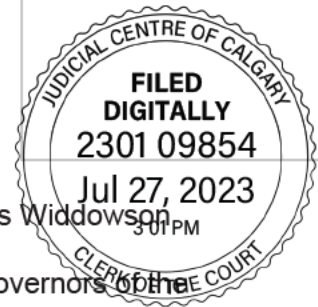


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Court of King's Bench of Alberta

JUDICIAL CENTRE

Calgary

APPLICANTS

Jonah Pickle, Paul Viminiz and Frances Widdowson

RESPONDENT

The University of Lethbridge and the Governors of the University of Lethbridge

DOCUMENT

**Affidavit**

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF PARTY FILING THIS DOCUMENT

Glenn Blackett Law



**AFFIDAVIT OF FRANCES WIDDOWSON Sworn on July 26, 2023**

**I, Frances Widdowson, of Alberta, SWEAR AND SAY THAT:**

1. I have personal knowledge of the facts herein except where stated to be based on information and belief, in which case I verily believe the same to be true.

**A. BACKGROUND**

2. I hold a Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Arts in political science from the University of Victoria and a Doctorate in political science from York University. Since 2005 I have taught political science at a number of universities in Canada. I worked for five years as a policy analyst for the Government of the Northwest Territories. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "A"** to this my affidavit is a copy of my *curriculum vitae*.
3. Since 2008, I was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Policy Studies at Mount Royal University ("**MRU**"). I obtained tenure in 2011. The Department of Policy Studies became the Department of Economics, Justice, and Policy Studies in 2015. I am also a Senior Fellow with the Frontier Centre for Public Policy and am on the Executive Board of the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship ("**SAFS**").
4. I have spent much of my academic career focused in the area of indigenous politics and economy and, in particular, understanding the causes of massive socioeconomic disparity between indigenous and other Canadians. My life's work is motivated by sincere concern for this problem and the urgent desire to help remedy it.

5. Indigenous peoples suffer from deprivation on a wide variety of social indicators as compared to other Canadians. My book, *Separate but Unequal*<sup>1</sup>, documented that indigenous participation in the Canadian labour force is proportionally far lower than for the non-indigenous population, which has resulted in deplorable living conditions. Low educational levels, substandard housing, and health problems are significant. High rates of violence, suicide, and substance abuse (including an alarming number of cases of fetal alcohol syndrome) are endemic in indigenous communities across the country.
6. Only if we understand the causes can we hope to find solutions. Therefore, my research is necessarily informed by rigorous empiricism and analysis. Sometimes this leads to uncomfortable, heterodox, or politically incorrect conclusions. I would rather pursue the truth, wherever that leads, than signal my ostensible virtue.
7. My primary thesis is that the economic and social progress of Canada's indigenous peoples is being suppressed by policies which tend to prolong and exacerbate indigenous isolation and dependency and by a superstructure of lawyers, advisors, and consultants.
8. As detailed on my *curriculum vitae* I have written or co-written and edited several research papers and books in the area including:
  - a. *Disrobing the Aboriginal Industry: The Deception Behind Indigenous Cultural Preservation* (2008), Frances Widdowson and Albert Howard - shortlisted for the Donner Prize in recognition of its contribution to an important national debate on indigenous policy;
  - b. *Approaches to Aboriginal Education In Canada: Searching for Solutions* (2013), Frances Widdowson and Albert Howard editors;
  - c. *Separate But Unequal: How Parallelist Ideology Conceals Indigenous Dependency* (2019), Frances Widdowson; and
  - d. *Indigenizing The University: Diverse Perspectives* (2021), Frances Widdowson editor.
9. I am currently working on a manuscript in the area: *KIRS: Neotribal Rentierism and the #215Children Moral Panic*.
10. I have also written for a number of journals on various topics including *The American Conservative*, *Quillette*, *Minding the Campus*, *C2C Journal*, and the *Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship Newsletter*. These are also listed in my *curriculum vitae*.
11. My research challenges, both, conventional wisdom on indigenous policy in Canada and a large, established industry that benefits from maintaining indigenous dependency and deprivation. At times my research leads to "politically incorrect" conclusions. Therefore, my research is viewed by some as controversial.

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<sup>1</sup> 2019: 1, 28

## **B. WOKEISM AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

12. Since about 2020, however, such controversies started to seriously constrain my freedom to speak and my academic freedom. In 2020 some of my colleagues at MRU and other Canadian academics staged a boycott of my work and refused to collaborate with publishers who supported me.
13. In September 2020, an MRU student started a Change.org petition to MRU to have me fired. That petition was signed by over 6000 people.
14. In December 2021, MRU summarily terminated me as a tenured professor. I was told by MRU that I was being terminated, *inter alia*, for social media commentary that was deemed to be “harassing” by other faculty members. It was also argued that my employment relationship with MRU was “unviable” because of complaints received from students, academic staff and external parties. My union (the Mount Royal Faculty Association) and I have filed ten grievances with respect to my termination, which are ongoing.

## **C. THE PROPOSED EVENT**

15. I am a case-study in woke “cancel culture,” having been cancelled many times, including being fired by MRU. Given my experiences, I have developed an academic interest in the woke cancellation of academic freedoms. A website, [www.wokeacademy.info](http://www.wokeacademy.info) has been established, and I have given presentations at Stanford University and Western University on my firing from Mount Royal University. I am currently working on two related manuscripts:
  - a. *The Woke Academy: How Advocacy Studies Murder Academic freedom and Effective Policy Development*; and
  - b. *When a University Goes Woke: The Case of Mount Royal University*.
16. Given this interest and expertise, in November 2022, I was invited to speak to students, faculty and members of the public at the University of Lethbridge (“UofL”) by Paul Viminitz (“Viminitz”), a tenured Professor of Philosophy. I accepted Viminitz’s invitation. We agreed that I would speak on the topic of “How Woke-ism Threatens Academic Freedom” which would be hosted at the UofL, Anderson Hall, on February 1, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. (the “Event”).
17. The format of the Event was to include 40 minutes for me to speak, followed by a 40-minute question and answer session for any interested attendee. The Event was free and was open to anyone, including faculty, staff, students and the general public. Given the publicity surrounding the Event I expected about 100 people to attend.
18. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “B”** to this my affidavit is a copy of the advertisement run for the Event.
19. The content of my presentation at the Event was to be roughly as follows:
  - a. The increased frequency and intensity of censorship of challenging research is the result, largely, of university student bodies, faculty, faculty associations and administration increasingly manifesting the political ideology of “woke-ness”.
  - b. Woke-ness is when identity politics becomes totalitarian. It has been made possible by the “postmodern turn” in the 1960’s, which replaced the objective search for truth

- with subjectivity. This enabled advocacy-oriented identity politics programs (black studies, women’s studies, indigenous studies, queer studies and disability studies) to gain a foothold in universities. Woke-ness has been particularly successful because it pretends to be an extension of the liberal civil rights movement and claims to empower the oppressed. As my research on the experience of indigenous Canadians demonstrates, woke-ness has, in fact, been ruinous to indigenous prosperity.
- c. At the heart of the woke ideology is hostility to free speech, open inquiry and dissent – the *sine qua non* of a university. Rather, the ideology of woke-ness enforces pre-ordained orthodoxy through authoritarian means often referred to as “cancel culture” such as:
- i. ostracization, usually in the form of social shaming and accusations of guilt-by-association, often *via* social media and invariably by use of standardized labels such as “hate”, “racism”, “bigoty”, “discrimination”, “phobia”, “misinformation”, “denialism” and “unsafe”; and
  - ii. censorship, through the elimination or interference with modes of communication (i.e. “deplatforming”) including terminating employment and contracting relationships, professional regulatory sanctions, publishers and journals refusing to publish or retracting and apologizing after publication, event venues refusing to host or cancelling, interfering with events by blocking entrances or exits, harassing and intimidating attendees, pulling fire alarms, and shouting-over speakers including with megaphones.
- d. In academic universities, the focus is on cultivating an open-ended process involving the use of reason and logic and the careful weighing of evidence. The truth is never known as it must be constantly revised when new information refutes what was previously understood. In such an environment, rational disputation is encouraged because it enables errors to be identified and refuted. Where disputation does not successfully refute a theory, the process nevertheless often helps to clarify and strengthen the theory. In an academic setting, no one can rely upon status, tradition, or authority to shield any idea from scrutiny.
- e. The rational disputation model leads to conclusions that are not known in advance and, therefore, may lead to conclusions which are uncomfortable or politically incorrect. This rational disputation model of university education is reflected in the “Chicago Principles”. A copy of the Chicago Principles is attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “C”** to this my affidavit. The Chicago Principles state, *inter alia*:
- ... “free inquiry is indispensable to the good life, that universities exist for the sake of such inquiry, [and] that without it they cease to be universities.” ...
- ... it is not the proper role of the University to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive ...
- ... the University’s fundamental commitment is to the principle that debate or deliberation may not be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the University community

*to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong-headed. It is for the individual members of the University community, not for the University as an institution, to make those judgments for themselves, and to act on those judgments not by seeking to suppress speech, but by openly and vigorously contesting the ideas that they oppose. Indeed, fostering the ability of members of the University community to engage in such debate and deliberation in an effective and responsible manner is an essential part of the University's educational mission.*

...

- f. The antithesis of this disputation process is the process of enforced dogma where ideas are “ring-fenced”: certain ideas are posited as true on the basis of status (including membership in one or more minority identity group), tradition (including oral history), or authority (including “lived experience” and purported “expertise”); while all other ideas and all rational disputation of dogmatic assertions is prohibited. Woke-ness is characterized by the enforcement of dogma through various forms of cancellation.
- g. Woke-ness directly challenges the rational disputation model of a university, which emerged out of the Enlightenment. Woke-ness maintains that the assertion of certain identities must be celebrated and affirmed, as this will result in their empowerment and ability to overcome their oppression.
- h. This creates a chilling effect on campus, as well as free speech in Alberta more generally, as challenging certain “sacred” ideas results in accusations of racism, colonialism, sexism, transphobia and other forms of bigotry. As a result, both students and faculty have told me, repeatedly, that they are reluctant to ask certain questions for fear of being ostracized, targeted, and officially complained about.
- i. Throughout my time at MRU, I have been involved in trying to promote open debate and free expression. Since 2008, however, I have noticed an increasing censoriousness on university campuses. Up until 2015, while disputation was not always welcomed, it was still seen as a legitimate aspect of university life. There was an understanding that hosting events on controversial topics enabled members of the university community to become aware of ideas that were different from their own. Critical thinking requires a rigorous evaluation of evidence, and this can only be cultivated through observing truth colliding with error, as John Stuart Mill pointed out over a hundred years ago.
- j. In 2019, MRU's environment become very hostile to open inquiry. This began with the opposition to and cancellation of a talk critical of Islam by the ex-Muslim atheist Armin Navabi, as well as the attempts to undermine the “Does Trans Activism Negatively Impact Women's Rights?” event organized by the Rational Space Network. This censoriousness accelerated further when geography instructor Mark Hecht was denounced by a group of about 30 faculty members for writing an OpEd in The Vancouver Sun, claiming that too much diversity reduced social trust. In 2020, there was a complete breakdown of the disputational character of MRU after the killing of George Floyd and the increasing prominence of “anti-racism” initiatives. These initiatives demanded conformity with a pre-determined conceptualization of

the causes of racism (i.e. anti-racist dogma); any criticism of this position resulted in accusations of racism.

- k. Because woke-ness is hostile to free speech, open inquiry and dissent, it has and is likely to continue to do great damage to the main function of universities in Canada: the exchange of ideas, the promotion of learning, and the pursuit of knowledge. As this truth-seeking function of universities is narrowed or eliminated, technological, social, political, and economic progress will accordingly decline or reverse. This holds true in the area of research into indigenous issues. Censorship of dissenting opinions eliminates inquiry into, and therefore discovery and communication of, the causes of and solutions for indigenous socioeconomic disparities. Censorship, therefore, will tend to prolong and aggravate an already dire situation. For indigenous peoples, censorship, however well-meaning or virtuous, will be disastrous.
20. The Event would have provided me with an opportunity to speak, listen and engage in a question-and-answer session, all of which was for the purpose of:
- a. engaging in democratic discourse;
  - b. seeking and promulgating the truth; and
  - c. engaging in a discourse I find personally self-fulfilling.
21. Ironically, this action relates to the woke cancellation of me, Viminiz and interested students, faculty and members of the public by the UofL.

#### **D. CANCELLATION OF EVENT**

22. Within days of announcing the Event, the subject matter of the Event, woke-ism's threat to academic freedom at UofL, was plainly manifest.
23. On January 25, 2023, a Twitter user posted, "apparently the University of Lethbridge is hosting a speaker who was fired from Mount Royal for talking about how great residential schools were." Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "D"** to this my affidavit is a copy of that tweet and all responses.
24. Responses to that tweet included a poster which characterized my expression as "hate" and gave notice of a protest immediately prior to and in the same venue as the Event, objecting to the UofL's "decision to give Widdowson a platform to speak."
25. On January 26, 2023, a Change.org petition was started which stated, *inter alia*:

*...her presence on campus not only denigrates the status of the University by giving space to a speaker who promotes historical falsities and racial bigotry, but endangers student's well-being and safety.*

*... racist and harmful ideologies are coming on campus; silence is complicity. This is an act of violence upon its BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, and especially Indigenous students by allowing space for these ideolgies [sic] to traumatize students in a space that is supposed to be safe and educating.*

*... Thank you for taking your time to support preventing harmful ideologies from permeating a place of higher education and the prevention of retraumatization [sic] of Indigenous students.*

[all emphasis in this affidavit are mine]

Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “E”** to this my affidavit is a copy of the Change.org page. The petition garnered 2,247 signatures (to date).

