



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Edmonton Area Faculty Associations in Solidarity with ULFA

March 10, 2022 Edmonton – Faculty Associations from across Edmonton are holding a solidarity rally for our colleagues at the University of Lethbridge Faculty Association (ULFA) that have been on the picket line for over four weeks.

In those four weeks, the University of Lethbridge Administration has refused to return to the bargaining table and work with ULFA to reach a settlement that would return students and faculty to the classroom. So far, the U of L Administration have not responded to an offer sent to them on Feb 12th (over 28 days ago) and have declined all invitations to meet with the ULFA negotiating team since the beginning of the job action. The U of L Board of Governors have become so dug in that ULFA had to file a bargaining in bad faith complaint last week.

“Our rally is about showing the faculty, instructors, librarians, and research staff at U of L that we have their backs and will stand up with them,” says David Powell, president of the Athabasca University Faculty Association. “Post-secondary workers in Alberta are united with Lethbridge and face the same struggles of secret mandates and erosion of our jobs. We applaud the faculty at Lethbridge for their strong stance to defend their working conditions, as they are their students’ learning conditions.”

The main bargaining issue that is holding the parties back is the secret mandate the Government of Alberta has delivered to the University of Lethbridge Board of Governors. This secret mandate forces the employer to not tell the union what wages, benefits or language can or cannot be in the collective agreement.

“As academic staff, we know that all faculty and their students want to be back in the classroom,” noted David Powell. “If the employer’s bargaining team wanted an end to this job action, they need to be empowered to negotiate and not just carry forward the marching orders of a third party.”

Please join us at our rally on **Saturday, March 12th at 4pm in front of the Legislature Building**. There will be representatives from all of the Edmonton Area Faculty Associations that will be available for comments and to answer the media’s questions.