

Fwd: [staff] Acknowledging complaints about comments on personal blog

From: Anne Comfort <acomfort@mta.ca>

Date: February 22, 2021 at 8:33:29 PM AST

To: students@mta.ca, staff@mta.ca

Subject: [staff] Acknowledging complaints about comments on personal blog

Trigger warning: This e-mail contains references to systemic racism, sexual violence, and colonization.

Dear students, faculty, and staff:

We are writing to acknowledge complaints we have received today about comments posted on a faculty member's personal blog. Serious concerns have been expressed about posts related to systemic racism, sexual violence, gender, and colonization.

We neither support nor agree with the inappropriate comments that have been posted to this blog. The University and our senior administration are committed to maintaining a safe learning and work environment based on respect for all members of the community and we support all efforts to combat systemic racism and sexual violence within our institution and beyond.

We have initiated our internal review processes and will be actively looking into this situation to determine next steps.

We recognize that comments such as these are hurtful to many people in our community and more widely. We appreciate the concerns raised by the Mount Allison Students' Union (MASU), the Black Students Advisor & Diversity Educator, the Indigenous Affairs Co-ordinator, and the Indigenous Student Support Group, and we will ensure that these issues are addressed without delay.

Anyone who wishes to contact us about this matter or to make a complaint may do so by e-mailing the Anti-Racism Education and Response Team at antiracism@mta.ca.

Sincerely,

Anne Comfort, Acting Vice-President, International and Student Affairs

Jeff Hennessy, Provost and Vice-President, Academic and Research