26. On January 26, 2023, another Change.org petition was started by UofL’s Indigenous Student Representative, Nathan Crow (“**Crow**”), which stated, *inter alia*:

*... Frances Widdowson ... will be attending our campus ... to offer a public lecture focused on the “positives” of the Indian Residential School system (IRS) ...*

*... Frances Widdowson’s attendance on our campus devalues the opinions and shared histories of the many survivors who attended this colonial system. ...*

*... we as an institution, have a duty to these students to provide accurate and true information on this important piece of Canadian history.*

*Due to the university’s “freedom of expression policy”, Frances Widdowson’s public lecture will unfortunately go forward as planned. However, the U of L Student Action Assembly has organized a peaceful protest to demonstrate opposition towards Frances Widdowson’s attendance on our campus ... I support the notion of freedom of expression, but when that happens to discriminate [“sic”] a specific demographic of Ulethbridge students, as well as support misinformation and false narratives, this is not okay.*

*... The ULSU is currently working on an action plan to address this issue, and to provide the necessary resources and support for our students dealing with the wide range of emotions brought forth by this distasteful situation.*

*... Please show your support by signing the petition, so that the spreading of misinformation and false narratives surrounding the Indian Residential School system can be stopped!*

Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “F”** to this my affidavit is a copy of that Change.org page. The petition garnered 1,215 signatures (to date).

27. The UofL’s Department of Indigenous Studies made a public statement, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “G”** to this my affidavit. The Department “deplores the fact that [Widdowson] is being given a platform” and claimed, “that this scheduled public lecture has been granted space within Iniskim is a betrayal of every one of those commitments.”

28. On January 26, 2023, UofL’s President, Mike Mahon (“**Mahon**”), made a public announcement, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “H”** to this my affidavit. In this statement, Mahon refused to cancel the lecture, citing the UofL’s commitment to free inquiry and scholarship. Mahon stated, *inter alia*:

*The University of Lethbridge has become aware of a guest speaker, invited by one of our faculty members, whose views are in conflict with a number of the values held by the University ... I have heard from many students, faculty and staff who have expressed their disappointment that this event is taking place ...*

*There are some in the community who have asked the University to step in and cancel the Widdowson lecture ...*

29. On January 27, 2023, a UofL student Patti Charger emailed Crow saying, *inter alia*:

*... I always felt displaced in this "white world" and their sneaky polite racism haha. ... This invited speaker also triggered how I felt unheard and unseen growing up, and still feel to this day. Lastly, I felt very betrayed by our University to accommodate her hurtful views and opinions on Residential School Survivors.*

*I smudged and prayed for this speaker and for the individuals' ones [sic] who invited her.*

*... It only proves that our University still has so much work to do in educating themselves on Truth and Reconciliation. ...*

*I want to be a part of any peaceful stance we take on this person. She gets no headdress haha*

Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "I"** to this my affidavit is a copy of that email with which, I am advised by Viminitz, he was copied.

30. On January 27, 2023, Caroline Hodes ("**Hodes**"), a UofL associate professor of Women & Gender Studies, emailed Mahon, Matthew Letts, UofL's Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science, and several UofL faculty members, including Leroy Littlebear, a professor in the Department of Indigenous Studies. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "J"** to this my affidavit is a copy of that email with which, I am advised by Viminitz, he was copied. In that email, Hodes references:

*... a chorus of letters from departments but also what I hope has been a barrage of email from community members, students, faculty and staff asking the university to cancel residential school denier Frances Widdowson ...*

In the email, Hodes accuses me of racism, transphobia, bigotry, distortion of facts, and genocide denialism. Hodes goes so far as to claim I have violated "indigenous rights" and accuses me of criminal hate speech. She concludes:

*... I hope that this event is cancelled and that Dr. Viminitz and the department of philosophy are held accountable. Cancelling this event must also be accompanied by appropriate disciplinary action.*

In a later email, Hodes states,

*... It would be an interesting legal challenge if Paul or Widdowson were charged criminally, but it isn't my hope or wish as sadly it would tarnish this university for decades to come. This is the kind of stuff that sticks ...*

Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "K"** to this my affidavit is a copy of that email. In another email on about January 31, 2023, in connection with a complaint filed by Hodes, she says:

*... Also, the Holocaust deniers have come out and are posting on Widdowson's page online ... Given that Paul Viminitz is associated with this woman, please initiate the appropriate investigation into his connections with known anti-Semites and neo-nazi groups ...*



31. On January 30, 2023, the UofL Faculty Association provided a statement on the Event in which they advertised a “counter-program” including a prayer and lecture at the same time as the Event. The lecture was given by Sean Carleton (“**Carleton**”), assistant professor of History and Indigenous Studies at the University of Manitoba, on the issue of alleged residential school “denialism.” Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “L”** to this my affidavit is a copy of that statement. The “counter-program” proceeded without cancellation by the UofL.
32. While I disagree with many of the factual assertions and interpretations, and evidence in the above and think they are ultimately destructive to indigenous progress, I strongly support every person’s right to make them. It is noteworthy that, of the academics who objected to the Event, including the faculty association, none of them has ever provided any empirical evidence that anything I have actually said or written was wrong.
33. On January 30, 2023, the UofL succumbed to this pressure and cancelled the Event. Mahon issued another public statement, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “M”** to this my affidavit. In that statement, Mahon states, *inter alia*:
- ... the University must be attentive to the safety of our diverse community.*
- Over the past few days, and upon learning of this lecture, we have sought guidance from those with considerable cultural, scholarly, sectoral and legal expertise, including continuing guidance from the Vice-Provost, Indigenous Relations and others. We have also received considerable input from the communities we serve — internal and external. This input confirmed that assertions that seek to minimize the significant and detrimental impact of Canada’s residential school system are harmful.*
- In 2019, the University developed a statement that ensured a commitment to free expression on our campus. Our statement acknowledges the University must be able to reasonably regulate the use of facilities, time, place and manner of expression.*
- To ensure our community is safe, in the context of this planned lecture, the University will not provide space for this public lecture to occur on campus.*
- ... It is clear that the harm associated with this talk is an impediment to meaningful reconciliation.*
- ... A continued commitment to providing a safe place for our diverse community, including our faculty, our staff, and especially our students ...*
34. On January 30, 2023, UofL’s Department of Indigenous Studies tweeted a thank-you to Mahon and UofL administration for cancelling the Event. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “N”** to this my affidavit is a copy of that tweet with replies. The majority of replies to this tweet opposed the cancellation.
35. Prior to and following the UofL’s cancellation of the Event, Viminitz and I received several other emails and messages from students and others supporting the Event and opposing the cancellation, whether or not they supported what they believed to be my position.
36. Despite the cancellation, I elected to attend the UofL on February 1, 2023, intending to speak in the UofL’s Atrium on the same topic. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “O”** to this my affidavit is a copy of my January 30, 2023, tweet announcing this.

37. On January 31, 2023, SAFS, on which Viminitz and I are on the board, wrote to Mahon protesting the cancellation. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “P”** to this my affidavit is a copy of that letter.
38. On January 31, 2023, the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) issued a news article “criticizing the University of Lethbridge administration for cancelling a planned talk on campus.” Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “Q”** to this my affidavit is a copy of that letter.
39. On January 31, 2023, I gave the first part of a two-part lecture in Viminitz’s Belief, Truth and Paradox class to his enrolled students on the issue of whether universities should foster respect for indigenous “ways of knowing.” The lecture appeared to be well received by the students, who asked several questions, which I answered. A video of that lecture was posted on YouTube.<sup>2</sup>
40. In response to the cancellation, on January 31, 2023, Alberta’s Minister of Advanced Education, Demetrios Nicolaides, announced, *inter alia*, “I will be announcing new steps to strengthen free speech on Alberta’s post-secondary campuses ...”. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “R”** to this my affidavit is a copy of a tweet from City News’s Courtney Theriault attaching that statement.
41. On February 1, 2023, I attended the UofL to attempt to give my lecture on “How Woke-ism Threatens Academic Freedom” in the Atrium. I was confronted by an enormous mob of protesters, which I understand to have been in the several hundreds. I was able to engage briefly in a rational conversation with a single protester, but apart from that, the mob generally shouted at me, including obscenities and references to my perceived race. Because of the loud drumming, I was unable to speak in the Atrium, so I attempted to move elsewhere to speak. When I attempted to speak I was again drowned out by shouting, drumming and chants. Eventually, UofL campus police determined the protest was getting out of hand, and I was asked to leave, which I did. See the video posted by Brendan Cummins (please see paragraph 44. c below). On February 1, 2023, a Twitter user @\_hay\_tyler posted a video, as did a user in the replies. These three videos show, in general, the nature of my attempt to speak at the UofL on February 1, 2023.<sup>3</sup>
42. I have participated in a number of events at MRU that were controversial, but careful moderation enabled contentious positions to be aired. In 2008, for example, when *Disrobing the Aboriginal Industry* came out, Robin Fisher, the Provost of MRU, and Bruce Foster, the Chair of Policy Studies, organized a forum where Albert Howard and I presented our views and were then questioned by critics and members of the audience. Similarly, I personally organized a number of events for the Rational Space Network that enabled intellectual disagreements to be expressed. The debates “Is Canada’s defense of Israel Justified?”<sup>4</sup> and “Does Trans Activism Negatively Impact Women’s Rights?”<sup>5</sup> engaged critical thinking, facilitators and strict moderation to ensure that everyone was able to speak and hear.

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<sup>2</sup> Posted to YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huhqseXxFNM&t=2389s>

<sup>3</sup> [https://twitter.com/hay\\_tyler/status/1620931784727990273](https://twitter.com/hay_tyler/status/1620931784727990273)

<sup>4</sup> Which I posted to YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVKgDFYiJTM>

<sup>5</sup> Which I posted to YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yawM1CRWxE>

43. On the evening of February 1, 2023, I gave a Zoom lecture in substitution for the Event at a later time than the Event was scheduled for. I was contacted by a number of students and faculty requesting the Zoom details. One professor at the UofL asked me if they could circulate the Zoom details to other colleagues because, he said, "I know that many would like to attend but are concerned about making their interest known publicly." While the Zoom lecture was reasonably well attended, I believe that not everyone who had planned to attend the Event was able to attend the Zoom lecture (including my co-applicant, Jonah Pickle). Also, technical difficulties with the internet connection, poor lighting, and disruptions from trolls made the presentation quite chaotic and not as clear as it likely would have been had the Event proceeded in-person. I also reduced the time of my presentation by about 15 minutes because it is difficult for audiences to listen to long presentations virtually. Due to not having personal interaction, virtual events are obviously inferior to those done live on campus. I posted a video of my lecture on YouTube<sup>6</sup>.
44. Following my departure on February 1, 2023, several members of the UofL faculty and administration praised the cancellation of my talk:
- a. On February 1, 2023, Mahon for the UofL posted a statement including, "I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our community members for conducting themselves in such a peaceful and powerful manner." Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "S"** to this my affidavit is a copy of that statement.
  - b. On February 1, 2023, Jay Gamble, UofL professor of English, tweeted, "Drummed the fuck out on her ear." Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "T"** to this my affidavit is a copy of that tweet.
  - c. On February 1, 2023, Brendan Cummings, an instructor at the UofL, tweeted, "so proud of these students right now. So sorry I couldn't be there in person to support them." Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "U"** to this my affidavit is a copy of that tweet. In a later tweet, Cummings framed Viminitz's booking of a time and space for the Event as a "deliberate provocation [*sic*], looking for a response." Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "V"** to this my affidavit is a copy of that tweet.
  - d. On February 1, 2023, Shelly Wismath, UofL professor of Mathematics, tweeted: "It was an incredible event - I too am proud of our students, amazed and impressed by all the people who organized and turned out!" Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "W"** to this my affidavit is a copy of that tweet.
  - e. On February 1, 2023, Trushar Patel, UofL associate professor, tweeted, "I'm incredibly proud of the @uLethbridge community." Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "X"** to this my affidavit is a copy of that tweet.
45. I continue to be shocked at what transpired at the UofL. To have the smearing of my reputation encouraged by university administrators, who are supposed to be facilitating the open exchange of ideas, is disheartening, to say the least. Many UofL professors showed an intolerance for perspectives that differed from their own and, I believe, violated sections of their own collective agreement that protect academic freedom (at least, as those related to Viminitz). It certainly will send a message to other academics, students, and society at large that there are certain ideas that cannot be discussed at a university. At no point during

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<sup>6</sup> Posted to YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ws8sh8SCcMo&t=521s>

this incident, however, was I afraid for my safety. Most of what was happening seemed to be theatrical. Opposition seemed staged and not based on sincerely held beliefs. None of the anger, name-calling, insults or accusations bothered me personally in the slightest because I knew it was all false. I only worried for the sorry state of academia and the fact that these students displayed no critical thinking skills whatsoever.

