

**February 1, 2022**  
**For Immediate Release**

## **Acadia Faculty on Strike**

Wolfville-- The Acadia University Faculty Association (AUFA) began a legal strike today after efforts to negotiate a fair collective agreement with Acadia's Board of Governors failed.

AUFA set a strike deadline of February 1 at 12:01am after meetings with the provincially appointed conciliator failed to result in substantial progress in negotiations. On Friday, January 14, the conciliator filed a report declaring an impasse. Discussions during the 14-day cooling-off period failed to produce an acceptable offer from the Board team.

AUFA is committed to improving the academic sector through a gradual increase in tenure-stream faculty to meet increasing student enrolment, improved wages and working conditions for part-time faculty, a commitment to increasing the diversity of faculty through dedicated positions for Indigenous faculty and improvements to the hiring process, and salaries for full- and part-time faculty that do not fall too far below cost of living increases. Unfortunately, the Board's latest counterproposal does not bring us closer to an agreement that achieves these essential investments.

AUFA President Andrew Biro expressed the collective frustration currently felt by Acadia's faculty: "We value the quality education Acadia provides its students, and Acadia's faculty have gone above and beyond to support our students through these past two years of the pandemic. Unfortunately the Board has been unwilling to acknowledge the importance of faculty or recognize that decent working conditions guaranteed by a fair and equitable contract are paramount for us to continue to serve our important role in sustaining Acadia's strong academic programming."

AUFA was pushed toward job action because the Board's negotiating team refused to take the collective bargaining process seriously from the very beginning. They insisted on starting the process late, were unprepared when they finally agreed to meet, filed for conciliation before they even responded to most proposals, and walked away from the table without ever really trying to reach an agreement.

AUFA's members stand united behind their negotiating team. In November, 90% of the membership participated in a strike authorization vote and 94% of those voted in favour of authorising a strike. "Ultimately, the only way to a resolution is at the bargaining table, so the Board is going to have to commit to bargaining in good faith for a collective agreement that is fair to our members and acknowledges the value of Acadia's faculty," said Biro. "We remain committed to the process but are withdrawing our labour until we reach an agreement with the Board on a fair and equitable agreement."

The Acadia University Faculty Association is the certified bargaining agent for 350 full-time and part-time professors, librarians, archivists, and instructors at Acadia University. Follow us on Twitter (@AcadiaFaculty) for further information and updates.

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