

For Immediate Release

Dalhousie Faculty Association Members Deliver Strong Strike Mandate

(Friday, December 16, 2022 – Halifax, NS) – Dalhousie faculty are prepared to strike if a new collective agreement cannot be reached. This week, more than 92% of the members who cast ballots in the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) strike vote said “yes” to strike action in support of the bargaining team's position in collective bargaining.

The strike vote was conducted December 13-15, 2022. A total of 82.2% of the DFA Membership participated in the vote. Of those who voted, an overwhelming 92.2% voted in favour of going on strike if an acceptable deal cannot be reached at the bargaining table.

“This gives our bargaining team a powerful strike mandate as we head into conciliation early in the new year,” says DFA President David Westwood. “With this vote we have told the Board in no uncertain terms that we will not accept an offer that would undermine equity and fairness, and that would erode fundamental academic principles that lie at the heart of this institution.”

One of the central issues is salary increase. The Board has offered a three-year contract with a salary increase of 2.0% in the first year, and 1.5% in each of the two following years. Over a three year period, this is less than the increases negotiated by Acadia, Université de Ste. Anne, and the Nova Scotia Civil Service.

The current collective agreement between the DFA and the Dalhousie Board of Governors expired June 30, 2022. DFA filed Notice to Bargain on April 1, 2022. Bargaining began September 29 and the teams have been at the table together nine times. Two additional meetings were cancelled by the Board. The two sides remain very far apart of several issues.

The DFA filed for conciliation on November 9, and conciliation dates have been scheduled for January 4 and 5, 2023. Peter Lloyd has been appointed as the conciliation officer. Mr. Lloyd was the conciliator involved in the 2020 round of collective bargaining. If an agreement is not reached during conciliation, Mr. Lloyd submits a “no board report” to the Minister of Labour. Once that report is filed, there is a two-week “cooling off” period and then legal job action can begin.

“Nobody - including faculty members - wants a strike,” said Westwood. “On the heels of the CUPE strike earlier this fall, the disruption caused by job action is fresh in everyone’s minds. But our membership is prepared to take that step should the Board refuse to put a reasonable set of proposals on the table.”

The DFA is the certified bargaining agent for more than 1,000 professors, instructors, librarians and professional counsellors at Dalhousie University. As a volunteer-based organization, we advocate for the rights of our members and work to protect and advance the academic integrity of the University.

DFA’s Bargaining Bulletins can be found [here](#).

