

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
8 December 2023

**STRIKE MANDATE:
MOUNT SAINT VINCENT UNIVERSITY FACULTY ASSOCIATION VOTES “YES” IN STRIKE VOTE**

HALIFAX – The Mount Saint Vincent University Faculty Association (MSVUFA), the union representing all full-time faculty, librarians, and laboratory instructors at MSVU, have voted in favour of a strike mandate. With 99% of members voting, 97% voted “YES” in supporting their bargaining team as it heads into conciliation with the employer in early January. The union notified the MSVU Board of Governors on 12 May 2023 that it was prepared to bargain as per the Trade Union Act. Our contract expired 30 June 2023.

After approximately 75 hours and 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 while both parties have continued to negotiate language that has no direct financial implications, the Board of Governors has consistently refused to table 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 for concrete actions that focus on decolonizing and on equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA) 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.

The MSVUFA is seeking a fair and equitable settlement to ensure parity with other Nova Scotian and regional universities and to advance decolonizing and EDIA efforts. 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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