

October 3, 2023

Dr. Greg Keefe Interim President University of Prince Edward Island

Dear Dr. Keefe,

As you are aware, an arbitration board recently released its unanimous decision regarding a number of concerning health and safety issues. Although these issues occurred in the midst of the pandemic, it is clear from the ruling that they have implications far beyond the pandemic and – left unresolved – have the potential to compromise the health and safety of everyone who lives, studies, and works on our campus.

Briefly, the arbitration board ruled that UPEI Administration violated numerous aspects of the *PEI Occupational Health and Safety Act* by failing to:

- take reasonable health and safety precautions when it quarantined students on UPEI campus during the pandemic
- provide the UPEI Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC) with the MCA Ventilation
  Report in a timely fashion thus preventing JOHSC from executing its legislated function
- consult with UPEI JOHSC on issues that have the potential to impact the health and safety of the entire campus community

As the Rubin Thomlinson report makes clear, the campus community has serious and legitimate concerns about the UPEI Board of Governors commitment to accountability and their ability to maintain a healthy and safe environment for the entire campus community. In light of the arbitration board's findings, we are asking you to share with the campus community the steps you intend to take to address the issues raised in the arbitration ruling and to restore confidence in UPEI Administration's commitment to the health and safety of everyone who lives, works, and studies on our campus.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Arfken

President and Chief Grievance Officer

**UPEI Faculty Association** 

cc: Ms. Shannon MacDonald, Chair, UPEI Board of Governors

550 University Avenue, Duffy Science Centre, Rm 415, Charlottetown, PE C1A 4P3