

PRESS RELEASE
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CHALLENGING NEGOTIATIONS: MOUNT SAINT VINCENT UNIVERSITY FACULTY ASSOCIATION FILES FOR CONCILIATION

HALIFAX – The Mount Saint Vincent University Faculty Association (MSVUFA) has asked the Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration to appoint a conciliation officer. Given that the Collective Agreement expired months ago and that the last full round of negotiations was in 2018, the MSVUFA expected that it would have reached an agreement with the Board of Governors by now. The MSVUFA has tabled its full package of proposals, including financial ones, and both parties continue to negotiate language that has no direct financial implications, yet the Board of Governors consistently refuses to table its financial package or inform the Union when it will be tabling its financial package, making it impossible to make meaningful progress towards concluding a fair and reasonable Agreement in a timely manner.

The 35-year-old Collective Agreement requires an overhaul, and both parties agreed in the spring of 2021 to work collaboratively in preparing joint recommendations focused on decolonizing and on equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility to improve the Agreement in this round of negotiations. Unfortunately, in addition to delaying the tabling of its financial proposals, the Board of Governors has, for the most part, ignored these joint recommendations, not including them in its proposals and, thus far, not demonstrating amenability to the ones the MSVUFA has included.

At an institution that promotes itself as a champion for social justice, “challenging the status quo since 1873”, it is even more disappointing that the Board is failing to enact its values, encompassed by its core mission, within its own community, specifically full-time faculty, librarian, and lab instructor employees.

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