46. Various external parties also praised the cancellation:

- a. On February 1, 2023, the Alberta Union of Public Employees, which represents support staff at the UofL, issued a statement claiming, *inter alia*, “Freedom of speech does not include the freedom to deny the truth or cause harm to others.” Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “Y”** to this my affidavit is a copy of that statement.
- b. On February 3, 2023, the University of Calgary Students Union issued a statement including:

*The Students’ Union (SU) stands with our counterparts from the University of Lethbridge Students’ Union as they push back strongly against hate on their campus.*

*U of L students made it clear that there is no place for hate on their campus. ...*

*Administration at the University of Lethbridge deserves credit for listening to students and making the difficult, but correct decision to cancel the lecture.*

*University of Calgary administration could learn from this example to better manage speech and expression on campus. For years, University of Calgary administration has allowed anti-abortion demonstrators on campus ...*

*The SU has asked the university to take action and follow its own harassment policy when speech includes harassment and discrimination. To date, the University of Calgary has done nothing with regard to these demonstrations, and protestors continue to create an intimidating and hostile educational environment for students.*

...

Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “Z”** to this my affidavit is a copy of that statement.

47. On February 2, 2023, I gave the second part of my lecture in Viminiz’s class. I posted an audio recording of the lecture to Soundcloud.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Posted to Soundcloud at: [https://soundcloud.com/user-970178378/230202\\_0529a](https://soundcloud.com/user-970178378/230202_0529a)

48. I make this application for a declaration that my rights under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* have been violated and for no improper purpose.

SWORN BEFORE ME AT )

CALGARY )  
\_\_\_\_\_, Alberta, )

this 26 day of JULY )  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2023 )

 )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Glenn Blackett  
Barrister & Solicitor



Frances Widdowson

This is Exhibit " A " referred to  
in the Affidavit of

... **Frances Widdowson** .....

Sworn before me this **26** day

of **July** 20**23**

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
**Barrister & Solicitor**

**CURRICULUM VIT**  
**FRANCES WIDDOWSON,**



**CITIZENSHIP:**

*Canadian*

**APPOINTMENTS:**

- 2011-2021 *Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Justice, and Policy Studies, Mount Royal University*
- 2008 *Assistant Professor, Department of Policy Studies, Mount Royal University*
- Winter 2008 *Visiting Assistant Professor, Division of Social Science (Political Science), Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Memorial University of Newfoundland*
- Fall 2007 *Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Wilfrid Laurier University (Brantford Campus)*
- Winter 2007 *Lecturer, Department of Politics, Trent University*
- Fall 2006 *Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of Guelph*
- 2005- 2006 *Lecturer, Division of Social Science (Political Science), Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Memorial University of Newfoundland*
- 2005 *Lecturer, Department of History and Politics, University of New Brunswick at Saint John*
- 1997-2003 *Teaching Assistant, Department of Political Science, York University*

**EDUCATION:**

- 1997-2006 *Doctor of Philosophy, Department of Political Science, York University*
- 1990-1992 *Master of Arts, Department of Political Science, University of Victoria*
- 1987-1990 *Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Department of Political Science, University of Victoria*

## COMPLETED THESES:

- Ph.D.*            The Political Economy of Aboriginal Dependency in Canada: A Critique of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (2006)  
                         Supervisor: Leo Panitch
- M.A.*            The Framing of Greenpeace in the Mass Media (1992)  
                         Supervisor: R. Jeremy Wilson
- B.A.*            The Discursification of Gender in the Mass Media (1990)  
                         Supervisor: Warren Magnusson

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Canadian Politics: Indigenous policy, political economy, academic freedom and freedom of expression in universities, theories of political development, identity politics and postmodernism, religion and politics  
Public Policy: Federalism and public policy, theories of public policy development  
Political Theory: Historical materialism and liberalism  
Critical Thinking: “Street epistemology”, methods of interrogating assumptions and evaluating evidence

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS:

- 2019            *Separate but Unequal: How Parallelist Ideology Conceals Indigenous Dependency* (Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press)
- 2008            *Disrobing the Aboriginal Industry: The Deception Behind Indigenous Cultural Preservation* (Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University), co-authored with Albert Howard

## EDITED VOLUMES:

- 2021            *Indigenizing the University: Diverse Perspectives* (Winnipeg: Frontier Centre for Public Policy)
- 2013            *Approaches to Aboriginal Education in Canada: Searching for Solutions* (Calgary: Brush Education)

## BOOK CHAPTERS:

- 2023 Indigenous “Land-Based Education”: What are the Implications for the Canadian University Curriculum?, in Elizabeth Rata (ed), *Research Handbook on Curricula and Education* (Edward Elgar Publishing, Ltd, Forthcoming)
- 2021 “Confronting Groupthink: Learning to Disagree About Indigenization Without Being Disagreeable”, in Frances Widdowson (ed), *Indigenizing the University: Diverse Perspectives* (Winnipeg: Frontier Centre for Public Policy, 2021)
- “Indigenization and Academic Disciplines: A Pathway to Emancipation or a Lowering of Standards?” in Frances Widdowson (ed), *Indigenizing the University: Diverse Perspectives* (Winnipeg: Frontier Centre for Public Policy, 2021)
- “Indigenous Content Syllabus Materials and Political Science” in Frances Widdowson (ed), *Indigenizing the University: Diverse Perspectives* (Winnipeg: Frontier Centre for Public Policy, 2021)
- 2020 “The Political Economy of Truth and Reconciliation”, in Rodney Clifton and Mark DeWolf (eds), *From Truth Comes Reconciliation: An Assessment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report* (Winnipeg: Frontier Centre for Public Policy)
- 2020 “Capturing ‘Rents’ with the Creation of a Victim/Perpetrator Dichotomy”, in Rodney Clifton and Mark DeWolf (eds), *From Truth Comes Reconciliation* (Winnipeg: Frontier Centre for Public Policy)
- 2013 Frances Widdowson and Albert Howard, “Hunting Assumptions in the Search for Solutions”, in Widdowson and Howard (eds), *Approaches to Aboriginal Education in Canada* (Calgary: Brush Education)
- Frances Widdowson, “Native Studies and Canadian Political Science: The Implications of ‘Decolonizing the Discipline’”, in Widdowson and Howard (eds), *Approaches to Aboriginal Education in Canada* (Calgary: Brush Education)
- Frances Widdowson, “The “Good Mind” and Critical Thinking: A Response to David Newhouse”, in Widdowson and Howard (eds), *Approaches to Aboriginal Education in Canada* (Calgary: Brush Education)
- Albert Howard with Frances Widdowson, “Running the Gauntlet: Challenging the Taboo Obstructing Effective Aboriginal Educational Policy Development”, in Widdowson and Howard (eds), *Approaches to Aboriginal Education in Canada* (Calgary: Brush Education)



## OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

- 2023            “Should Universities ‘Foster Respect’ for Indigenous ‘Ways of Knowing’?”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 95, April
- “Into Wokism’s Raging Maw: Frances Widdowson at the University of Lethbridge”, *C2C Journal*, February 23
- “Naming *White Niggers of America*: I Will Die on This Hill”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 94, January
- “Reaping Postmodernism’s Violent Whirlwind”, *Minding the Campus*, January 4
- 2022            “Fighting Back Against Big Brother’s Love”, *Minding the Campus*, December 22
- “The Woke Academy’s Rejection of the Rule of Law”, *Minding the Campus*, December 12
- “The Perils of University Indigenization”, *Minding the Campus*, November 21
- “Anonymity: The Cowardly Enabler of Cancellation”, *Minding the Campus*, November 3
- “When Questions Become Harassment”, *Minding the Campus*, October 21
- “All Eyes on the Arbitration of the #FrancesWiddowsonCase”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 93, September
- “The Campus Trans Diktat: No Debate, No Dissent – and No Jokes”, *Quillette*, September 6
- “The Perils of Challenging Trans Activism at Mount Royal University”, *Minding the Campus*, September 1
- “When Satire Becomes ‘Harassment’ at Mount Royal University”, *Minding the Campus*, August 15
- “‘Relative Truths’ and Rent-Seeking: Revisiting the Kamloops Indian Residential School Hysteria with Evidence and Reason”, *The American Conservative*, August 15
- “Indigenization Has Poisoned Mount Royal University’s Academic Environment”, *Minding the Campus*, July 18
- “Why Mount Royal University Authoritarians Focus on the ‘Impact’ of Speech”, *Minding the Campus*, June 23

- “Exclusionary Inclusivity: How the Mount Royal Faculty Association ‘Woke’ Faction Coerces Conformity”, *Minding the Campus*, May 11
- “Protecting Disputation: What is to be Done?”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 92, April
- “Billy Remembers: The Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc/Kamloops Indian Residential School Moral Panic”, February 15
- “When Wokeism and the Corporate University Intersect”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 91, January
- 2021 “The Problem with Indigenizing the University”, *Quillette*, February 24
- “The Residential Schools and Unmarked Graves: Why is Open Inquiry Perilous”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 89, September
- “How Reified Postmodernism is Killing the Mount Royal Faculty Association”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 88, April
- “The Residential Schools and Mount Royal University: Thou Shalt Not Challenge the Narrative of ‘Genocide’”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 87, January
- 2020 “Lessons from the Wendy Mesley Case: Please Don’t Feed the #RaceHustling Crocodiles”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 86, September
- “The Politicization of Faculty Associations: What are the Implications for Open Inquiry?”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 85, April
- “The Mark Hecht Case: Was the Diversity, Inclusion and Equity (DIE) ‘Loyalty Oath’ Violated?”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 84, January
- 2019 “Faculty Opposition to the Chicago Principles in Alberta: The Hidden Agenda of Repressive Tolerance”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 83, September
- “Indigenizing Mount Royal’s Curricula: The Threat to Academic Freedom, Freedom of Inquiry and Academic Standards”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 82, April
- “Let’s Call the SJWs What They Actually Are: Politically Correct Totalitarians”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 81, January
- 2018 “What’s Wrong With Official Indigenous Territorial Acknowledgments?”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 80, September

- “Freedom of Expression and Making the Campus a Safe Space: Raising Questions about ‘Violent Speech’, ‘Privilege’ and ‘Transforming the University’”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 79, April
- “‘Islamophobia’ and Mount Royal University: Disrespectful Criticism Of Islam Will Not Be Tolerated”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 78, January
- 2017 “Why the Idea of Cultural Appropriation Should be Challenged”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 77, September
- “Criticize Religion, Not People”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 76, April
- “False Ideas Should be Discussed, Challenge, and Refuted”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 75, January
- 2016 “Indigenization Advocacy and The Academic University: Legitimizing Wishful Thinking, Superstition and Demagoguery”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 74, September
- “‘Indigenizing the University’: Improving Education or Inveigling Condescension?”, *SAFS Newsletter*, 72, January
- 2010 Frances Widdowson and Albert Howard, “Regurgitating doctrines does not constitute analysis”, *Upping the Anti*, Fall 2010.
- Frances Widdowson, “Sewing a shirt on a button: The pseudoarchaeology of 1491, Parts 1 and 2, *mediaINDIGENA*, August 30 and September 7, 2010.
- Frances Widdowson, “Co-author of ‘Disrobing the Aboriginal Industry’ pens her rebuttal”, *mediaINDIGENA*, June 14, 2010.
- 2002 Frances Widdowson and Albert Howard, "The Aboriginal Industry's New Clothes", *Policy Options*, March 2002
- 1999 Frances Widdowson and Albert Howard, "Duplicity in the North: A Reply to Graham White", *Policy Options*, September 1999
- Albert Howard and Frances Widdowson, “The Disaster of Nunavut”, *Policy Options*, July 1999
- Frances Widdowson and Albert Howard, “Corruption North of 60”, *Policy Options*, January/February 1999
- 1996-1998 Albert Howard and Frances Widdowson, “Traditional Knowledge Advocates Weave a Tangled Web”, *Policy Options*, April 1997

Albert Howard and Frances Widdowson, “Traditional Knowledge Threatens Environmental Assessment”, *Policy Options*, November 1996

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS:**

### *Book Projects:*

*The Woke Academy: How Advocacy Studies Murder Scholarship and Effective Policy Development*

*Living and Dying by the Truth: When a University Goes Woke*

*Residential Schools Hysteria in Canada: The Kamloops-Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Case*

## **INVITED TALKS AND PARTICIPATION:**

2023 “When a University Goes Woke”, Annual Meeting of the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship, May 20

“University Indigenization and Studying the Indigenous Residential Schools”, History Reclaimed Webinar, May 5

“Should Universities ‘Foster Respect’ for Indigenous ‘Ways of Knowing’ – Part II”, Guest Lecture for Philosophy 1000, University of Lethbridge, February 2

“How ‘Woke-ism’ Threatens Academic Freedom”, Public Lecture on Zoom, February 1

“Should Universities ‘Foster Respect’ for Indigenous ‘Ways of Knowing’ – Part I”, Guest Lecture for Philosophy 1000, University of Lethbridge, January 31

2022 “How the ‘Woke Academy’ Threatens Liberal Democracy”, Guest Lecture for GNED 1401, Mount Royal University, October 20

“How the ‘Woke Academy’ Threatens Liberal Democracy”, Knights of the Round Table, October 11

