

Supervision and Leadership Speaker Series Fall 2017

Thursday, October 26, 2017 10:30 am - 12:00 noon

Andy's Place AH 100



“Unions and Universities”

By Dr. Muriel Mellow

The *Act to Enhance Post Secondary Bargaining* (Bill 7), passed on April 6, 2017, changed the landscape of labour relations within academic settings by allowing faculty members, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellow the right to unionize and to strike. Even though this is a significant change for Alberta universities, one must view this within a broader provincial and national context and also bearing in mind that universities already deal with unionization in other sectors of their labour force.

This presentation will examine unionization in Alberta, considering historical patterns and comparisons to trends in other provinces. Particular attention will be paid to research on unions in the public sector and in the academy. What can be learned from this historical and comparative view that might be useful as we approach this new era of labour relations at the University of Lethbridge?

About the presenter:

Dr. Mellow is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology. She came to the U of L in 2000, after completing her Ph.D. and MA in Sociology at McGill University. Her areas of research focus on work (particularly that of professionals), emotional labour, skill, volunteerism, and gender. From 2007-2009, she was co-chair, along with C. Nicol, of a joint ULFA-University committee which carried out a study of gender-based salary equity among academic staff. Dr. Mellow was Associate Dean of Arts and Science from 2009-2016, and Acting Chair of Native American Studies from 2015-2017. As someone who focuses on the Sociology of Work, and who has served as an academic and an administrator, the recent changes arising from Bill 7 are of particular interest to her.

Please RSVP by October 20, 2017 to Human Resources at human.resources@uleth.ca

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