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MOUNT ROYAL **STAFF ASSOCIATION** 

June 2026 Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Michelle LoGullo

 Listen

Greetings!

Our MRSA office has experienced a remarkably busy month, focused on advocate support for our members within the university, and engagement in provincial lobbying efforts.

On May 29, we participated in several events of an organized provincial Fight Back Now day, (including a MRU march organized by the MRFA, the downtown march and a huge event at Riley Park). The focus was to bring much-needed awareness to the core challenges facing Albertans, including housing affordability, food security, wages, pensions, and the state of our education and healthcare systems. Addressing these vital areas needs to take priority over pursuing a mandate that Albertans did not ask for.

The start of our march from City Hall and the journey to McDougall Centre!



Where we ended up:



There were hundreds of folks that participated. I hope you will consider lending your time and voices to one of these events to express your concerns in the near future.

General Meeting and Election Results

On May 11 and 12 we held our General Elections for the MRSA. I want to extend a warm welcome to our elected members of the Board:

- Crystal Koch (VP 2026-2028)
- Shane Steininger (VP 2026-2027)
- Andy Lee (Treasurer 2026-2028)
- Beverly Van Horne (DAL 2026-2028)
- Robin Randall (DAL 2026-2028)
- Brad Congram (DAL 2026-2028)
- Valbona Pennoyer (DAL 2026-2027)

Returning:

- Naomi Jamieson (DAL 2025-2027)
- Laura Medeiros De Araujo (DAL 2025-2027)
- Rona Reitsema (DAL 2025-2027)

Sincere thanks to our outgoing Board members for their time and commitment:

- Hina Arshad (DAL)
- Mike Durnie (DAL)

Thank you to those that attended our General Meeting on May 20. We had a great turn out and successfully passed our revised [Constitution and new Bylaws!](#) We appreciate the time members made to attend our Town Hall sessions to hear more details and ask questions about this new document.

MRSA Pancake Breakfast

Did you get branded?

On June 2 the Social Engagement Committee hosted a pancake breakfast to celebrate the 48th Anniversary of the MRSA and launch us into Stampede! While the weather was not very warm and sunny, the smiles and fun were plenty in the Lincoln Park Room where we had to pivot to party.

A HUGE thank you to Alex Annett, Jamie Dardarian, Geneva Desrosiers, Michelle Graves and the rest of the committee for organizing this extremely successful event.



Thanks also go to our volunteers who helped serve up. We had 200 registered members attend, and an additional 100 members walked up. Thankfully we made the food stretch!

Lots of gratitude is extended to the volunteers from the Batter Boys for offering their services to us. Our greeters were amazing and the folks in the kitchen worked hard on those grills.

I think everyone had a good time and we hope to do this again. Yahoo y'all!

Indigenous Honouring Ceremony and Convocation

Thank you to those that have volunteered their time for this very special week. June 9 - 12 MRU will be hosting Convocation ceremonies and this can't happen without the time you give to the MRU community. You are appreciated!

Summer hours and Stampede morning

A reminder that summer hours are upon us! Starting July 2 - Aug. 14 we will be closing at 4:00 pm. Kindly reduce your lunch hours to 30 minutes to reflect this change of schedule.

Also, we will be closed the morning of July 3, (8:30 - 12:00) for Stampede Parade. You will not have to claim this time on your timesheet since this is a university closure as per Article 24.2(b) in our CA.

Last thoughts

Many of you will be taking some time off for summer activities and down time. I wish you safe travels and lots of relaxation and fun no matter where you end up or what you plan to do.

We will not be doing a July newsletter due to scheduling and vacations in the MRSA Office. Be safe and we'll connect again in August!

[Michelle LoGullo, President](#)



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

L a i n e F o w l e r

 Listen

Things have been busy at MRSA. May was a great month, and June is already off to a strong start. Thank you to everyone who joined us on June 2 for pancakes and good company—it was great to see so many members out.

Over the summer, I'll be working on several projects that we're looking forward to rolling out. This includes a refresh of the mrustaff.ca website and moving our newsletter to a new platform.

