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# Mount Royal seeks AUCC membership

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada would validate the degrees granted by the college

MRC • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In 2004, the Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) was created to guide the Minister of Advanced Education on how to proceed on applications from postsecondary institutions seeking to offer new degree programs in Alberta. The council assesses degrees based on the requirements of the program and the institution's availability of resources to students.

"One of the big dividing lines today in Canada is whether you're judged as a university institution or a non-university institution," Marshall said.

Since there's no federal ministry of education or formal accreditation system, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) works alongside provincial governments, representing 89 universities and university-degree level colleges in the country.

AUCC membership, which Mount Royal is seeking now that the government has committed to making it a university, lends credibility to

"Universities both in Canada and the rest of the world, quite frankly, will say, 'Look, if you are a university, we can make certain assumptions about both the environment that the student have gone to school in and the type of degree. If you're not a

university, we have to look into it a little more," he said.

Taylor believes Mount Royal is going about its conversion process the right way-working with both the AUCC, which focuses on the institution itself, and CAQC, which focuses on its programs—and said he supports Advanced Education Minister Denis Herard's decision.

"One of the big dividing lines today in Canada is whether you're judged as a university institution or a nonuniversity institution."

> DAVE MARSHALL. PRESIDENT OF MOUNT ROYAL

However, Mount Royal's evolution from college to university is not celebrated by everyone.

Victor Doerksen, MLA for Red Deer-South and one of the eight candidates running to replace Premier Ralph Klein as leader of the Progressive Conservatives, said that instead of transforming the college to a university, the government should focus on a return to the Campus Alberta approach, which aimed to create more flexible learning opportunities by improving ease of entry and movement within the learning system.

"With respect to Mount Royal becoming a university: I'm not in favour of that. Only because I don't know what problem it's trying to solve," Doerksen said, adding colleges play a different role than universities.

But Marshall explained that Mount Royal needs to move in this direction, since ten per cent of its students are already in collaborative degrees, where students take the courses at the institution but the degrees are granted by Athabasca University, Alberta's distance-education university.

"It's not a community college or a vocational or technical college; it's actually very much a baccalaureate college right now," Marshall said.

He added that about one-third of Mount Royal's students are in one the 21 applied degrees offered by the college and that 50 per cent of students are in university transfer programs, taking two years at the college and the rest of their degree at a university. The change would allow students to complete all four years at Mount

The college is expected to have university status between 2012 and 2013.

# **KLEIN BACK** TO SCHOOL

In an effort to recognize Premier Ralph Klein after his departure from government, private donors have provided the funds to create the Klein Chair of Media Studies at Mount Royal College, which will provide expertise for students in media programs

"Whether you agree with Ralph's position's or not, he's an historic figure in Canada," said President of Mount Royal College, Dave

A former journalist, Klein will be the first person to occupy the chair, which is funded permanently at the Calgary institution. The college is in Klein's current Calgary-Elbow riding.

"We want him there mostly because of his media experience," Marshall said adding that he hones Klein will hold the position for one year, acting as a mentor to students and giving guest lectures.

A new leader of the Progressive Conservatives will be elected to replace Klein by December.

## **STREETERS**

An informal poll at the Gateway found that fewer trick-or-treaters came around asking for sweets.

## Do you think Halloween is a dying tradition?



I think it's just because we've gotten

older, so we think it's a dying tradition,

but really, the kids still do it. Also, there's

the safety factor that I think parents take

into consideration. Lots of kids go to the

malls now and get candy from stores.

Shane Hoeber Kinesiology II



To tell you the truth, I haven't been into

Halloween for the last ten years. Judging

by the amount of costumes around

campus, I [don't think] it's a dying tradi-

tion. There were lots of costumes this

Wendy Sheane



**Duncan Taylor** Arts IV



Linda Tran Science I

Yeah, I think Halloween is a dying tradition. Last year I had these kids come to my door and not only were they not dressed in costumes, but they were too damned lazy to even say, "Trick-ortreat." If you want candy from me at least expend the energy [for] the candy that I'm about to give you.

A little bit. Around my neighborhood, there used to be a lot of pumpkins, but when I went home yesterday, no lights were on, no pumpkins outside. Not many people are handing out candy anymore either. It's really sad

#### Compiled and photographed by Catherine Scott and Jennifer Huygen

