

Mount Royal University Students' Association Expresses Solidarity with Alberta Students' Associations and Unions

The Students' Association of Mount Royal University (SAMRU) stands in solidarity with the University of Calgary Students' Union, the University of Alberta Students' Union, the Graduate Students' Association of the University of Calgary, and the Graduate Students' Association of the University of Alberta in their condemnation of the recent police actions against students during the peaceful protests on May 9th and May 10th respectively. We support our fellow student representatives in their call for accountability and commend their efforts to uphold the rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, as guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The events that unfolded at the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta are deeply concerning. What we believe is a disproportionate escalation of force to peaceful demonstrations could have profound implications for student welfare and confidence in university governance.

SAMRU believes in the importance of respectful dialogue and non-violent resolution of conflicts. The response to the student protests at the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta highlights the need for post-secondary institutions to engage more constructively with their students to seek peaceful solutions to disputes, especially those that evoke strong emotions and diverse viewpoints.

We call on all university administrations to prioritize communication over confrontation and to work together with student organizations to foster a safe and supportive environment for all students. This approach aligns with our own collaborative relationship with the MRU administration.

SAMRU will continue to advocate for these principles within our community and support our peers at the University of Calgary, the University of Alberta, and beyond as they strive to ensure their voices are heard and respected. We remain committed to defending the rights of students to express their views safely and responsibly on campus, and will work with all relevant parties to safeguard these rights.

Tala Abu Hayyaneh, SAMRU REC President, on behalf of the 2024/2025 SAMRU Representation Executive Council