“Indigenization and the #FrancesWiddowsonCase”, Presentation for “Combatting Cancel Culture”, National Association of Scholars, September 30

2021 “The Truth as I See It”, Knights of the Round Table, Calgary, October 5

“Can We Discuss Those Unmarked Graves?”, Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship, July 10, <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?V=611245993126273> [accessed January 2022]

“The Use and Abuse of University Discipline”, Society for Academic

- Freedom and Scholarship, July 5
- “Indigenizing the University”, Thinker’s Corner, Frontier Centre for Public Policy, March 18
- 2020 “Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity as Oath and Mantra”, Society for Academic and Scholarship, June 14,  
<https://www.facebook.com/rationalspacenetwork/videos/287491492392054>  
 [accessed January 2022]
- 2018 “Indigenizing the University: When Reason is Afraid to Speak”, UBC Students for Freedom of Expression, Vancouver, November 4,  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_u62TGZa7fM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_u62TGZa7fM) [accessed January 2022]
- “Does Indigenization Threaten Open Inquiry?”, Knights of the Round Table, Calgary.
- “Does University Indigenization Threaten Open Inquiry?”, Unpopular Opinions Series, Laurier Society for Open Inquiry, Waterloo, July 8,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fymqxJ2ryfg> [accessed January 2022]
- 2016 “False Ideas Should be Discussed, Challenged and Refuted”, Pseudo-science and Academic Freedom Symposium, Saint Mary's University, Halifax
- “Academic Freedom and Indigenization: Why the Dissemination of Pseudoscientific ‘Ways of Knowing’ Should be Protected”, Pseudo-science and Academic Freedom Symposium, Saint Mary's University, Halifax
- 2015 “Law and the Aboriginal Industry: Negotiating Rights at the Expense of Needs”, Presentation (with Albert Howard) at the Thompson Rivers University Society of Law School Conference, February 4
- 2013 “Diversity, Merit and Academic Freedom: Deciphering the Orwellian Doublespeak”, Presentation at the Annual General Meeting of the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship, University of Western Ontario, May 11
- 2010 “Religious imposition and aboriginal peoples: How the promotion of native spirituality perpetuates indigenous marginalization and deprivation”, presentation at the Calgary Unitarian Church, October 17
- 2009 “*Disrobing the Aboriginal Industry*, the law, and freedom of speech”, Canadian Bar Association of Alberta, Calgary, December 18
- “Offended by Truth: Speaking Frankly About Canadian Aboriginal Policy”, Presentation for the Probus Club, Calgary, Alberta, June
- “Offended by Truth: Speaking Frankly About Canadian Aboriginal Policy”, Frontier Centre for Public Policy, Winnipeg, Manitoba, January 30

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS:

2022 “Frances Widdowson’s Academic Dissent”, Academic Freedom Conference, Stanford University, November 5

2021 “The Politicization of Faculty Associations”, MRFA Retreat, Mount Royal University, April 29

“Academic Mobbing: The Whys and (the) Wherefores” (with Kenneth Westhues, Rebecca Tuvel, and Paul Viminitz), Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship, March 22, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1wjFdv4r8Y&t=13s> [accessed January 2022]

“Universities and Open Inquiry: Exploring the Difficulties” (with Mark Mercer, Mark Hecht, Kirsten Kramar, and Paul Viminitz), February 25, <https://www.facebook.com/rationalspacenetwork/videos/3811755872214534> [accessed January 2022]

2020 “MRU’s Rational Space Network: Assessing the Second Year of Free Speech and Academic Freedom Advocacy” (with Paul Johnston and Peter Zizler, MRFA Retreat, Mount Royal University, June 4

“Self-Censorship: How Does it Affect Canadian Universities?” (with Christina Behme, Pamela Lindsay, Mark Mercer, and Louis Groarke), May 30, <https://www.facebook.com/rationalspacenetwork/videos/268598087885548/> [accessed January 2022]

2019 “The Chicago Principles Should be Affirmed at Alberta Universities”, Rational Space Network Public Forum, November 5, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4zAmtq0BhI&t=136s> [accessed January 2022]

“Indigenous Content Syllabus Materials and Political Science: What are the Implications of Indigenizing and Decolonizing Introductory Courses”, Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, June 4, <https://www.cpsa-acsp.ca/documents/conference/2019/512.Widdowson.pdf> [accessed January 2022]

“MRU’s Rational Space Network: The Need to Promote Free Speech and Academic Freedom on Campus” (with Gerry Cross and Peter Zizler), MRFA Retreat, Kananaskis

“The ‘Culture of Celebration’ at MRU: What are the Implications for Open Inquiry?”, MRFA Retreat, Kananaskis

“The Three Threats to Academic Freedom”, Mount Royal University, Critical Thinking Series, February 13, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5g7salS5WE&t=583s> [accessed January 2022]

- 2018 “‘Lived Experience’ and Studying the Residential Schools: Exploring the Implications of Valuing Group Membership in Research and Teaching about Indigenous-Non-Indigenous Relations”, Proximity and Distance in Research and Teaching Conference, Halifax
- “Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom: The Lindsay Shepherd Case”, MRFA Faculty Retreat, Kananaskis
- “Exploring Diversity: A FLC Journey”, MRFA Faculty Retreat, Kananaskis
- “Some Thoughts and Questions on Freedom of Expression”, Freedom of Expression and Making the Campus a Safe Space: Where Should the Line be Drawn?, Mount Royal University
- 2017 “The Political Economy of ‘Truth and Reconciliation’: Neotribal Rentierism and the Creation of the Victim/Perpetrator Dichotomy”, Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association, Ryerson University
- “What Should be Mount Royal University's Telos?”, MRFA Retreat, Kananaskis
- “The Challenges of Indigenization”, Indigenizing the University: What are the Academic Implications?, Mount Royal University
- 2016 “The Political Economy of Neotribal Rentierism: A Historical and Material Theory of Aboriginal- Non-Aboriginal Relations”, Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association, University of Calgary
- “‘Indigenizing the University’ and Political Science: Exploring the Implications for the Discipline. Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association, University of Calgary
- “Indigenizing the University: What are the Academic Implications?” (with Liam Haggarty, Keith Carlson, Rob Innes, and Albert Howard), Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship, University of Calgary, June 3
- “Indigenizing the University: Improving Education or Inveigling Condescension?”, MRFA Retreat, Kananaskis
- 2015 “The Problem with Universities Cultivating ‘Respect’ for Social Identities”, Presentation on the “‘Diversity’: Diverse Perspectives” panel, Mount Royal University, October 2
- “Separate But Unequal: Exploring the Implications of Parallelist Ideology on the Political Economy of Aboriginal Peoples”, Presentation at the Annual Conference of the Canadian Political Science Association, June 2-4
- “The Women’s Caucus and MRU’s Future: Strengthening Community or Escalating Divisiveness?”, Presentation at the MRFA Retreat, May 11-12
- 2013 “‘Decolonizing Political Theory’: Exploring the Implications of Advocacy for

- Political Science”, Presentation at the Annual Conference of the Canadian Political Science Association, June 4-6
- “The Killing of Social Science: How Advocacy Studies are Murdering Academic Disciplines and Effective Policy Development”, Paper Presented at the International Journal of Arts and Science conference, Anglo-American University, Prague, May 28-31
- “Exploring the Deep Implications of Reserving Seats for Aboriginal Students”, Presentation at the MRFA Retreat, Kananaskis, May 16
- “‘Decolonizing Political Theory’: Exploring the Implications of Advocacy for Political Science”, Presentation for the Policy Studies Seminar Series, Mount Royal University, April 12
- 2012 “Diversity and Critical Thinking”, Presentation at the Annual Conference of the Canadian Political Science Association, University of Alberta, June 15
- “Studying Indigenous Politics in Canada: Assessing Political Science’s Understanding of Traditional Aboriginal Governance”, Presentation (with Miranda Anderson and Ezra Voth) at the Annual Conference of the Canadian Political Science Association, University of Alberta, June 15
- “Non-Academic Misconduct and MRU: Does Policy 513 Damage Student Connections?”, Presentation at the MRFA Retreat, May 16
- “Critical Pedagogy and Freedom”, Presentation at the MRFA Retreat, May 15
- “Critical Pedagogy and Revolution: Does the Connection of Knowledge to Power Aid Struggles for Social Justice?”, Presentation at the Fault Lines of Revolution! Conference, Carleton University, May 4
- “Studying Indigenous Politics in Canada: Assessing Political Science’s Understanding of Traditional Aboriginal Governance”, Presentation (with Miranda Anderson and Ezra Voth) at the Policy Studies Seminar Series, April 13
- “Opening Remarks”, Presentation at the Is Religion Harmful Panel, Mount Royal University, March 28
- 2011 “Aboriginal Research Ethics”, Roundtable presentation at the Canadian Political Science Association, May 17
- “Aboriginal Rights and Our Common Future: The Perils of Endorsing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”, presentation for the Canadian Political Science Association, May 16
- “Diversity and Academic Freedom”, Presentation at the MRFA Retreat, May 11



- “Public Debate and Aboriginal Policy Formulation”, Debating Aboriginal Policy Forum, Mount Royal University, May 5
- “How the ‘Call of Spirit’ Impedes Education”, Debating Aboriginal Policy Forum, Mount Royal University, May 5
- “Aboriginal Rights and Our Common Future: The Perils of Endorsing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”, presentation for the Policy Studies Seminar Series, March 18
- “How Advocacy Murders Academic Freedom”, General Education Colloquium, Mount Royal University, March 2
- 2010 “Indigenous ‘ways of knowing’ and the environment: Does epistemological relativism contribute to the protection of western lands?”, Under Western Skies conference, October 13-16
- “Justifying the Unjustifiable? Chosenness, Difference and Political Conflict”, 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association, Concordia University, Montreal, June 1-3
- “Critical Thinking, Secularism and Mount Royal University”, Presentation for the Mount Royal Faculty Association Retreat, May 14
- “The Kindly Inquisition Influencing Aboriginal Policy Formulation”, New Directions in Aboriginal Policy Forum, Mount Royal University, Calgary, May 5
- “The Good Mind and Critical Thinking: Exploring the Implications of ‘Indigenous Knowledge’ Meeting the Academy”, New Directions in Aboriginal Policy Forum, Mount Royal University, Calgary, May 5
- “Speaking Frankly About Aboriginal Education”, Greater Edmonton Teachers’ Convention Association, Edmonton, February 26
- 2009 “Aboriginal Peoples, Political Science, and Research Ethics: Should Indigenous Politics be Studied Differently?”, Presentation at the Prairie Provinces Political Science Association, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta, October 3
- “Opening Remarks”, New Directions in Aboriginal Policy Forum, Mount Royal University, June 12
- “Development, Postmodernism, and Aboriginal Policy: What are We Afraid Of?”, 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association, Carleton University, Ottawa, May 27-29

- “Policy Development and Aboriginal Broadcasting: A Case Study of the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, *81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association*, Carleton University, Ottawa, May 27-29
- “Offended by Truth: Speaking Frankly About Canadian Aboriginal Policy”, Presentation for the Knights of the Round Table, Calgary, Alberta, April 21
- “Running the Gauntlet: Challenging the Taboo Constraining Effective Aboriginal Educational Policy Development”, Presentation at the Aboriginal Policy Research Conference, Ottawa, Ontario, March 9-12
- 2008 Presentation at the “Forum on the ‘Aboriginal Industry’”, Mount Royal College, Calgary, Alberta, December 1
- “Native Studies and Canadian Political Science: The Implications of ‘Decolonizing the Discipline’”, *80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association*, University of British Columbia, June 4-6
- “The Political Economy of ‘Aboriginal Customary Law’”, Presentation at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Conference of the Canadian Initiative in Law, Culture & the Humanities, Carleton University, Ottawa, October 12-14
- 2007 “Aboriginal Rights and Canadian Environmental Policy: Enhancing Sustainability or a Justification of Deregulation?”, *79<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association*, University of Saskatchewan, May 30-June 1
- “Indigenous Knowledge(s) and the Academy: Facilitating Decolonization or Disguising Aboriginal Marginalization?”, *Annual Meeting of the Society for Socialist Studies*, University of Saskatchewan, June
- 2006 “The Inherent Right of Unethical Governance”, *78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association*, York University, June 1-3
- “Aboriginal ‘Traditional Knowledge’ and Canadian Public Policy: Ten Years of Listening to the Silence” (with Albert Howard), *78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association*, York University, June 1-3
- 2005 “The Political Economy of Nunavut: Internal Colony or Rentier Territory?”, *77<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association*, University of Western Ontario, June 2-4
- “The Killing of Political Economy: How the Inclusion of ‘Aboriginal Perspectives’ is Murdering our Understanding of Canadian Development”, *First Nations, First Thoughts Conference*, Centre for Canadian Studies, University of Edinburgh, May 5-6

- 2004 "Inventing Nationhood: The Political Economy of Aboriginal Claims to Self-Determination in the Context of Québec Sovereignty", *76<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association*, University of Manitoba, June 3-5
- 2003 "Separate but Unequal: The Political Economy of Aboriginal Dependency", *75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association*, Halifax, May 30-June 1
- 1998 "Aboriginal Self-Government in Canada: Recognizing Difference or Maintaining Dependency?", *Great Lakes Political Economy Conference*, Toronto, May 9, 1998

### **TEACHING:**

- Fall 2021* Political Science 1101: Introduction to Politics and Government  
Political Science 1123: Canadian Political Issues
- Winter 2020* Policy Studies 3303: Federalism  
Political Science 1101: Introduction to Politics and Government
- Fall 2019* Political Studies 2201: Introduction to Public Policy  
Political Science 1101: Introduction to Politics and Government

Other courses taught include Political Science 2231: The Canadian State; PLSC 2259: Comparative Politics; Policy Studies 5010: Selected Topics in Policy Studies; and Environmental Politics.

