

24 May 2019

Athana Mentzelopoulos
Deputy Minister Treasury Board and Finance Government of Alberta

Re: Invitation to Consultation: Public Sector Wage Reopener Arbitrations Delay

As a unified, non-partisan voice for most of Alberta's public post-secondary faculty associations, ACIFA would like to take this opportunity to provide initial feedback on the government's contemplation of delaying Public Sector Wage Reopener Arbitrations. ACIFA is supporting the SAIT and Keyano Faculty Associations, as well as other associations likely directly impacted, notably Lethbridge College and Portage College, in proposing that the government does not intervene in post-secondary bargaining.

We have come through a period of direct government intervention and mandates in collective bargaining. Some mandates of the previous government continue to be utilized, **and we are optimistic of a return to a period of true collective bargaining.**

We are encouraged that this government seeks to reduce provincial red tape and mandates on universities and colleges, freeing them to innovate more, and with less compliance to bureaucratic mandates.

Public post-secondary institutions are autonomous by design. In order to optimally function in terms of innovation and in service to students, the autonomy should be respected and maintained.

We understand that Alberta and the government will be challenged to address our current economic circumstances and that this will require difficult decisions. We recognize that these decisions may impact individual funding of post-secondary institutions and thus impact decisions by Boards of Governors in terms of mandates at the bargaining table. This is part of normal collective bargaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our submission. We look forward to future opportunities to consult with the government. **Please let us know when might be a convenient time to meet with us.**

Sincerely,



Anna Beukes, PhD

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