

In this issue...

Ongoing conversations is the theme of this issue. What kind of union should the MRFA be and how can it respond to the provincial government's agenda for PSE? Marc Schroeder and Lee Easton weigh in on these questions below.

In a special section focused on academic freedom and freedom of expression, Mark Ayyash suggests some considerations that can distinguish between the two concepts. Sinc Macrae explains why political engagement by the MRFA executive endangers academic freedom, and, in *Faculty Forum's* first ever podcast, Peter McInnis, CAUT's Vice President, reflects on the past, present, and future of Academic Freedom in Canada.

Finally, Scharie Tavcer makes the case for mandatory consent education at MRU. Please continue these conversations by sending us your feedback on these stories or suggesting ideas for our next issue to communications@mrfa.net



The MRFA: A Service or a Nexus?

Marc Schroeder

"Universities, like the society in which they are embedded, are locations of power, contestation, exploitation, and systemic injustice. They are also institutions of great value and promise that are worth struggling to defend and improve, and academic unions ought to be a significant, democratic force for positive change."

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)

Review 2030 and the future of PSE in Alberta

Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs



Lee Easton

"...a badly organized process obsessed with secrecy that culminated with the summary dismissal of its flagship Guiding Coalition when it didn't like what it heard...Review 2030 will change Alberta PSE in ways that are detrimental to our students, to our university and ultimately to our working conditions."

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)

Views on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression



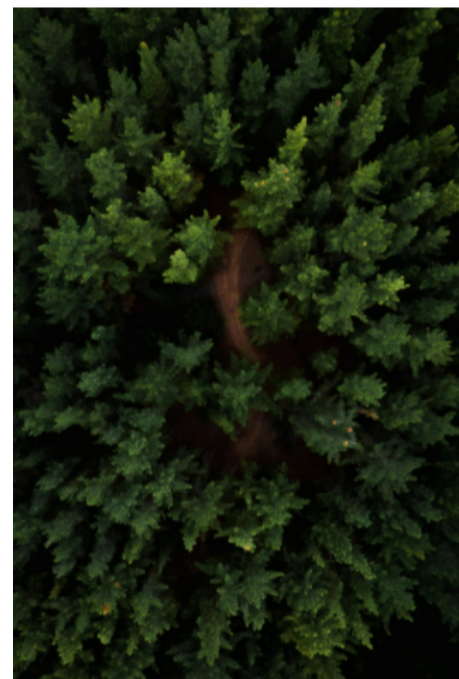
Conversation with Peter McInnis, VP of CAUT on the Past, Present, and Future of Academic Freedom

Kirk Niergarth

Peter McInnis is a historian at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia and Vice President of CAUT with long experience serving on CAUT's Academic Freedom and Tenure committee. In the below linked interview, Professor McInnis speaks about trying to understand academic freedom in a broad sense with reference to a variety of historic and ongoing examples.

[READ THIS INTERVIEW](#)

[LISTEN TO THIS INTERVIEW](#)



Distinguishing between Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression

Mark Ayyash

"...questions and answers that are deemed too dangerous in their challenge to the existing power structures. It is these latter questions that especially require the protections of academic freedom, and for which, in my view, the entire doctrine was established."

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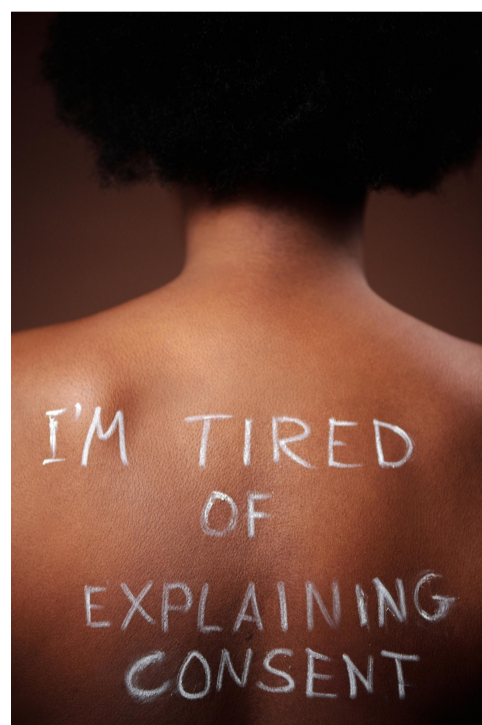


The MRFA, Political Advocacy, and the Duty to Protect Academic Freedom

Sinc Macrae

"...pursued research that diverged from the MRFA's official position, would it not be reasonable for that person to doubt that they could rely upon the association's support should their work be challenged as politically unacceptable by the university's administration?"

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)



Mandatory Consent Education?

Scharie Tavcer

"Students have a mixed understanding of what is consent. This is troubling for many reasons...they want consent education, and that they want everyone on campus to get that education."

[READ THIS ARTICLE](#)

Faculty Forum Question:

As reflected in the [October Faculty Forum Issue](#), this has been a challenging year for many MRFA members. For our last issue of the year, we want to focus on the learning which has taken place. Follow the link below to tell us what you have learned since March 2020 in under 100 words. Fact or funny, poetry or prose, we want it all. Comments will be compiled anonymously and published in *Faculty Forum*.

What have you learned while teaching remotely: About yourself, about your students, about online delivery and technology?

[Click here to tell us what you have learned...](#)