### **RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT:**

- 2004 *Government of Ontario*  
Advisory contract with the Ministry of Education to ensure the factual accuracy of high school curricula in History, Politics and Economics and to evaluate its ability to prepare students for post-secondary studies
- 1992-1997 *Government of the Northwest Territories*  
Policy and Program Analyst for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, the Department of Safety and Public Services and Senior Policy Analyst for the Department of Renewable Resources (now Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development)

## NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES

- 2014 Frances Widdowson and Albert Howard, "Why aboriginal audits miss the real problem", *The Globe and Mail* (web edition), April 9, 2014
- 2013 Frances Widdowson, "A 'dream palace' built on gas and gold won't solve aboriginal poverty", *The Globe and Mail* (web edition), January 10, 2013
- 2010 Frances Widdowson, "The aboriginal healing foundation boondoggle", *National Post*, January 4, 2010
- 2009 Frances Widdowson and Albert Howard, "Exposing the Aboriginal Industry", *Toronto Star*, April 25, 2009, p. I3
- Frances Widdowson and Albert Howard, "Aboriginal cultural gap a reality", *The Reflector*, January 15, 2009, p. 3
- Frances Widdowson and Albert Howard, "Re: 'After the Apology' by Peter Dinsdale", *Literary Review of Canada*, January/February 2009
- 2008 Frances Widdowson and Albert Howard, "The deception behind indigenous cultural preservation", *Metro*, December 16, 2008
- 1996-1999 Frances Widdowson and Albert Howard, "Environmental Stewards or Profit-makers?", *The Globe and Mail*, May 2, 1998, p. D6
- Frances Widdowson and Albert Howard, "Religion has no place in government policy", *News North*, April 1, 1997

## COMMENTARIES AND INTERVIEWS:

- "The Truth as I See It, In Conversation with Frances Widdowson", Interview with Peter Shawn Taylor, *C2C Journal*, October 20, 2020, [https://c2cjournal.ca/2020/10/the-truth-as-i-see-it-in-conversation-with-frances-widdowson/?fbclid=IwAR0hteozEcrUr\\_gdCkgP1JZ90NxZ1bX2jXzSmg6RWFe-vQjdn4w53bnfFl](https://c2cjournal.ca/2020/10/the-truth-as-i-see-it-in-conversation-with-frances-widdowson/?fbclid=IwAR0hteozEcrUr_gdCkgP1JZ90NxZ1bX2jXzSmg6RWFe-vQjdn4w53bnfFl) [accessed January 2022]
- "Canada's Indigenous Problem with Frances Widdowson", *Kazingram Dialogue*, November 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oLgBKdPdqa&t=10s> [accessed January 2022]
- "Hate Speech and the Indigenous Industry", *Kazingram Dialogue*, June 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFuOA4ecJRY&t=216s> [accessed January 2022]

“Dialogos: Dr. Widdowson on Exposing the Aboriginal Industry”, August 2, 2018, <https://www.thepostil.com/dialogos-dr-widdowson-on-exposing-the-aboriginal-industry/> [accessed January 2022]

“Indigenous Communities: Surviving Canada”, *The Agenda with Steve Paikin*, TVOntario, November 16, 2017

Interview on *China Radio International TODAY*, February 7, 2013

Interview with Tommy Schnurmacher, *CJAD*, Montreal on January 9, 2013

Interview with Joslyn Oosenbrug on *The Trailbreaker*, *CBC North*, January 30, 2012

Interview with Michael Enright on *Disrobing the Aboriginal Industry*, The Sunday Edition, *CBC Radio*, June 14, 2009

Interview with John Gormley on *Disrobing the Aboriginal Industry*, John Gormley Live, News Talk 650, *CKOM*, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, April 8, 2009

“Frances Widdowson and Academic Freedom”, *The World Tonight With Rob Breakenridge*, *AM770 CHQR*, February 26, 2009

Interview with Todd Lamirande, *Contact*, *Aboriginal Peoples’ Television Network*, January 30, 2009

Interview with Richard Cloutier, *CJOB 68*, Winnipeg, Manitoba, January 30, 2009

Interview with Mark Forsythe, *B.C. Almanac*, *CBC Radio One*, Vancouver, B.C., January 15, 2009

“Aboriginal Causes: A Lucrative Business for White Advisers”, interview with Victor Teboul, *Tolerance.ca*, January 4, 2009

“Aboriginal funding: where the money went”, interview with Ian Sutton, *Diversity in the Workplace*, January 2009

Commentary on Consensus Government versus Party Politics in the Northwest Territories, *CBC Northbeat*, November 2, 1999

"CBC Conflict", Interview with *CBC North Radio* in Iqaluit, April 7, 1999

"Consensus Government in the North", Interview with Dick Gordon on *CBC This Morning*, March 1999

“Consensus” government and systemic corruption: the case for political parties in the Northwest Territories", Commentary on *CBC North Radio*, January 28, 1999

Interview with Paul Andrew on the Government of the Northwest Territories' Traditional Knowledge Policy, *CBC Northbeat*, February 27, 1999

**BOARD MEMBERSHIPS:**

2019- Board Member, Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship

2017- Founder, Rational Space Network

**COMMITTEES:**

2018-2020 Social Events Committee, Mount Royal Faculty Association

2016-2018 Faculty of Arts Representative, General Faculties Council

2012-2013 Faculty Representative, Mount Royal University Policy Studies Alumni Chapter

2011-2012 Departmental Communicator for the Mount Royal Faculty Association

Faculty Representative, Mount Royal University Policy Studies Alumni Chapter

2010-2011 Department of Policy Studies Honours Committee

Departmental Communicator for the Mount Royal Faculty Association

Faculty Representative, Mount Royal University Policy Studies Alumni Chapter

2009-2010 Faculty of Arts Native Studies Steering

Committee Faculty of Arts Rank and Promotion

Committee

Mount Royal Faculty Association Communications Committee

2008-2009 Faculty of Arts Native Studies Steering

Committee Faculty of Arts Scholarly Events

Committee Faculty of Arts Diversity Committee

Mount Royal Faculty Association Communications Committee

2006 Retention Committee, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Memorial University

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:**

2011 \$4,000 Internal Research Grants Fund

2010 \$4,000 Internal Research Grants Fund

Chosen for inclusion in *Canadian Who's Who*

2009 Shortlisted for the Donner Book Prize

1997/98 Graduate Scholarship, York University

1990/91 Dean's Scholarship, University of Victoria

## **REFERENCES**

### **FRANCES WIDDOWSON, PH.D.**

Below are three references from Canadian political scientists:

Keith Brownsey, Ph.D.  
Professor, Department of Economics, Justice, and Policy Studies  
Mount Royal University



Tom Flanagan, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Science  
University of Calgary



Malcolm Bird, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science  
The University of Winnipeg



Below is a reference from a historian, Dr. Robert Wright. Although Wright is not a political scientist, he has told me that he has read everything that I have written and uses my work in his graduate seminar.

Robert Wright, Ph.D.  
Vanier Professor, Department of History  
Trent University












Below is an international reference from a political economist, Dr. Elizabeth Rata. Rata's research on the political economy of neotribal capitalism was a major influence on my work. I adapted her theories for the Canadian context. Dr. Rata also recently asked me to submit a chapter in her edited volume *Research Handbook on Curricula and Education*.

Elizabeth Rata, Ph.D.  
Professor, Critical Studies in Education






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 **WokeAcademy.Info**  
@WokeAcademy

# How "Woke-ism" Threatens Academic Freedom

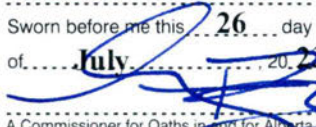


## Public Lecture with Frances Widdowson

Wednesday, February 1, 2023, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

University of Lethbridge  
Anderson Hall, Room 175

This is Exhibit " B " referred to in the Affidavit of **Frances Widdowson** Sworn before me this 26 day of July, 2023



A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
Barrister & Solicitor

12:16 PM · Jan 13, 2023 · 2,907 Views

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Reply

 **The Russian Bot** @contramundum\_2 · Jan 14

Replying to @WokeAcademy

Is she doing a tour? How do I find her schedule?

 1    81 

Show replies

### Relevant people

 **WokeAcademy.Int**  
@WokeAcademy

See the corrosive "ism" at [wokeacademy](#) support the fundraiser the [#FrancesWiddowson](#) [fundrazr.com/woke](#)

### What's happening

NBA · Starts at 5:30 PM  
**Warriors at Mavericks**

Trending  
**Epstein Island**  
13K Tweets

Trending  
**Where is Fetterman**  
1,518 Tweets

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**#TWICE\_5TH\_WORLD\_TOUR**  
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Messages



This is Exhibit " C " referred to  
in the Affidavit of

**Frances Widdowson**

Sworn before me this 26 day  
of July, 2023

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
**Barrister & Solicitor**

## Report of the Committee on Freedom of Expression

*The Committee on Freedom of Expression at the University of Chicago was appointed in July 2014 by President Robert J. Zimmer and Provost Eric D. Isaacs “in light of recent events nationwide that have tested institutional commitments to free and open discourse.” The Committee’s charge was to draft a statement “articulating the University’s overarching commitment to free, robust, and uninhibited debate and deliberation among all members of the University’s community.”*

*The Committee has carefully reviewed the University’s history, examined events at other institutions, and consulted a broad range of individuals both inside and outside the University. This statement reflects the long-standing and distinctive values of the University of Chicago and affirms the importance of maintaining and, indeed, celebrating those values for the future.*

From its very founding, the University of Chicago has dedicated itself to the preservation and celebration of the freedom of expression as an essential element of the University’s culture. In 1902, in his address marking the University’s decennial, President William Rainey Harper declared that “the principle of complete freedom of speech on all subjects has from the beginning been regarded as fundamental in the University of Chicago” and that “this principle can neither now nor at any future time be called in question.”

Thirty years later, a student organization invited William Z. Foster, the Communist Party’s candidate for President, to lecture on campus. This triggered a storm of protest from critics both on and off campus. To those who condemned the University for allowing the event, President Robert M. Hutchins responded that “our students . . . should have freedom to discuss any problem that presents itself.” He insisted that the “cure” for ideas we oppose “lies through open discussion rather than through inhibition.” On a later occasion, Hutchins added that “free inquiry is indispensable to the good life, that universities exist for the sake of such inquiry, [and] that without it they cease to be universities.”

In 1968, at another time of great turmoil in universities, President Edward H. Levi, in his inaugural address, celebrated “those virtues which from the beginning and until now have characterized our institution.” Central to the values of the University of Chicago, Levi explained, is a profound commitment to “freedom of inquiry.” This freedom, he proclaimed, “is our inheritance.”

More recently, President Hanna Holborn Gray observed that “education should not be intended to make people comfortable, it is meant to make them think. Universities should be expected to provide the conditions within which hard thought, and therefore strong disagreement, independent judgment, and the questioning of stubborn assumptions, can flourish in an environment of the greatest freedom.”

The words of Harper, Hutchins, Levi, and Gray capture both the spirit and the promise of the University of Chicago. Because the University is committed to free and open inquiry in all matters, it guarantees all members of the University community the broadest possible latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn. Except insofar as limitations on that freedom are necessary to the functioning of the University, the University of Chicago fully respects and supports the freedom of all members of the University community “to discuss any problem that presents itself.”

Of course, the ideas of different members of the University community will often and quite naturally conflict. But it is not the proper role of the University to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive. Although the University greatly values civility, and although all members of the University community share in the responsibility for maintaining a climate of mutual respect, concerns about civility and mutual respect can never be used as a justification for closing off discussion of ideas, however offensive or disagreeable those ideas may be to some members of our community.

The freedom to debate and discuss the merits of competing ideas does not, of course, mean that individuals may say whatever they wish, wherever they wish. The University may restrict expression that violates the law, that falsely defames a specific individual, that constitutes a genuine threat or harassment, that unjustifiably invades substantial privacy or confidentiality interests, or that is otherwise directly incompatible with the functioning of the University. In addition, the University may reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of expression to ensure that it does not disrupt the ordinary activities of the University. But these are narrow exceptions to the general principle of freedom of expression, and it is vitally important that these exceptions never be used in a manner that is inconsistent with the University’s commitment to a completely free and open discussion of ideas.

In a word, the University’s fundamental commitment is to the principle that debate or deliberation may not be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the University community to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong-headed. It is for the individual members of the University community, not for the University as an institution, to make those judgments for themselves, and to act on those judgments not by seeking to suppress speech, but by openly and vigorously contesting the ideas that they oppose. Indeed, fostering the ability of members of the University community to engage in such debate and deliberation in an effective and responsible manner is an essential part of the University’s educational mission.

