

## Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Mount Royal Faculty Association Responds to Tabling of Bill 7

The Mount Royal Faculty Association (MRFA) welcomes the tabling of *Bill 7: An Act to Enhance Post-secondary Academic Bargaining*, by the Minister of Advanced Education, Hon. Mr. Marlin Schmidt.

“Based on our initial review of the Bill,” said MRFA President Marc Schroeder, “it appears to conform to most of the recommendations we provided as part of our written submission during government consultations in 2016.”

In addition to restoring the right to strike, the proposed Act would include post-secondary academic staff under Alberta’s Labour Relations Code, bringing post-secondary into alignment with other sectors and bringing Alberta into alignment with other Canadian provinces.

The proposed legislation provides faculty associations and their members access to a more extensive and well-tested labour relations framework including a codification of prohibited labour practices, the duty of fair representation, a statement of employee and employer rights, as well as recourse to Alberta’s Labour Relations Board.

“This change also respects faculty’s constitutionally-protected right to Freedom of Association by removing the employer’s unilateral power to designate employees as ‘academic staff’, and therefore to decide who is and isn’t in the Association,” emphasized Schroeder.

“The MRFA supports the restoration of the right to strike as a fundamental aspect of meaningful collective bargaining,” said Schroeder. “As faculty members at an undergraduate, teaching-focused university, we care deeply about the personal wellbeing and success of our students. Beyond our passion for our academic disciplines and professional work, we have a proud history of over a century of putting our students and the quality of their education first. This legislation will better enable us to stand up for the working conditions of faculty, which are the learning conditions of students.”

#### **Contact:**

Marc Schroeder, MRFA President  
403.440.6191 (office), 403.827.6732 (mobile)  
[mschroeder@mtoryal.ca](mailto:mschroeder@mtoryal.ca)