



## Mount Royal Faculty Association Bulletin May 31, 2021

### Highlights this Week:

Colleagues,

As many were, I too was horrified by the discovery of the bodies of 215 children at Kamloops Residential School. Indigenous colleagues, members of the MRU Indigenous community and indeed, Indigenous people of Treaty 7 will be affected by this dreadful discovery. I cannot know exactly the pain that Indigenous people are feeling but I follow the lead of Associate Vice President ManyGuns found [here](#).

As President of the MRFA, I want to express my support and solidarity with our Indigenous colleagues, who are reeling from yet more evidence of the residential school system and its genocidal intent. Indigenous peoples here and across this country continue to deal with violence and oppression. The MRFA has signed the Public Interest Alberta's [Call to Action](#), which calls upon the provincial and federal government to immediately implement an action plan with all First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities to locate the graves of the thousands of missing Indigenous children so that proper cultural protocols can be observed.

As a settler and as an academic, I will continue to advocate that the *Calls to Action* of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission are fully implemented and I call upon the federal government to monitor and report on its progress on implementing these Calls to Action.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous faculty must stand together at this moment and commit to re-doubling our own decolonization efforts here at Mount Royal University. I am making that commitment and hope you join me.

In solidarity.

Lee

### OCADU Librarians Day of Action May 31

Today is the last day of employment for the four senior librarians, who have a combined 70 years of service, knowledge and commitment to their community. They were abruptly terminated May 4 (effective June 1) and two additional library positions were eliminated. Restructuring during the pandemic was the reason given by the new University Librarian and Board of Governors. *There was no substantive collegial process.* The decision taken at this publicly funded Canadian university by-passed the involvement of the librarians, students, faculty and the OCADU Senate.

- [Statement by Ana Serrano](#), President of OCADU, on library reorganization:
- [OPSEU Local 576 response](#) to OCADU President's statement on library reorganization:
- [Statements by OPSEU Local 576 Interim President Chris Thompson and OCADU librarian Marta Chudolinska](#) to the Board of Governors on May 10:

**Today is the OCADU Librarians Day of Action on social media. Please select from the attached graphics, text and accompanying and distribute on facebook, Instagram, twitter and other blogs.**

- See the [new OCADU website](#) with responses from across Canada (open letters and tweets) <https://weloveocadulibrarians.ca/> and [#WeLoveOCADULibrarians](#)

- Read why the OCADU terminations concern all Canadian faculty and librarians in the [MEDIUM MAGAZINE op-ed](#).
- Support collegial governance and [sign the petition](#). As of today, 1672 supporters have signed the petition.

### **CAUT Awards – nomination deadline June 1**

#### **Sarah Shorten Award.**

The award recognizes outstanding achievements in the promotion of the advancement of women in Canadian universities and colleges. The nomination form and procedures are available on the [CAUT website](#).

#### **CAUT Call for Nominations for the Academic Librarians' and Archivists' Distinguished Service Award.**

The award recognizes outstanding contributions by academic librarians and archivists, other academic staff, or groups to the advancement of the status and/or working conditions of academic librarians and archivists at Canadian universities and colleges. The nomination form and procedures are available on the [CAUT website](#).

#### **@mrfa.net Spam Email Filtering**

It has been brought to our attention that some MRFA emails are being filtered to spam when they are sent from the Association's @mrfa.net server. As the Association is moving to more consistent use of its separate email server, it is important that you take a moment to check your spam folder and mark @mrfa.net as safe.

#### **Question of the Week**

In the past weeks, over 150 members have provided input to the Association on their concerns about Fall 2021 delivery. The Association has reviewed, summarized and conveyed these concerns to MRU's administrators and continues to advocate on your behalf to ensure that all concerns are addressed. Members wanting to submit comments are welcome to do so using this [form](#).

**Thank you to all members who take the time to respond to these questions.** The Association continues efforts in representing your concerns and your feedback is very helpful in this process!

### **MRFA Reminders**

#### **Policies out for Member Comment**

The following Policies are open for member Comment in accordance with MRFA Policy Development Process (see article 17 of the [MRFA Policy Manual](#)). Comments may be submitted via this online comment [form](#). The deadline for comments is **June 11, 2021**.

- [Policy Article 15 Amendment – Member Engagement Policy](#)
- [Policy Article 18 Amendment – Payments Policy](#)
- [Policy Article 23 Amendment – Meeting Policy](#)

Members may also submit policy proposals to the MRFA's Bylaws and Governance Committee for consideration. Policy proposals may be submitted via this [form](#).

#### **Volunteer List to Support Members Isolating or in Quarantine**

MRFA members have volunteered to provide support to colleagues who are isolating or under quarantine due to the pandemic. This support may vary but could include things such as grocery delivery. Members who are isolating and needing support are welcome to contact any of the members, listed [online](#), to get the support you need.

### **Faculty are Asked to Complete a Profile Demonstrating the Value of PSE**

Even amidst the current challenges, we need to continue to advocate for PSE. The MRFA Advocacy Committee plans to showcase the value of the work being achieved, thereby illuminating the damaging consequences of diminished funding and support for the post-secondary landscape. If you would like to volunteer to be highlighted as part of this initiative, please fill out the [online faculty profile form](#) or contact our Advocacy Officer Frank Cotae ([fcotae@mtroyal.ca](mailto:fcotae@mtroyal.ca)). The Advocacy Committee will also be highlighting the significant impacts these budget cuts have on our students. Members are welcome to share the [online student profile form](#) with students who want to have their voice heard.

### **Faculty Members are Asked to Provide Their Contact Information**

Thank you to all members who have taken the time to provide their private contact information. If you have not yet had a chance to respond please do so now [online](#). It is important that the Association have this information on file in the event of a lockout or strike or other Association initiatives which require a high level of member engagement. Please note – this is just a matter of preparedness and is not in any way related to the current state of negotiations.

### **Google Calendar**

Instructions for how to add the MRFA Calendar to your Google Calendar are available [here](#), and the calendar is always available at [mrfa.net/calendar](http://mrfa.net/calendar).

### **Contact Us**

- [Office@mrfa.net](mailto:Office@mrfa.net) – All inquires can be directed here.
- [facultyrelations@mrfa.net](mailto:facultyrelations@mrfa.net) – all inquiries relating to member services, meetings, elections, MRFA Committees, and Association governance can be directed here.
- [LabourRelations@mrfa.net](mailto:LabourRelations@mrfa.net)– All inquires relating to the Collective Agreement and Grievances can be directed here.
- [President@mrfa.net](mailto:President@mrfa.net)– All inquires related to Association governance and external affiliations can be directed here.
- [EDI@mrfa.net](mailto:EDI@mrfa.net)– All inquires and comments relating to equity, diversity and inclusion matters can be directed here.
- [Communications@mrfa.net](mailto:Communications@mrfa.net)– All inquires relating to MRFA communications can be directed here
- [Negotiations@mrfa.net](mailto:Negotiations@mrfa.net)– All inquires relating to collective bargaining can be directed here