



**UPEIFA**  
UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND  
**FACULTY ASSOCIATION**

September 24, 2021

Dr. Alaa Abd-El-Aziz  
President  
University of Prince Edward Island

RE: Ventilation Update

Dear President Abd-El-Aziz,

Given that ultimate responsibility rests with the UPEI President and Board of Governors to protect the UPEI campus community and guests from infectious diseases (*UPEI Infectious Disease Policy*), the UPEI Faculty Association is writing to request an update on the evaluation of the UPEI campus ventilation systems.

As you are no doubt aware, experts have raised a number of concerns regarding the potential for indoor viral loads to facilitate the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. On August 3 and August 19, the UPEI Faculty Association sent you letters outlining these concerns including recommendations for evaluating campus ventilation systems. We also urged UPEI Administration to develop a robust ventilation strategy to mitigate the indoor transmission of this virus.

On September 6, UPEI Administration notified the campus community that it had hired MCA Consultants (<https://www.mcaconsultants.ca/>) to evaluate the ventilation in all UPEI classrooms. That work was to have commenced on September 7 and to have taken two weeks to complete. UPEI Administration also indicated that upon completing these evaluations, MCA Consultants would be providing recommendations for addressing any deficiencies in our campus ventilation systems.

At this time, we are writing to request that UPEI Administration provide the entire UPEI campus community with an update on these evaluations. To assure everyone who lives, studies, and works on UPEI campus that they are operating in a healthy and safe environment, we ask that this update include:

- a clear description of the parameters of the ventilation evaluation;
- the results of this evaluation including but not limited to air changes per hour (ACPH) for all UPEI classrooms;

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***University of Prince Edward Island Faculty Association***

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- any recommendations that MCA Consultants forwarded to UPEI Administration;
- any concrete steps that UPEI administration intends to take to implement those recommendations.

Finally, in the *Fall 2021 UPEI Operational Plan*, UPEI Administration indicated that it will “continue its rigorous preventative maintenance program for mechanical ventilation systems on campus.” We look forward to hearing more about this maintenance program as well as the steps UPEI Administration is taking to ensure the health and safety of people living, working, and studying in spaces that are not currently subject to mechanical ventilation.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Arfken  
President, UPEI Faculty Association