I'll also be developing a plan to train Labour Relations Committee members to provide representation to members. The goal is to improve access to timely support, while also building knowledge across the membership. Strengthening this capacity will help with enforcing the collective agreement and preparing for future negotiations, and is an important step in supporting the long-term sustainability of the MRSA.

I'll also be taking some vacation time this summer, and I hope you're able to do the same—take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the season.

Labour Relations Update

Did you know that your @mtroyal.ca email account—and everything in it—belongs to your employer?

We've had a few recent questions about managers accessing employee email accounts during leaves. This can happen, especially to ensure work continues in your absence. While MRU has processes to limit access to work-related information, anything in your account may be reviewed if needed.

For that reason, it's a good idea to avoid using your work email for personal, sensitive, or confidential matters.

This comes up often with Employee Wellness and MRSA communications. Using a personal email helps protect your privacy and makes things easier if you're on leave—you won't need to check your work account to stay in touch.

It's especially important when reaching out to the MRSA for advice. General questions are usually fine, but if you're dealing with something more sensitive or potentially in conflict with your employer, it's best to keep that off your work email. MRU does have the ability to audit employee accounts if required.

This isn't meant to cause concern—there's no indication that MRU audits employee emails. It's simply a reminder to be mindful and to take steps to protect your personal information and confidential conversations.

Laine Fowler, Executive Director

Committee Updates

 Listen

Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee

If you have an immediate concern regarding your workplace health and safety, please contact MRU Environmental Health and Safety (EHS). Their website has numerous resources to support the Health and Safety needs

of the campus community, including incident reporting. Please check out their website for more information: [Environmental Health and Safety](#). If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact your JOHSC representatives: Crystal Koch and Shane Steininger.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Committee

Activate your **Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI)** account.

Did you know MRU is an employer partner with the [Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion](#) (CCDI)? That means every employee has free access to a rich library of resources on equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility, including webinars, handouts, toolkits and research.

It's a wonderful resource for anyone looking to deepen their learning, bring fresh perspectives into their work, or simply stay connected to current conversations in the EDI space.

Sign up with your mtroyal email to activate your complimentary account and start exploring.

Social Engagement Committee

May Plant Party – Bugs, Transplanting & Seeding

A big thank you to Barry Moench from the MRU Greenhouse for leading our annual May Plant Party on May 13th. Barry provided our members with an excellent hands-on tutorial and even shared plant cuttings for everyone to begin their own home collections. We appreciate your expertise, Barry!



 Listen

Coffee Chat

Please join us on Wednesday, June 24 from 2:00 - 2:30 p.m. for our last coffee chat before the summer break. There is no topic this month and will be left open for a general debrief. The monthly chats will resume in September.



To join, click on this [link](https://meet.google.com/fgm-gose-dac?hs=122&authuser=0) or copy and paste this URL into your browser:

<https://meet.google.com/fgm-gose-dac?hs=122&authuser=0>

Credit Course Tuition

To support Employee development through post-secondary level coursework at the undergraduate and graduate level(s), the University administers an annual grant of \$15,000 for the purposes of reimbursing eligible credit course tuition only subject to the conditions noted on the application.

Applications (paper or digital) are now being accepted for courses taken at an accredited post-secondary institution between July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Applications can be emailed to the MRSA office at mrusa@mrustaff.ca or placed in the MRSA mail box beside W301D.



Spring Education, Development and Training (EDT) Funding

If you are taking any professional or personal development courses that begin between May 1 - June 30, you can apply for funding through the MRSA EDT Committee. Applications are submitted via the EDT database; Mount Royal login credentials are required to access. The Spring application period closes on June 30, 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact the EDT Committee at edtmrsa@mtroyal.ca



Spring Dependent/Spouse Scholarship Application Period

Applications are now being accepted via the online EDT Funding webpage. The deadline to submit scholarship applications for the Spring semester is June 30, 2026. Refer to Section 29.1 of the MRSA Collective Agreement for scholarship conditions. Full time registration is two (2) courses/six (6) credits or equivalent for Spring/Summer semesters.

See the online [EDT Guide and FAQ's](#) for more information.



MRSA members have access to exclusive savings to attend **The Art of Leadership Women**, Canada's largest and highest-rated women's

leadership conference! Click [here](#) for [information on pricing and presenters](#).

