



## AUFA Statement on Open Access and Academic Freedom

The Athabasca University Faculty Association recognizes the importance of both academic freedom and Open Access publishing to the public dissemination of research knowledge. AUFA holds that the protection of academic freedom supersedes any university policy that would *require or compel* AUFA members to publish in Open Access journals, institutional repositories, or other Open Access vehicles. Cognizant of the public good benefits of Open Access publishing, AUFA acknowledges the value of *promoting* Open Access publishing opportunities - where they are in the best interests of the members. But *promoting* Open Access publishing remains fundamentally and critically different from *requiring* Open Access publishing. In accordance with the language of the collective agreement, and the positions taken on this issue by the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the American Association of University Professors, AUFA holds that any policy that imposes Open Access as a *requirement* constitutes a clear violation of our members' academic freedom.

Mark A. McCutcheon, President, AUFA

### References

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