



January 13, 2021

## In this issue:

- [Bill 28/PSSA – Government Files Appeal](#)
- [Promotion Appeals – contact the office](#)
- [Is your unit hiring? Read this!](#)
- [CAUT committee vacancies](#)
- [MOFA statement in response to January 5 cabinet shuffle](#)
- [WCB claims for COVID-19](#)

---

### **Bill 28/PSSA – Government files Appeal**

The MB Government has filed their appeal of the Court of Queen’s bench decision declaring Bill 28/the PSSA unconstitutional. The appeal by-and-large repeats previously-made arguments, and can be read [on the UMFA website](#). The PDPS (the group of unions challenging the PSSA) has 30 days to file a response – it will appear on the “Issues” tab on the UMFA website once it’s filed.

The remedies portion of the trial is now scheduled for November 22-26, 2021, and will be heard by the Justice who heard the original challenge. Court proceedings are open to the public, and documentation will appear on the UMFA website’s “Issues” tab.

---

### **Promotion Appeals – contact the office for advice**

For several years the promotion appeal committee described in the Collective Agreement had not been struck. Last year we made sure it was properly constituted, and the promotion appeal that we helped send to the committee was successful. If your promotion application is denied this year, contact the office ASAP for advice: [faum@umfa.ca](mailto:faum@umfa.ca) / 474.8272.

---

### **Is your department/unit hiring? You should read this!**

Deciding on departmental hiring priorities, search procedures, and methods of evaluating applicants for academic positions are very important parts of collegial governance.

Did you know that...

- Your Dean/Director must first ensure there’s a planning/priorities meeting of UMFA members prior to hiring an UMFA position?
- UMFA members are to make up the majority of voting members on hiring committees?
- That you can report problems with a hiring committee to UMFA’s Executive Director without breaching confidentiality?

Read more on hiring procedures in our “Know your CA” pamphlet series:

- [Article 18: Hiring](#)
  - [Knowing and Using your CA](#)
-

## CAUT committee vacancies

CAUT is looking for members to sit on a number of standing committees:

- Equity Committee
- Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee
- Collective Bargaining and Economic Benefits Committee
- Librarians' and Archivists' Committee

Committee descriptions are found [on the CAUT website](#). Fill out the nomination form found here: [Standing Committee Nomination Form](#).

The deadline for nominations is **February 1, 2021**.

---

## MOFA statement in response to January 5 cabinet shuffle

On behalf of our members and the broader university community, MOFA is encouraged that the responsibility for advanced education has been restored as a proper stand alone Ministry. Since this government has taken office and especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen cuts to post-secondary funding as tuition fees have increased, while the province continues to interfere in the operations of our institutions. We sincerely hope that this shuffle signifies a shift away from the austerity and Americanization of our universities, rather than an attempt to distract Manitobans from the government's record during the pandemic.

As a former public-school educator, Minister Ewasko must recognize the important role that our post-secondary institutions play in providing affordable and high quality post-secondary education in Manitoba and the contributions of universities and graduates to our economy. Additionally, we hope that Minister Ewasko will recognize the clear value in ensuring that our public post-secondary system is properly funded and remains independent from the influence and interference by the provincial government.

---

## Come into contact with COVID-19 at work? File a WCB claim ASAP!

COVID-19 is a workplace safety and health issue. If you contract COVID-19 or come into contact with someone who has it, you should file a claim with the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) ASAP – whether you're sick or not.

Filing a WCB claim allows you to claim benefits from the WCB related to any current illness, and also registers your illness or contact in the system in case additional symptoms or complications develop in the future. It's important to file a claim because:

- a. If you later develop symptoms your claim will already be in-process;
- b. If you don't end up developing symptoms or requiring WCB support, your claim can simply be withdrawn – no harm, no foul.

For more info, please see the [WCB's updated COVID-19 Q&As](#) and contact the office – [FAUM@umfa.ca](mailto:FAUM@umfa.ca) / 474.8272.

---

*If you have information or an event that you'd like to share in an upcoming issue, please email the item to [umfa-communications@umfa.ca](mailto:umfa-communications@umfa.ca) for consideration.*