FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mount Royal Faculty Association Opposes Bills 33 and 38 to Protect Institutional Autonomy and Academic Freedom

Calgary, AB. (November 6, 2026) – In its recent statement opposing Bill 33 and statement opposing Bill 38, the Mount Royal Faculty Association (MRFA) warns that the Government of Alberta's proposed legislation directly threatens academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and equitable employment across the post-secondary sector. The Association demands the immediate withdrawal of provisions that enforce government-mandated "neutrality" and ban Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) considerations.

"These bills represent an alarming trend of government overreach that plays culture-war politics at the expense of our institutions," said Brenda Lang, President of the MRFA. "By dictating our internal affairs and imposing vague ideological compliance, the government is creating a chilling effect in our classrooms, harming the quality of student education, and stripping away our commitments to a fair and inclusive community."

Hiring at Mount Royal University is a highly rigorous, merit-based process governed by the MRFA Collective Agreement, specifically Articles 4.1.5 and 4.1.6, which mandate strict evaluation of credentials by selection committees to ensure merit is applied without systemic bias. Furthermore, bypassing established bicameral governance and General Faculties Councils to impose external codes of conduct diverts critical resources away from front-line teaching and diminishes the global reputation of Alberta's post-secondary system.

"We cannot allow vital educational decisions to be shifted away from academic experts and toward partisan political directives," Lang continued. "The MRFA calls upon the Government of Alberta to meaningfully consult with faculty and withdraw the overreaching provisions of Bills 33 and 38. We must protect our rigorous collegial governance and ensure our institutions remain independent, equitable, and capable of properly teaching students to navigate real-world problems."

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About the MRFA: The Mount Royal Faculty Association represents all credit academic staff at Mount Royal University as stipulated under Alberta’s Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA). For more information, please visit www.mrfa.net.

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