

MEDIATION COMMUNICATION

Mediation can help Board and ULFA reach new collective agreement

There has been significant progress in negotiations between the Board's Bargaining Team and ULFA over the last few bargaining sessions. Both parties have exchanged full packages and have been able to narrow down the outstanding issues. At this point, the Board's Team believes a framework for an agreement is within the parties' grasp.

That said, as ULFA's website notes, 609 days have passed since the Notice to Commence Collective Bargaining was issued. In the meantime, approximately 20 post-secondary institutions in Alberta have successfully settled their collective agreements. With only a few issues left to resolve, both parties share an interest in concluding this round of bargaining as effectively and efficiently as possible.

In this spirit, the Board's Bargaining Team has requested formal mediation so that an independent third-party can assist us in reaching a new collective agreement. The Board's Bargaining Team agrees with ULFA that good progress is being made and our request for formal mediation is not to suggest otherwise. Rather, we believe that introducing a neutral third-party mediator, one who can help focus and further narrow the remaining issues, is a positive step that will assist in resolving the outstanding matters relatively quickly.

The mediation process has been effective at reaching agreements across the province in our sector, including at Mount Royal University and the University of Alberta. We are confident that a fresh perspective from a professional mediator will help finalize a new collective agreement.

The Board's Bargaining Team has committed to transparency throughout this process by providing regular updates on these negotiations. For further updates in bargaining, please check our website: <https://www.ulethbridge.ca/hr/bargaining-updates-ulfa>