



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MOUNT ALLISON STUDENTS' UNION AWARDED AN "A" GRADE
FOR ACTIONS AND PRACTICES TOWARDS THE SUPPORT OF FREE SPEECH**

Sackville, NB – According to the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedom's *2012 Campus Freedom Index*, a report that measures the state of free speech at Canadian universities, the Mount Allison Students' Union was the only student union in Canada to receive an "A" grade for student union actions and practices towards the support of free speech.

"The Mount Allison Students' Union is proud to support open dialogue and discourse and to allow all students the opportunity to express their opinion openly and freely," says Pat Joyce, President of the Mount Allison Students' Union. "We recognize our role in promoting open discussion on all topics and allowing students of all viewpoints to share their perspective and speak their mind. The JCCF Campus Freedom Index highlights that while we may not agree with controversial opinions, we believe in students' rights to freedom of speech and support students in their desire to critically assess varying opinions and perspectives."

An "A" grade is awarded when the student union has spoken or acted to support freedom of expression for unpopular opinions and beliefs on campus, by rejecting demands to cancel events or otherwise suppress or censor speech, and by standing up against university actions that suppress free speech rights. The student union also does not advocate for political positions on provincial, federal, or international issues that are not directly related to post-secondary education.

35 Canadian universities and their student unions were graded in the report. For more details on how the Mount Allison Students' Union, Mount Allison University, and other Canadian universities and student unions scored, the full report is available at the JCCF's website (<http://www.jccf.ca/publications.php>).

The Mount Allison Students' Union represents all full- and part-time undergraduate and graduate students at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick.

For further information on this issue, please contact the Mount Allison Students' Union by e-mail at sac@mta.ca or by phone at (506) 364-2231.