

IMPACT REPORT 2025/26

Your gift at work

Your support of Mount Royal University (MRU) Cougars Athletics continues to transform the lives of student-athletes and strengthen the future of the program. Because of your generosity, it has been another exceptional year — one defined not only by athletic achievement, but by growth in leadership, resilience, academic excellence, and community impact.

Your investment empowers student-athletes to pursue their goals with confidence, push beyond their expectations, and thrive both on and off the field of play. Every opportunity, milestone, and success story this year has been made possible through the commitment of supporters like you. We are proud to share some of this year's highlights and celebrate the incredible impact of your support.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

"Cougars Athletics and Recreation is deeply grateful for the many supporters who continue to demonstrate their belief in the work we do. Their generosity enables us to provide a wide range of programs and services that enhance the student experience at Mount Royal.

Your contributions play a vital role in supporting students during their time at MRU, so when they graduate, they have grown, developed, and become meaningful contributors to our community."

Karla Karch OLY,
Director, Cougars Athletics
and Recreation



**Student-athletes received an
MRU Scholarship or Award**



**Student-athletes achieved
a 3.4+ GPA making them U SPORTS
Academic All-Canadians.**



\$232,589
Raised for MRU Cougars Athletics in 2025/26

The Sagium Fund for Mental Health & Wellness of High-Performance Athletes fuels Cougars success

For MRU student-athletes, the hours after a game or practice are just as important as the competition itself. Between balancing academics, training, travel, and personal commitments, having access to healthy nutrition can make a significant difference in how students recover, perform, and care for their wellbeing.

Thanks to the launch of a partnership with Dedicate Kitchen, and the generous support of Sagium, Cougars student-athletes are receiving the nutritional support they need to refuel and stay healthy throughout the season.

Over the past three years, Sagium has committed an incredible \$30,000 to MRU student-athletes, laying a powerful foundation for student wellness and peak performance. Together, Sagium and Dedicate Kitchen are ensuring our student-athletes feel deeply supported in every single aspect of their MRU journey.

This support isn't just about providing meals; it's about investing in the whole person. Sagium's generosity ensures MRU student-athletes can recover physically, stay mentally sharp, and continue striving for excellence—not only on the court, rink, and field, but in the classroom and the community.

WHY WE INVEST IN FUTURES

"Sagium's core pillars are built on supporting Mental health, Athletics, Kids, and Education (MAKE). Our support of Mount Royal University allows us to bring three of these vital commitments together: mental health, athletics, and education. We are incredibly proud to provide MRU student-athletes with the essential nutritional and wellness resources they need to protect their mental health, allowing them to achieve their highest potential both as Cougars and long after graduation."

-Mike Grovue,
President, Sagium



"Support from Sagium makes a real impact for student-athletes. Having access to meals and nutrition support helps fuel us through long days balancing academics, training, competition and recovery. It helps alleviate stress and allows us to focus on performing at our best. Beyond physical support, it shows athletes people genuinely care about our success."

- Maxim Turgeon
Cougars Volleyball player
Bachelor of Communication grad



Eight programs. Endless excellence.

When the Cougars step onto the stage, they carry your support with them. Your generosity empowers these remarkable student-athletes to dominate in Canada West, excel in the classroom, and chase U SPORTS National Championships!

BASKETBALL REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Your belief backed the Women's spectacular six-game win streak, turning this season into a launchpad for a future that you are helping to build.

Thanks to your support, the Men achieved a program-record 13-7 Canada West finish under Coach Mullen, proving they are ready to contend for a Canada West Championship.

HOCKEY ELITE

Led by standout stars, the Women dominated the Canada West standings. Your investment ensures this young roster is primed for future championship runs.

You helped pack the house for five playoff sellouts as the Men secured a second-straight Canada West silver medal and a trip to U Sports Nationals in Halifax.

HISTORIC SOCCER SEASON

Backed by your belief in them, the Women roared to a program-best 10-3-1 record and a thrilling Canada West quarter-final victory.

Your investment in our facilities helped the Men capture the Canada West title on MRU's new Stadium Field and claim a historic national U Sports silver medal.

VOLLEYBALL EVOLUTION & EXCELLENCE

Your generosity is powering the Women's team's rebuild under Coach Schmuland, securing major milestones like the win over UBCO.

Your support propelled a historic clean sweep of the Canada West and U SPORTS National Rookie of the Year awards for the Men's team.

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

You didn't just support from the sidelines this year—you made history.

Thanks to your support, the Crowchild Classic broke the U SPORTS attendance record yet again, packing the Saddledome with **13,324 fans!**

LOOKING AHEAD

The future is here! Your support ensures Kenyon Court will successfully host the **2027 Men's and 2028 Women's National Volleyball Championships.**



Meet Kyle

This past year was a standout for Kyle Walker, who led the Cougars to the Canada West Final and a Crowchild Classic victory—achievements made possible by the community investment that fuels Cougars Athletics.

Supported by athletic and donor-funded scholarships, Kyle excelled in MRU's Sports & Recreation Management program through hands-on practicum experiences, graduating as an Academic All-Canadian with an 80% or better average. Kyle noted, "This degree tapped into my passion for sports and community, allowing me to grow and helping me build the management and communication skills needed to connect with others, collaborate effectively, and lead with purpose."

Leaving a legacy of excellence as a Cougars captain, Kyle recently signed a 1 year deal with the The American Hockey League (AHL) Calgary Wranglers. According to Men's Hockey Coach Bert Gilling, this is a well deserved opportunity:

"During my time at MRU, I can't think of anyone who has loved being a Cougar more than Kyle. It's no coincidence that his two years as team captain were also the two best years we've had in Canada West and U SPORTS, including back-to-back appearances in both championships. We were all proud to see his dedication rewarded with an opportunity in the AHL while also being recognized as a U SPORTS Academic All-Canadian. He earned both. Kyle's leadership has raised the standard and will be a lasting legacy for Cougars Hockey."

When asked how your support made a difference, Kyle shared that he wouldn't be where he is today without it. Adding that the entire hockey team relies heavily on the generosity of donors like you. For Kyle personally, that support allowed him to study, volunteer, train, compete, and represent MRU with pride every day.

MY SUCCESS IS FUELED BY YOUR SUPPORT

"Being part of Cougars Athletics was the best decision I ever made. This experience means a ton to me, and my success wouldn't be possible without the incredible support of donors. Your generosity took a massive weight off my shoulders, allowing me to train, compete, and volunteer, representing MRU with pride every single day. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you've given to student-athletes like me."

- **Kyle Walker**

Cougars Men's Hockey Captain
Bachelor of Health and Physical
Education — Sport and Recreation
Management grad



**YOU CAN FUEL
THE SUCCESS OF
THE COUGARS!**

**ATTEND GAMES &
LEARN MORE BY VISITING**