As a corollary to the University’s commitment to protect and promote free expression, members of the University community must also act in conformity with the principle of free expression. Although members of the University community are free to criticize and contest the views expressed on campus, and to criticize and contest

speakers who are invited to express their views on campus, they may not obstruct or otherwise interfere with the freedom of others to express views they reject or even loathe. To this end, the University has a solemn responsibility not only to promote a lively and fearless freedom of debate and deliberation, but also to protect that freedom when others attempt to restrict it.

As Robert M. Hutchins observed, without a vibrant commitment to free and open inquiry, a university ceases to be a university. The University of Chicago's long-standing commitment to this principle lies at the very core of our University's greatness. That is our inheritance, and it is our promise to the future.

Geoffrey R. Stone, Edward H. Levi Distinguished Service Professor of Law,  
*Chair*

Marianne Bertrand, Chris P. Dialynas Distinguished Service Professor of  
Economics, Booth School of Business

Angela Olinto, Homer J. Livingston Professor, Department of Astronomy and  
Astrophysics, Enrico Fermi Institute, and the College

Mark Siegler, Lindy Bergman Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine and  
Surgery

David A. Strauss, Gerald Ratner Distinguished Service Professor of Law

Kenneth W. Warren, Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor,  
Department of English and the College

Amanda Woodward, William S. Gray Professor, Department of Psychology  
and the College

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**Kim Siever**  
@kim\_siever

Apparently the University of Lethbridge is hosting a speaker who was fired from Mount Royal for talking about how great residential schools were.

**How "Woke-ism" Threatens Academic Freedom**

Public Lecture with Frances Widdowson

Wednesday, February 1, 2023, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

University of Lethbridge  
Anderson Hall, Room 175

This is Exhibit " D " referred to in the Affidavit of **Frances Widdowson**. Sworn before me this 26 day of July, 2023.

A Commissioner for Oaths and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
Barrister & Solicitor

6:08 PM · Jan 25, 2023 · 55.3K Views

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Tweet your reply!

Reply

- Amy @DameMyniah** · Jan 25  
@DrJayDrNo  
2 4 1,607
- Kim Siever @kim\_siever** · Jan 25  
He has me blocked so won't be able to see it.  
3 6 1,558
- Amy @A\_Jackson28** · Jan 25  
I've also been told that she's been invited to speak but I'm unsure of the original source though.

Messages



Relevant people

**Kim Siever**  
@kim\_siever  
Radical left queer f  
Egalitarianism is m  
political philosoph

What's happening

MLB - Starts at 2:10 PM  
**Mariners at Padres**

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**Megan Fox**  
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5,366 Tweets

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1 1 8 1,393

**Kim Siever** @kim\_siever · Jan 25  
I've heard that as well.

4 1,233

**dr.murtonstoehr** @murtonstoehr · Jan 25  
She is the worst. But man - just run a talk at the same time, maybe about how she's the worst. It's so satisfying to counter-organize and draw a bigger crowd than the baddies. And you can say whatever you want and look all neo-liberal rise above b/c you didn't protest.

1 24 1,216

**Kim Siever** @kim\_siever · Jan 25

**ULethbridge Indigenous Studies** @UofL\_Indigenous · Jan 24  
The Institute for Child and Youth Studies  
Presents: Dr. Sean Carleton, University of Manitoba  
Truth before Reconciliation: How to Identify and Confront Residential School Denialism  
Wednesday, February 1, 2023 4:30 PM MST  
Zoom registration required: bit.ly/3kvoBzz

1 9 55 2,223

Show replies

**Diversity Workshop, CCIP™** @minnyan · Jan 26  
Ironically, you've proven her point. 😏

4 3 697

**Kim Siever** @kim\_siever · Jan 26  
Oh?

3 612

**Joanne is Pro Choice** @JHughesViews · Jan 25  
Soon she will be joining the despicable Jordan Peterson on tour. They can grift together.

1 11 263

**Nana** still wears a mask 🇺🇸 @ValMackinnon · Jan 26

51

**matty** @mattyduchak · Jan 25  
What benefits will they get from hosting this at a university? It's the exact demographic they're railing against

8 650

**Jik** @JackieJanes8 · Jan 25  
Why though?

1 4 391

**Mulcair's Misangry Sandwich** @RadioRoz · Jan 25  
Her legal tactic against MRU is to try to prove her dismissal was due to her horrible ideas ergo "suppression of free speech", but it wasn't "the" reason. Once she files in court, the documentation might point to garbage behaviour issues.

3 10 968

**Latda** @Latdashop  
A pair of reading glasses that can look far and matter how far or near.

Relevant people

**Kim Siever** @kim\_siever  
Radical left queer Egalitarianism is m political philosoph

What's happening

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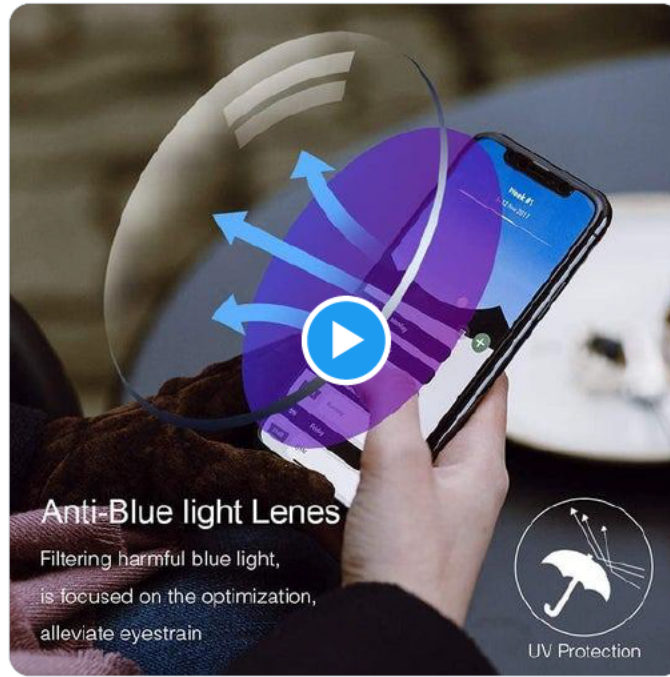
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Nicola @WestsideBook · Jan 25

None of the elementary schools I went to have graveyards.



[aptnnews.ca](https://aptnnews.ca)

Residential school deaths caused by unpasteurized milk: report  
A report written for Saddle Lake Cree Nation says unpasteurized milk is responsible for hundreds of deaths of children in residential school.

4 3 35 1,645

Relevant people



Kim Siever @kim\_siever  
Radical left queer Egalitarianism is m political philosoph

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**Samantha K.** @DirkSamantha · Jan 26  
Foul. With a high population of indigenous students and being surrounded by First Nations Communities; I hope at the very least this man's presence is protested by students and citizens. Unless he is there to apologize and explain what he has learnt about indigenous history since

**KCR** 🇨🇦🇺🇸🇯🇲🇵🇸🇯🇲🇵🇸 @kimcreynolds1 · Jan 26  
There's a reason why this university isn't ranked well and doesn't attract well.

**Betty Ann** @mamabettyann · Jan 25  
Mercy she's persistent. Shouldnt cause too much damage considering her lectures were painfully boring.

**Yale Belanger** @ydbelanger · Jan 25  
An unnamed campus group booked uni space for the talk. Not sure of much more.

**Jeal** @jeal64 · Jan 25  
Shame on @uLethbridge.. as an alumni I believe they should do better!!! #abpoli

**Amy** 🌸 @LikeCranberry · Jan 25  
This has started circulating in response. There is also the ICYS talk by Dr. Sean Carleton that has already been posted in this thread!

**Has no ROOM FOR Hate.**

**EVERY CHILD MATTERS**

On February 1, 2023, the University of Lethbridge is hosting known **Residential School denialist & Black Lives Matter denialist** Frances Widdowson, who was fired from Mount Royal University in 2022 for her "hateful actions against the BIPOC community".

Widdowson's presence on campus is in clear violation of student safety & her use of facilities is paid for by students **without student consent**.

Join us in **peaceful protest** as we object the university's decision to give Widdowson a platform to speak.

**WHERE/WHEN:**  
February 1, 2023  
4:00 pm  
Anderson Hall  
Wear Orange & Bring Signs

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO PULL UP!**

**Relevant people**

**Kim Siever** @kim\_siever  
Radical left queer M  
Egalitarianism is m  
political philosoph!

**What's happening**

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**Alexis MacDonell** @MacdonellAlexis · Jan 25  
Lovely

**Globalist Worst Nightmare** @DontTreadOnCan · Feb 1  
This is a photo referencing, the Cultural Revolution. Alot of this has reference to "cultural marxism."

**Taija Jean** @xoTaijaJeanox · Jan 25  
She is absolutely AWFUL. Her Facebook profile is a sight to see. And she's raising money to fight her case with MRU. 🙄

**Tyna - post.news/tynamcnair** @TynaMcNair · Jan 26  
Seems on brand for my alumni @uLethbridge  
WhY dON't AIUmNi dOnAtE?

**GrigioGirlJoanne** @fireyfemme · Jan 25  
Wow

**S.L. Rashka** @misharashka · Jan 26  
this is impossible to find on the uleth events page. Someone definitely doesn't want people finding out, about a...public lecture? weird. She's awful.

**Amy She / They** @mormonmombutnot · Jan 25  
I got sent this

4:46 PM

Hi! Not sure if you've heard but residential school denier Frances Widdowson has been invited to speak at the university next week & students are encourages to let mike.mahon@uleth.ca know this is unacceptable, hoping you're able to pass that info along!

**Jen Rollins** @TheJenRollins · Jan 26  
What in the actual fück?

**Scuba Steve** @dallan2022 · Jan 26  
Because Lethbridge.

**Relevant people**

**Kim Siever** @kim\_siever  
Radical left queer  
Egalitarianism is m  
political philosoph

**What's happening**

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66 211 2,461 3.3M

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**Sparky, RSE** @ibew\_sparky · Jan 27

How people being decent human beings threatens academic freedom?

That's quite the topic.

1 1 59

**Barbara Ivicsek** @BIVicsek · Jan 26

No, just no... 🙄

60

**Taija Jean** @xoTaijaJeanox · Jan 25

I was just looking at her fundraiser and apparently she is guest lecturing in a philosophy class at @uLethbridge as well. Wonder how they feel about that.

1 1 6 995

**九重楼** @EdwardK90200940 · Jan 30

Why the pic is about ten years crisis in China

16

### Relevant people

**Kim Siever**  
@kim\_siever  
Radical left queer  
Egalitarianism is m  
political philosoph

### What's happening

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**stormysam1** @stormysam1 · Jan 25  
geez no. when is this going to stop?

**Tim Murphy He/Him** 🇨🇦🇪🇪🇸🇵🇸 @grouchdiver · Jan 26

**ML** @mollyrules · Jan 25  
@ULethbridgeNews @uLethbridge @ulethCalgary @Ulethgeo @ulethartgallery @UlethICYS @UlethSU @UlethbridgeEdu @UofL\_FineArts Do better. Cancel this booking. No platform for hate. No place for hate. @LethbridgeCity @lethnewsnow @GlobalLeth @CTVLethbridge @Leth\_Herald

**Bruce Ronnquist** @bucebeak · Jan 26  
I'm looking forward to the fallout.

**dana banana** @mcleans4 · Jan 25  
Super.

**Here4thacarrots** @Chumingo13 · Jan 25  
Wtf!?!?

**James Sanyshyn** @JamesSanyshyn · Jan 25  
Boo. Genocide is not up for debate.

**raging\_grannie** @raging\_grannie · Jan 25  
@BarbPhillips11 doesn't this just stink!

**Rhonda The Introvert** 🌈 @northerngal2 · Jan 25  
That's disappointing to say the least.

**GoodGawdMadge** 🇨🇦🇪🇪🇸🇵🇸 @GawdMadge2 · Jan 25  
Oh good lord. 🙄🙄

**Relevant people**

**Kim Siever** @kim\_siever  
Radical left queer M  
Egalitarianism is m  
political philosoph!

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Get your [torda.co/hd-cam](https://torda.co/hd-cam)



43 430 2,972 2.6M

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### More Replies

**Shanyn Silinski** @MysticShanyn · Jan 26 ...  
 🤔🤔

1 228

**Danielle De L'Acadie** 🇨🇦 @Danielledacadie · Jan 25 ...  
 Alberta, you kept the wrong kind of rats out of the province.

4 208

**This Machine Mocks Fascists** @savage@... @SavageDru... · Jan 27 ...  
 More grifty anti-"woke" bullshit from the side of the political spectrum that can't find the clitoris..

16

**Cheryl** @CDNSportySmurf · Jan 25 ...  
 I don't know what her point is using that particular photo, but it's repulsive. Academic freedom isn't helped by spouting BS.

3 184

**June Marie** @auntiemin · Jan 26 ...  
 So you are saying that it is only okay for you to have free speech, no opposing views should be heard. You sound very much like a Communist shaming circle.

6 1 1 5,935

**A Single Spark** @PrairieFireYYC · Jan 26 ...  
 I "wish" we could put dunce caps on these losers like it was still the GPCR. What a joke 🤔

101

**Danielle** @DanielleLatour8 · Jan 26 ...  
 I'll debate her any day of the week. First, "woke-ism" is imagined. Cancel culture is imagined, too.

