



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université

May 24, 2019

BY E-MAIL: premier@gov.nl.ca

Premier Dwight Ball
Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador
The Office of the Premier
Confederation Building, East Block
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
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Dear Premier Ball,

On behalf of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), I would first like to express our congratulations on your re-election as Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador.

At the CAUT Council meeting held May 2-5, 2019, delegates representing more than 72,000 academic and general staff from universities and colleges across the country unanimously passed a motion calling on the government of Newfoundland and Labrador to amend the *Memorial University Act* to allow for faculty representation on its Board of Regents.

Memorial is an outlier for being the only university in Canada that does not permit faculty representation on its board. To be in line with best practices in collegial governance, the Board should reflect the diversity of the community and include representatives of administration, academic staff, alumni, non-academic staff and students. To make the right decisions, the right people need to be involved. When faculty are involved in governance, the quality of education and high academic standards are protected.

As outlined in the Terms of Reference for the committee to review post-secondary education in the province, there are a number of challenges facing the sector. An amendment to the *Memorial University Act* to permit the appointment or election of faculty to the Board of Regents is a critical step. With this change, Memorial University will be better able to shape and deliver on the vision of an "effective, sustainable, accountable, accessible, high quality education, contributing to

knowledge creation and transfer, and preparing post-secondary students for their future personal and professional lives."

Sincerely,



David Robinson
Executive Director

/mmp

cc. Alison Coffin, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Newfoundland and Labrador
(info@nl.ndp.ca)
Ches Crosbie, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Newfoundland and Labrador
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Dr. Robin Whitaker, President, Memorial University Faculty Association
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Memorial University Board of Regents (gcollins@mun.ca; tinias@mun.ca).