MRU Events & Notices

 Listen

Indigenous Honouring Ceremonies 2026

Join us in celebrating the incredible achievements of Mount Royal's Indigenous graduating students. Experience celebratory messages, traditional songs, a blanket ceremony and inspiring speeches on June 9 from 10 a.m. to noon.



Everyone is welcome!

See yourself in the picture

A reminder that the **Employee Community Snapshot** – a short, confidential demographic survey designed to help Mount Royal understand the diversity of our community – remains open. If your circumstances change (e.g., caregiver status, education level, etc.) or if you joined Mount Royal after the 2025-26 Fall Semester, **just log in** and update your information. We are analyzing the initial data collection period and plan to share the 2025-26 snapshot this fall. **Learn more**.

Teaching and Learning Expo: Registration Now Open

Dates & Times:

August 24: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

August 25 - 27: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY'S



Inspire. Imagine. Ignite.

Location:

Riddell Library and Learning Centre

Explore transformative teaching methods and best practices from the MRU community. Be inspired by your colleagues' teaching methodologies, imagine transformative learning environments, and ignite a collective passion for educational excellence. The event is open to MRU faculty, staff, students, and administrators. Learn more and register at mru.ca/tlx.

MasterClass for Work

As part of MRU's commitment to providing professional development to our employees, we are excited to provide access to MasterClass for Work. MasterClass is an immersive learning experience. The curriculum for each MasterClass is designed by the instructor. Each class features about 20 video lessons, at an average of 10 minutes per lesson. You can learn on your own terms—in bite-size pieces or in a single binge. **Learn more and register.** Please see a catalogue of MasterClass content [here](#).

Employee Wellness

We encourage you to consider participating in MRU's Wellness Wednesdays. These events are initiated by MRU Employee Wellness and are a great addition to supporting wellness and engagement with MRU, as well as getting more from your employer.

June's theme is Physical Health. Please review the [Wellness Wednesdays page](#) for a variety of services and events and activities!



Personal Retirement Session (Playing Your Cards Right)

Wednesday, October 14, 2026, 9am to 4pm,
Online.

This session is facilitated by an external facilitator and focuses on retirement in general, not focused on MRU or LAPP.



This one-day workshop is designed as an introduction to personal retirement planning for employees who are age 45 and older and would like to evaluate their ability to maintain their lifestyle at a chosen retirement date.

The workshop will help you determine:

- what is involved in the process of planning your own retirement
- learn the elements of a retirement plan
- understand how to put together a personal retirement income plan

To register, please email benefits@mtroyal.ca. Once registered and closer to the session date, the benefits team will send out the WebEx link, the link to the course materials, and pre-course documents.

Upcoming ARTA Webinars - Summer 2026

This presentation will provide a brief history of ARTA (Alberta Retired Teachers Association) and we will discuss all the programs and perks

of joining ARTA in addition to the Retiree Benefits Plan. The health, travel and dental benefits ARTA offers its members will be outlined. ARTA is a vibrant, member-centered organization, proactively identifying the needs of its members, join us and discover how ARTA can ease your way into retirement.

- July 8 @ 11:00 AM: [Registration Link](#)
- August 5 @ 10:00 AM: [Registration Link](#)

Engagement, Awareness and Advocacy

 Listen

Engagement, Awareness and Advocacy

Parkland Institute - Save Our CPP (Recording)

On March 11, [Parkland Institute](#) held a virtual town hall to learn more about the proposed changes to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and the proposed Alberta Pension Plan (APP).

These changes could have significant implications for retirement security in Alberta. This session is an important opportunity to better understand what is being proposed, how it may affect the future of the CPP, and what it could mean for working Albertans.

Ellen Nygaard, former senior adviser in public policy at the Government of Alberta, and Ricardo Acuña, Executive Director of the Parkland Institute break down the proposal and answer your questions.

Please find the [recording of this Town Hall](#) for your interest. The actual recording starts at the 14:57 mark.

I'm including this article for your further reading. It was written by Nazak Birjandifar, Advocacy Officer for the MRFA. Calgary Herald (Mar.

Newsletter Feedback

MOUNT ROYAL **STAFF ASSOCIATION** 

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