Using a Chinese communist picture is another wa

### Relevant people

**Kim Siever** @kim\_siever  
 Radical left queer  
 Egalitarianism is m  
 political philosoph

### What's happening

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### Relevant people

**Kim Siever**  
@kim\_siever  
Radical left queer M  
Egalitarianism is m  
political philosoph!

### What's happening

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**Mariners at Padres**

Celebrities · Trending  
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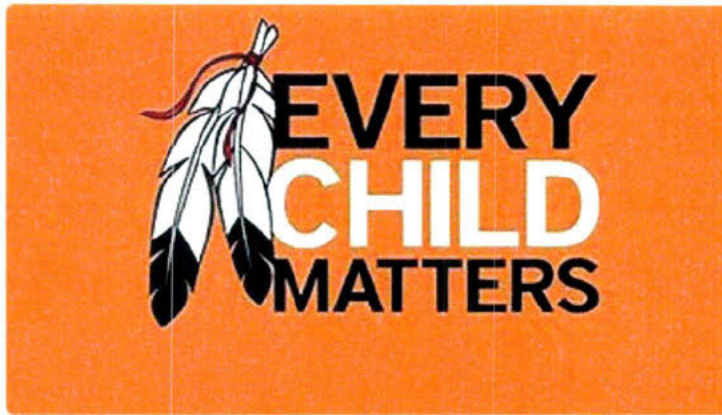
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Petition details Comments Updates

# Stop Frances Widdowson from Speaking at University of Lethbridge



[Concerned Students](#) started this petition

Frances Widdowson is a residential school denier, Anti BLM, and trans rights critic who was fired Mount Royal University for her controversial ideology. Her presence on campus not only denigrates the status of the University by giving space to a speaker who promotes historical falsities and racial bigotry, but endangers student's well-being and safety.

Although this was not organized by the University itself, the University should be focussed on Truth and Reconciliation. The reality is, that racist and harmful ideologies are coming on campus, silence is complicity. This is an act of violence upon its BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, and especially Indigenous students by allowing space for these ideologies to traumatize students in a space that is supposed to be safe and educating.

Freedom of speech is vital to the functioning of higher education, but Frances Widdowson's ideology of "anti-wokeism" is not only based on historical falsities and racist bigotry, but student well-being and safety is more important than any guest speaker's message. Anti-wokeism is a fallacious ideology because things like critical race theory and Indigenous teachings are just as much a part of academic freedom and freedom of speech, but is labelled as "wokeism" by scholars such as Widdowson.

Thank you for taking your time to support preventing harmful ideologies from permeating a place of higher education and the prevention of retraumatization of Indigenous students.

[Report a problem with this petition](#)

2,143 have signed. Let's get to 2,500!



At 2,500 signatures, this petition is more likely to get picked up by local news!

- Ethan Hammond signed this petition
- Lake Best signed this petition
- Kathryn Rabalais signed this petition

## Sign this petition

First name

Last name

Email

Country:

Display my name and comment on this petition

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This is Exhibit " E " referred to in the Affidavit of

Frances Widdowson.....

Sworn before me this 26 day

of July, 2023

A Commissioner for Oaths and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
Barrister & Solicitor

## Reasons for signing

See why other supporters are signing, why this petition is important to them, and share your reason for signing (this will mean a lot to the starter of the petition).



**Kathryn Rabalais**  
3 weeks ago

Ban guns/stop gun violence crimes/keep weapons away from schools and public places And way away from domestic abusers in the military

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Florence Provost**  
Feb 4, 2023

She has no right to speak on this she is ignorant

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**ron freeman**  
Feb 1, 2023

Frances Widdowson is a residential school denialist, Anti BLM, and trans rights critic

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Yolande Christelle Doe**  
Feb 1, 2023

I believe that the election of the UCP premier has emboldened racist, white individuals in Alberta and this individual is just another blatant wanna be demagogue spewing harmful rhetoric they want normalized. She is desperate for Jordan Peterson level infamy and her stunt is just another... [Read more](#)

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**J.L Sharpe**  
Jan 31, 2023

I dont support thé colonial mindset nor the institutions that helped destroy members of my family.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**shelly mayer**  
Jan 31, 2023

Because this teacher is not being truthfull about residential school.

♡ 0

[Report](#)





**leesa baskerville**

Jan 31, 2023

there was nothing positive about residential schools NOTHING

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Lyndelle Two Stars**

Jan 31, 2023

This woman is INSULTING and IGNORANT regarding residential schools!!! UNACCEPTABLE!!!!

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Catherine Thomas**

Jan 31, 2023

Innocent indigenous children were trafficked to residential schools and severely abused sexually, mentally and physically! This woman is disgusting !

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Sarah Aubin**

Jan 31, 2023

Indigenous turtle islanders should have the right to feel safe in a academic setting and no academic teacher should have the right to insert thier "opinions" on Indigenous issues when they are not involved in them

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Zachary Mann**

Jan 30, 2023

She needs to be fired because there's no positive at all

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Pamela Hediger**

Jan 30, 2023

This is horrifying for me as an indigenous woman

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Suzanna Lemky**

Jan 30, 2023

I stand with indigenous peoples. Their voices are the only voices we should be hearing. There was no good that came from residential schools!

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Courtenay Chisholm**

Jan 30, 2023

I support Indigenous people and actually listen to them.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Jodi Bremner**

Jan 30, 2023

This is atrocious...come on U of Lethbridge, this isn't about free speech.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Dana-Rae McLeod**

Jan 30, 2023

Because Residential School defenders are the same type of morally bankrupt garbage as Holocaust Deniers. Same trash, different font.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Cara Nicole McPhee**

Jan 30, 2023

My mother endured this atrocity only to have me stolen in the 60's Scoop.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Antonella Morra**

Jan 30, 2023

It is absolutely horrid that someone who is supposed to be educated, is spreading false narratives, feeding into hate & perpetuating the ongoing systemic oppression & racism! No place that has a semblance of a conscience should allow her to speak especially since it hate speech & goes against what our Human Rights are!

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Alessia Hamilton**  
Jan 30, 2023

I'm signing because I support Indigenous people

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Cregg LAFFERTY-TUCCARO**  
Jan 30, 2023

I indigenous and this bitch needs to be stopped.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Kelly Tree**  
Jan 30, 2023

Residential schools were horrific and the goal behind them completely wrong. Forced assimilation and genocide should not be glamorized, there is no benefit in the murder of children

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Sheila White**  
Jan 30, 2023

This needs to end the misinformation. Residential Schools caused nothing but harm and tremendous pain. How is this truth and reconciliation. How is this allowed in the first place. Who is responsible for allowing this to happen in the first place. They should be held accountable for causing more harm. Residential schools survivors should be supported and heard.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Michelle Goulet**  
Jan 30, 2023

There was no good that came from IRS people  
Who did t experience that need to stop.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Abby White**  
Jan 30, 2023

I will not live in a world who doesn't believe every child matters 🙄 🇨🇦

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Macy Bowles**  
Jan 30, 2023

I genuinely want this white professor to shut up. She has no idea what she's talking about and it's spreading harmful rhetoric.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Penina Harding**  
Jan 30, 2023

3 generations of my family were forced to attend the St. Joseph's Indian Residential School outside of Williams Lake BC and I am a PhD candidate actively working to create safe spaces for myself and other Indigenous students in university.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Michele Gour**  
Jan 30, 2023

I listen to Indigenous voices.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Cass David**  
Jan 30, 2023

She should not be speaking at any educational institution. Believing residential schools were beneficial is continuing colonial violence against indigenous people and should not be tolerated or accepted.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Angeline Ansell**  
Jan 30, 2023

I am signing this petition to stop mis/disinformation from invalidating the lived experience of Residential School survivors & their families. These atrocities occurred & although they are a dark part of our history their existence should not be hidden nor disrespectfully dismissed.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Ali M**  
Jan 30, 2023

I'm signing because enough is enough!

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Tanice Shaw**  
Jan 30, 2023

I believe one day hopefully sooner than later there will be more people who understand Residential schools do not need to exist

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Jessica Doherty**  
Jan 30, 2023

This is an insult to every indigenous person who was or is related to the victims and survivors of the genocidal residential schools in Canada.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Daylene Pahlke**  
Jan 30, 2023

2SLGBTQIA+ & Indigenous students deserve to feel safe and welcomed at the university they paid to attend. Hate speech, misinformation, and bigotry have no place in this world

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Amie DeFrias**  
Jan 30, 2023

No one with these beliefs should be given a microphone. PERIOD.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Shelley Hockin**  
Jan 30, 2023

We aren't going backwards as a nation, and this type of thinking will set us back decades possibly a century!

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Patricia Anderson**  
Jan 28, 2023

Sick man

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Terry Bridges**

Jan 28, 2023

There is no way that she should be given a platform to promote her hateful and false views.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Stasha Huntingford**

Jan 28, 2023

This hate doesn't deserve a platform

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Stasha Huntingford**

Jan 28, 2023

This hate doesn't deserve a platform

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Natalie White Quills**

Jan 27, 2023

It's not close to being educational in truth and only spreads ignorance, racism, etc against my people. Why would they even allow for this to be allowed. It's only going to cause more racism in Lethbridge that has been going on for a very long time. Very disappointed

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Mary Siever**

Jan 27, 2023

Residential school deniers have no business speaking anywhere, or teaching.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**@MilGovnr\_USSC Welch**

Jan 27, 2023

I am signing this petition because I and my siblings were in Residential Schools, (in the lower 48 they were called Catholic Orphanages) and we were all victims of abuse at the hands of our supposed caretakers, even in the large city of Chicago, IL at The Guardian Angels Orphanages, and all would pocket Tribal Stipends as well as State payments. There was a slight improvement in the lower 48 after the Legislative action of the ICWA. Consider the MMIW, girl really, who was last seen at a Catholic Convent near Calgary, (2018?), pregnant with "the sainted brides of christ" claiming the fetus was stillborn and this girl/woman/mother simply left. All Homicide Detectives consider the last person seen with the living victim as prime suspect or person of interest. What do you think. Any denying these circumstances should not be provided a special public platform. WE are all responsible and accountable for children's safety.

♡ 0



**Jonathan Bessette**

Jan 27, 2023

This person's opinion is the same as speaking about the benefits of genocide.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Michael Gretton**

Jan 27, 2023

In order to have reconciliation with First Nations people, we must first understand, acknowledge and share truth. Residential schools took thousands of Indigenous children from their families and communities. Stripped them of their languages and cultures to assimilate them. Many children suffered physical, mental, emotional and sexual abuse. And many children's graves have been discovered on former residential school grounds in recent years. Let us listen to, honour, respect and care for Indigenous peoples.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



**Janesse Leung**

Jan 27, 2023

Residential school denialism is a lie and hideously cruel to survivors and families and dangerous. It lets people blame those harmed instead of taking responsibility for our colonial state and institutions.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Amy Tarnowski**

Jan 27, 2023

I am a U of L alumna, and it's disappointing to see my alma mater hosting this type of academic in light of their espoused attempts at Reconciliation. To be good guests on treaty 7 territory means maintaining good relations, showing respect, and upholding truth. Inviting a speaker who has caused immense damage to Indigenous and BIPOC communities through her stances and approaches to social issues is unconscionable, and the antithesis of maintaining good relations or striving for truth. For a university whose motto is "Fiat Lux" this is a dark stain on their reputation. Incredibly curious who had the idea that this would be a good speaker to have at the University.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Kelly Barker**

Jan 27, 2023

This university should be ashamed for allowing this, it's the opposite of reconciliation.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Kelly Barker**

Jan 27, 2023

This university should be ashamed for allowing this, it's the opposite of reconciliation.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Sharon Warden**

Jan 27, 2023

I have zero tolerance for racism !!!!!

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Skylar Nikkel**

Jan 27, 2023

I do not agree with this event happening

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Kayko Hesslein**

Jan 27, 2023

Academic freedom does not include provisions for hate speech. As the granddaughter of a donor to the university, Widdowson's public lecture is embarrassing, damages the academic credibility of the university, and most importantly, is harmful.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Karen Gloss**

Jan 27, 2023

Hate is not free speech and does not deserve a platform.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



**Jessica Colley**

Jan 27, 2023

Freedom of speech is not the same as hate speech. The University should be ashamed - to flaunt their Indigenous inclusion, then to turn around and actively allow a Residential School denialist on campus to retraumatize our students is disgusting. This is not what we, as students, seek to have promoted at our campus. Shame on you, U of L, and all those involved!

♡ 2

[Report](#)





**Matt Chameroy**

Jan 27, 2023

Disgusted that this person is allowed to speak on our campus. Completely goes against university values.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



**Maleeka Thomas**

Jan 27, 2023

I'm student at the University of Lethbridge who is apart of a historically marginalized group and the strides that has been made by black and indigenous peoples to educate about the atrocities of our past is being minimized and it is utterly unacceptable. The hate that is being perpetuated by... [Read more](#)

♡ 1

[Report](#)



**Kael Porter**

Jan 27, 2023

Her opinion is factually incorrect and should not be aloud to be spread

♡ 2

[Report](#)



**Stasha Huntingford**

Jan 27, 2023

Keep this hate out of the community

♡ 2

[Report](#)



**Jennifer Dobbin**

Jan 27, 2023

Denying residential school history is exactly the same as denying the holocaust. How dare you.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



**Amanda Batty**

Jan 27, 2023

Allowing someone to spew hate and misinformation at a university is disgusting. As an alumni of U of L I am appalled.

