.