



MRFA
MOUNT ROYAL
FACULTY ASSOCIATION

MOUNT ROYAL
STAFF ASSOCIATION

samru



students' association
of mount royal university

Joint Statement from MRU Coalition on Bill 18

The MRU Coalition, comprised of the Mount Royal University Faculty Association (MRFA), the Students Association of Mount Royal University (SAMRU) and the Mount Royal Staff Association (MRSAs), are deeply concerned about the government's proposed Bill 18 and its implications for faculty, students and staff who receive federal research grants. We echo the concerns the Mount Royal University General Faculty Council expressed in its [motion](#) last week and request a meeting with the Minister of Advance Education to outline our concerns.

The MRU Coalition has a number of concerns related to the proposed legislation on research activities at MRU. We note that there are 135 students engaged in research through federally funded research grants. We are concerned about how Bill 18 could lead to fewer opportunities for experiential learning and to laying the foundation for researchers of the future. We note that this legislation would reduce the opportunities for Mount Royal University to expand its research funding at the same time that provincial government funding remains flat.

We are concerned by the misunderstandings of the Alberta Government regarding how researchers are awarded federal research grants. These grants are administered by arms-length agencies who organize peer reviews of research proposals to ensure they are academically rigorous and ethically sound. Grants are awarded to individuals, not universities, causing uncertainty about how the proposed Bill 18 will work in practice. We note that some MRFA faculty from equity deserving communities have expressed concerns about how Bill 18 might affect their research projects.

Finally, we are deeply distressed about Bill 18's unprecedented government interference in academic freedom, institutional autonomy and decision making. We are interested to learn how the proposed review aligns with the government's direction that universities adhere to the Chicago Principles regarding free expression.

We call upon the government and Minister of Advanced Education Sawney to meet with representatives of the MRU Coalition to hear more about our concerns and how they might be addressed.