



September 21, 2021

The Hon. Tom Osborne
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 8700
Confederation Building
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Osborne:

I am writing in follow up to Dr. Timmons' September 16, 2021 letter to you regarding the *Memorial University Act*.

MUNFA disagrees with Dr. Timmons' assertion that the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents should, in essence, act as gatekeepers for feedback on revisions to the *Memorial University Act*. To be clear, MUNFA is not a "group internal to Memorial" in the sense that we do not report into Dr. Timmons or the Board of Regents. Instead, MUNFA is the recognized bargaining agent for full-time academic staff at Memorial University and thus MUNFA's voice should be recognized as distinct, yet complementary, to the Board of Regents when seeking feedback on the *Memorial University Act*. This holds true for other labour unions represented at Memorial University, as well as the Canadian Federation of Students – NL and the four students' unions at Memorial.

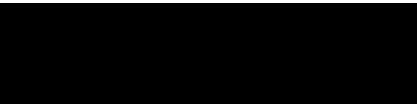
Further, Dr. Timmons' indication that the high-level policy direction shared with MUNFA was "well-received in [our] meeting" does not accurately reflect our interpretation of our meeting on September 2, 2021. Although MUNFA expressed support for faculty representation on the Board of Regents, as we were not provided documentation prior to our discussion, we could not provide meaningful feedback on revisions at that time.

As the NL legislature reconvenes on October 18, 2021, MUNFA will be providing our own submission to Government on October 15, 2021. In addition, we once again urge the Government to consider a broader consultative process.

Given Memorial University's special obligation to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, and as the only public university in our province, we urge the Government to open this process for further consultation to ensure all stakeholders are heard. As stated in our previous letter, Memorial University is one of the flagship institutions of Newfoundland and Labrador. The daily lives of everybody in this province are affected by MUNL graduates, from health and education professionals to engineers, to poets, songwriters, and playwrights. The stakes of getting this process right, and being seen and trusted to get it right, cannot be overstated.

We once again welcome a response.

Sincerely,


Josh Lepawsky, PhD
President, MUNFA

cc. Honourable Andrew Furey, Premier
Dr. Vianne Timmons, Memorial University President
Memorial University Board of Regents