



Canadian Association of University Teachers  
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

**Sent by email: [president@niagaracollege.ca](mailto:president@niagaracollege.ca)**

December 6, 2016

Dr. Dan Patterson  
President  
Niagara College  
135 Taylor Road, S.S. #4  
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON  
L0S 1J0

Dear President Patterson:

At its meeting on Saturday, November 26, the Council of the Canadian Association of University Teachers passed the following motion:

*That CAUT Council give notice to the administration of Niagara College that, unless the concerns over the College's offshore Saudi campuses is satisfactorily resolved, censure of the administration will be imposed at the Spring 2017 meeting of Council.*

As I have indicated previously by letter, Council earlier this year expressed concern about Niagara's offshore gender-segregated campuses and programs. These operate in a repressive country known for its severe clampdown on freedom of expression, mass executions, and gender-based discrimination and violence.

CAUT's policy on Post-Secondary Education Initiatives Abroad specifically states that Canadian institutions operating in other countries must respect the following principles:

- provide full equality for all and protect the rights of women, indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups;
- advance and defend the employment and academic rights of post-secondary education staff and students; and,
- defend and promote freedom of speech and thought, academic freedom and tenure, and professional rights.

Similarly, a joint statement by CAUT and the American Association of University Professors provides that overseas campuses must: "ensure academic freedom and tenure and collegial governance...[and provide] anti-harassment and discrimination provisions...[and] equity...." It is Council's view that your campuses in Saudi Arabia violate these policies as well as internationally recognized gender equality rights. Segregated education is not equal education.

As you will note from the motion (consistent with our Procedures Relating to Censure), Council's action is a notice that censure will be imposed if these matters are not satisfactorily resolved by our next Council meeting May 4-7, 2017. We continue to hope a resolution can be found that is acceptable to all parties. I would be pleased to meet with you to explore options or take whatever other action we can to assist. Our objective is not to censure your institution but to ensure that your administration fully respects gender equality and academic freedom.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



David Robinson  
Executive Director

/mmp

cc: Martin Devitt, President, OPSEU Local 242, Niagara College  
RM Kennedy, Chair, OPSEU CAAT Division  
James Compton, President, CAUT  
Peter McInnis, Chair, Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee