

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

December 2021

## President's Message: Return to Campus Grievance Update

Dr. Tara Perrot, DFA President, 2021-2022  
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While the term may have been more quiet than we anticipated back in August, and some things did look satisfyingly 'normal', it was exhausting to navigate our duties during a term that followed months of dealing with the day-to-day impacts of this pandemic on our work and personal lives. As soon as possible, take the time over the holiday break to care for yourself, enjoy the company of family and friends, relax and rejuvenate.

### The Great Canadian Flood Relief Fundraiser

DFA Member Jason Brown is helping to organize The Great Canadian Flood Relief Concert, an online streaming fundraiser for flood victims in British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland & Labrador. Donations will be taken by the Canadian Red Cross. Almost 30 performers from across Canada will participate in the concert scheduled for this Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-11 pm (Atlantic Time). It is free to watch, and all performers and organizers are donating their time. Some of the performers from the east coast include: Heather Rankin, Ian Sherwood, Erin Costelo, Dave Carroll, Alan Syliboy, Keonte Beals and Terra Spencer. Those from the west coast include Bill Henderson (Chilliwack), Alex Cuba, Harry Manx, Odds, Shari Ulrich and James Keelaghan. For info, and to join, visit [www.floodrelief.ca](http://www.floodrelief.ca).

### Return to Campus Grievance Update

You have no doubt seen the [latest memo](#) (December 8, 2021) from the Provost regarding the winter term. The move to requiring full vaccination for everyone on campus comes at the end of a term with less than perfect compliance with respect to monitoring vaccine status or repeat negative testing. As we head into the winter term, there are multiple reasons to be vigilant. Many of us will experience waning immunity as we had our second COVID-19 vaccine dose six months ago, there are concerning new variants, and recent real-life examples on Nova Scotia campuses that show how a few cases can spread. The DFA met with the Provost a day before the memo was released after having sent a clear message of our concerns on a draft circulated to us a few days prior. While the final memo did take into account some of our comments, it remains that they expect us to entrust our safety to the ability of the

Administration to adequately monitor and enforce the terms of the memo and this is unacceptable. On December 13, we sent a [reply to the Provost](#) that reiterates the continued need for our Members to make the choice to teach on-line in the winter term.

### **Big Win for Academic Freedom: CAUT Lifts Censure Against University of Toronto**

At the annual CAUT Council meeting in November, members voted in favor of lifting the censure imposed last April against the University of Toronto. The censure was very effective at exerting pressure on UofT to act on CAUT recommendations that the University administration re-offer Dr. Valentina Azarova the position of Director of the International Human Rights Program in the Faculty of Law. The University has also promised to extend academic freedom to academic managerial positions and develop policies that prohibit donor interference in internal academic affairs. See [CAUT newswire](#) for more details.

### **DFA Bargaining Update**

We are pleased to announce the members of DFA 2021 Bargaining Team. Our Chief Negotiator is David Wallbridge from Pink Larkin. Other team members include: Stefanie Colombo, Patti Doyle-Bedwell, Katherine Fierlbeck, Tim Juckes, Barbara MacLennan, Shelley McKibbon and Lynn Purves. More details on these members will be circulated via email in early 2022.

### **UMFA Strike Ends**

After more than 30 days of strike action, the University of Manitoba Faculty Association ratified an agreement on Monday, December 6. “Our members were on strike to improve working conditions for faculty and learning conditions for students,” said Orvie Dingwall, UMFA President. “This agreement will improve equity for the lowest paid and most precarious UMFA members, while also ensuring that we can recruit and retain professors, instructors, and librarians at the University of Manitoba.” The details of the agreement are not yet available but you can [read UMFA’s message here](#). The DFA contributed \$2000 to the strike efforts. On three occasions, DFA Executive Member Dominic Silvio (Killam Library) flew out using his own resources to join his UMFA colleagues on the picket lines. We recognize Dominic for this tremendous display of solidarity.

### **Acadia University Faculty Association Delivers Strike Mandate**

The faculty at Acadia University delivered a strong strike mandate in late November - 90% of their bargaining unit members voted, and 94% of those voters authorized a strike mandate. The Acadia Board walked away from bargaining on November 2 without responding to any of AUFA’s proposals, and filed for conciliation. One important issue left on the table was the need for the employer to improve working conditions by committing to:

- a cluster/group hire of Indigenous scholars;
- a stable number of full-time faculty to preserve Acadia’s quality educational experience;
- improved security, benefits, and wages for part-time faculty; and
- a salary that keeps up with the cost of living.

You can read more [here](#).

## **DFA Refreshed Website Now Live**

We are happy to announce the launch of a refreshed website for our Members! You can still find us at [dfa.ns.ca](http://dfa.ns.ca) but you will notice a cleaner and more streamlined site. Some of the new features include:

- a calendar of meetings, events and special dates;
- an In Memoriam section recognizing DFA's active members who recently passed away;
- Quick Facts highlighting information about our pension, Collective Agreement and other interesting information; and
- a link to our new website for the public, [WeAreDal.ca](http://WeAreDal.ca) where you can find Member profiles, public event information and news/issues of interest to students and their parents, the Dalhousie community and the broader public.

We have removed the Members only section. You can now find links to Collective Agreements and past bargaining information on the home page. Executive Meeting Minutes and General Meeting Information can be found on password protected pages (upper right hand corner of the home page). Please email DFA Communications Officer [Catherine.Wall@dal.ca](mailto:Catherine.Wall@dal.ca) for the passwords, which will change each spring after the new Executive for that year is in place. When we begin bargaining, updates will be sent to your non-Dal email. If you have never provided us with a non-Dal email or if your email has changed in the past year, please notify [Catherine.Wall@dal.ca](mailto:Catherine.Wall@dal.ca) so we can update our records.

## **Faculty Profiles Social Media Campaign and Website**

In the early stages of the pandemic, DFA profiled many of our members on our social media platforms. The campaign attracted significant attention, so we will be doing it again in 2022. If you are interested in being profiled for social media (and/or our public website) please contact [Catherine.Wall@dal.ca](mailto:Catherine.Wall@dal.ca). It only takes a few minutes on your part to answer two or three brief questions, provide a couple photos of yourself, and a bit of info on your research.

## **Holiday Office Hours**

The DFA office will be closed for the holidays on Tuesday December 21, 2021 and reopen on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. If you have an urgent matter over the holidays, please email [DFA President Elect David Westwood](mailto:DFA President Elect David Westwood).

Dr. Tara Perrot  
DFA President, 2021-2022

*For comments and feedback, please contact [Catherine.Wall@dal.ca](mailto:Catherine.Wall@dal.ca)*

*Find us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @dalfacultyassoc*