♡ 3

[Report](#)



**Donna Evans**

Jan 27, 2023

In spirit of reconciliation and truth. Someone who denies harms by residential schools should not have a platform.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



**Krys Pawluk**

Jan 27, 2023

Residential schools were a government sanctioned genocide tactic and having someone speak at a post secondary level that denies this is abhorrent!!

♡ 3

[Report](#)



**Billie-Jo Grant**

Jan 27, 2023

I don't believe she has the right to speak on this topic and her opinions and false information is harmful

♡ 2

[Report](#)



**Rebecca Beagan**

Jan 27, 2023

There is no room for the suffocating words of denial. Many of my family members, like my mom, are survivors of Kamloops Indian Residential School. They're the ones who speak the truth.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



**Elaine Orpe**

Jan 27, 2023

Racists should not be given a platform

♡ 2

[Report](#)



**Phil Radomski**

Jan 27, 2023

Lethbridge University has taken the stance of providing a platform and supporting all that is negative in this country.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



**Dorian Furet**  
Jan 27, 2023

We do not platform reality denialism at institutes of education, ever

♡ 1

[Report](#)



**Kirsten Mikkelson**  
Jan 26, 2023

No place for racists at UofL

♡ 3

[Report](#)



**Emily Gardner-everton**  
Jan 26, 2023

Racism isn't cool 🚫

♡ 2

[Report](#)



**Jahlee Daisley**  
Jan 26, 2023

If this lady wants to speak she can do it on property that is not paid for by students who disagree with her

♡ 10

[Report](#)



**Caitlin Elliott**  
Jan 26, 2023

She shouldn't come here

♡ 2

[Report](#)



**Lexi Yellow horn**  
Jan 26, 2023

As an indigenous student attending uleth Im very upset that they are allowing this person that continues to spread misinformation and hate to have a platform.

♡ 1


[Report](#)

 **sloan read**  
Jan 26, 2023

because we're trying to make amends and help. not because we're going backwards. WE NEED CHANGE. WE NEED POSITIVE SPEAKERS.

♡ 1


[Report](#)

 **Cally Lloyd**  
Jan 26, 2023

By allowing this speaker on campus, the University silently promotes such ideologies. We are on Indigenous land and this talk is allegedly being paid for by students.

♡ 5


[Report](#)

 **Joshua Huvenaars**  
Jan 26, 2023

This is unacceptable that the university allows racism and misinformation to flourish in their institution.

♡ 2

[Report](#)

 **Janine Jackson**  
Jan 26, 2023

Racism

♡ 1

[Report](#)

 **Alexandra Read**  
Jan 26, 2023

My nana is indigenous and went through the atrocities of residential schools

♡ 3


[Report](#)

 **Kelsey Seinen**  
Jan 26, 2023

The fact that this petition even has to exist is disgusting. Universities should not be allowing this kind of racism anywhere within their institutions.

♡ 3


[Report](#)

- 

**Kelsey Seinen**  
Jan 26, 2023

The fact that this petition even has to exist is disgusting. Universities should not be allowing this kind of racism anywhere within their institutions.


♡ 3

[Report](#)
- 

**Nathan Thompson**  
Jan 26, 2023

I hate biggets


♡ 2

[Report](#)
- 

**Tracy Weasel moccasin**  
Jan 26, 2023

my parents and grandparents are residential school survivors and it breaks my heart that people out there are denying that this traumatic experience existed.


♡ 1

[Report](#)
- 

**Kynya Lee**  
Jan 26, 2023

every child matters and having a speaker that denies what pain our Indigenous folx went through harms our future

♡ 4

[Report](#)
- 

**Taylor Blais**  
Jan 26, 2023

This is hate speech that should not be allowed on University campuses

♡ 9

[Report](#)

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## Oppose Frances Widdowson's Public Lecture on the "Positives" of Indian Residential Schools



[Nathan Crow](#) started this petition

Oki and Hello,

I have recently become aware that Frances Widdowson, a former professor with Mount Royal University, will be attending our campus on Wednesday February 1st, 2023, to offer a public lecture focused on the "positives" of the Indian Residential School system (IRS). Frances Widdowson is a former associate professor with Mount Royal University, who has recently been let go from her tenured position resulting from her perspectives and opinions on the Indian Residential School system, as well as for her public opposition towards the Black Lives Matter movement. While the Indian Residential School system is an important topic, the way in which Frances Widdowson is framing the topic has caused distrust and disappointment from myself and many other Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who attend the University of Lethbridge.

The atrocities that occurred within the Indian Residential Schools system are 100% accurate and true, and I strongly feel that Frances Widdowson's attendance on our campus devalues the opinions and shared histories of the many survivors who attended this colonial system. This issue not only affects the many survivors that attended the IRS, but it also affects the children and grandchildren of these survivors who are dealing with the impacts of intergenerational trauma, like myself and many other students who attend our university.

The ULeithbridge student population not only consists of many Indigenous students, but it also consists of many international students who do not know the harsh and accurate history of the Indian Residential School system. Frances Widdowson's false narrative on this issue will be the first time some of these students will be learning about the Indian Residential School system, and I strongly feel that we as an institution, have a duty to these students to provide accurate and true information on this important piece of Canadian history.

1,148 have signed. Let's get to 1,500!

At 1,500 signatures, this petition is more likely to get picked up by local news!

- Moty Peyketewa signed this petition
- Renee Redhead signed this petition

### Sign this petition

First name

Last name

Email

Calgary, T2A, Canada

Display my name and comment on this petition

By signing, you consent to our [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). We will never share your information with a third party without your permission.

This is Exhibit " F " referred to in the Affidavit of

**Francis Widdowson**

Sworn before me this 26 day of July, 2023

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
Barrister & Solicitor

Due to the university's "freedom of expression policy", Frances Widdowson's public lecture will unfortunately go forward as planned. However, the U of L Student Action Assembly has organized a peaceful protest to demonstrate opposition towards Frances Widdowson's attendance on our campus. I will be in attendance to provide support and to show my opposition on this disappointing and repulsive matter. I support the notion of freedom of expression, but when that happens to discriminate a specific demographic of Ulethbridge students, as well as support misinformation and false narratives, this is not okay.

I want students to know that my stance on this issue is one of opposition, disappointment, and disapproval. The ULSU is currently working on an action plan to address this issue, and to provide the necessary resources and support for our students dealing with the wide range of emotions brought forth by this distasteful situation.

I want you to know that as your Indigenous Student Representative, I am appalled by this situation. I also want you to know that your feelings and emotions are valid, and I am committed to making every effort possible to provide support in this difficult time to show my opposition on the matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have.

*Please show your support by signing the petition, so that the spreading of misinformation and false narratives surrounding the Indian Residential School system can be stopped!*

[Report a policy violation](#)



#### Start a petition of your own

This petition starter stood up and took action. Will you do the same?

[Start a petition](#)

## Updates

1,000 supporters

2 months ago

Nathan Crow started this petition

2 months ago

### Reasons for signing


See why other supporters are signing, why this petition is important to them, and share your reason for signing (this will mean a lot to the starter of the petition).

 **Jeanne Sprague**  
Feb 2, 2023

Have no idea how anyone can think, let alone speak to, the idea of something good coming from residential schools. Unconscionable!

♡ 0

[Report](#)


 **Roz**  
Jan 30, 2023

What could possibly be positive about Indian residential schools. Tearing the family apart oh and let me not forget about the sexually abuse and the life long trauma as a result of this. Also the inter generational trauma as well. There is something very wrong about this woman's beliefs. She must be stopped before she adds further trauma to what exists now. She is denying the existence of the harm this will continue to inflict.

Roz Zurkowsky.

♡ 0

[Report](#)

 **Linda M. Elliott**  
Jan 30, 2023

There was nothing positive about Residential Schools and the horror that all those children endured. In my opinion Frances Widdowson is a racist and has no place opening her mouth about things she knows nothing about.

♡ 0

[Report](#)

 **Alley**  
Jan 30, 2023

This lady should not be lecturing in regards to such a destructive & deadly occurrence!!! The negative impact that residential schools had on these children, their families & their culture is just staggering!! It is a terrible disservice to the students of ULethbridge, that their institution would support this misinformation & denial of proven atrocities & events!!

♡ 0

[Report](#)





**Krista Matthews**

Jan 30, 2023

No white woman who has never experienced residential school should be talking about this.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Alita Friesen**

Jan 29, 2023

Truth and respect.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Donna Kendall**

Jan 29, 2023

I am absolutely flabbergasted that the UofL could possibly entertain the concept of anything positive about residential schools - let alone bring in someone to speak to it. WTF!!! I know so many First Nations people whose families and communities were so incredibly harmed by the actions and teachings of the residential schools. And all I can offer is my prayers. Please go forward with the protest.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Jacqueline Miller**

Jan 29, 2023

Our Canadian history is being whitewashed by bigots like this "woman". Truth & Reconciliation has far still to go to forgive & make right what our forefathers, governments & the Church did to our First Nation Peoples. Please sign so this speaker is shut out. Mount Royal was right & truthful to end her tenure with them!

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Pat Martin**

Jan 28, 2023

Denying the truth doesn't change it.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Surrey VanderBeek**

Jan 28, 2023

frances deserves jail

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Melissa Many Fingers**  
Jan 28, 2023

I'm signing this petition due to the fact that my dad had to survive in those schools. The intergenerational trauma inflicted on the people shouldn't ever be denied.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Lissy Snowden**  
Jan 28, 2023

Trying to put a "silver lining" around the atrocities and fallout that residential schools have inflicted on Indigenous populations is not only toxic positivity, but it also invalidates the lived experiences of those who suffered. This is not educational, it's harmful.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



**Stasha Huntingford**  
Jan 28, 2023

This hate doesn't deserve a platform

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Ryan Kirkby**  
Jan 27, 2023

Hey Widdowson, what are the positives of this petition?

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Freda Ballantyne**  
Jan 27, 2023

I'm a sixties scoop survivor and I've attended grief circles to hear IRS survivor stories from my relatives back home - they need to be heard not the lies told by a whitewashed "professor" - we owe our children and grandchildren the truth of this country not to hold them down by lies this country creates

♡ 1

[Report](#)



**Devan Francom**  
Jan 27, 2023

Continual traumatization of a select group of people, trying to find the "positives" of mass genocide especially of children is absolutely disgusting. Go piddle your nonsense elsewhere. We don't want it in our city.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Vanessa Mathieson**

Jan 27, 2023

This is atrocious. I'm sick of people thinking this is a valid counter argument to indulge.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Brenda de Haan**

Jan 27, 2023

I am signing for all those who were taken.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Brenda de Haan**

Jan 27, 2023

I am signing for all those who were taken.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Paisley Veilleux**

Jan 27, 2023

All students deserve to be safe.

Paul deserves to be fired for his three reprimands and a warning with no efforts towards change and continuously harming students.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Saydee Duck Chief**

Jan 27, 2023

There is no positives in the oppression of any humans

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Ikkinainihki (Debbie) Many Bears**

Jan 27, 2023

Where is the "positives" in pulling children away from loving and nurturing parents and extended family into a residential school traumatizing them with physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Robert Jones**

Jan 26, 2023

There are no, not 1 positive thing about the residential schools!!!!!!!

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**bonnie lepine**

Jan 26, 2023

I support the much needed, ongoing learning of the history of our Canadas treatment of our Indigenous people.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



**Emily Camac**

Jan 26, 2023

Appalled

♡ 1

[Report](#)



**sharlene big plume**

Jan 26, 2023

You're a complete idiot if you think there is a positive in residential schools

♡ 2

[Report](#)



**Winter-Rose Asham**

Jan 26, 2023

I am indigenous.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



**Tadan Shingoose**

Jan 26, 2023

I am Metis. I do not feel comfortable having a known bigot teaching on campus. The University should be ashamed for even considering this in the first place.

♡ 7

[Report](#)



**Áisina'i'pi Stamiksiipokai**

Jan 26, 2023

Oki, signing for my family and those whom were impacted by the Residential Schools. There's no place nor room for such ignorance and misleading narrative that causes harm. No harm like this shall occupy spaces such as educational settings.

♡ 5

[Report](#)



**Blair Many Fingers**

Jan 26, 2023

Both of my parents and all of my grandparents are residential school survivors. This is for all the Indigenous children who never made home. This is for my grandparents who passed away before they had a chance to hear the papal apology for residential schools. This is for all the residential school survivors who never had the opportunity to begin their healing journeys. This is for my daughters to occupy spaces that are free of hate, racism, and discrimination.

♡ 5

[Report](#)



**Carrie Yellow Horn**

Jan 26, 2023

Giving ignorance a platform is complete bs!

♡ 2

[Report](#)



**Susan Krebs**

Jan 26, 2023

Susan Krebs

♡ 1

[Report](#)

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This is Exhibit " G " referred to  
in the Affidavit of

**Frances Widdowson**

-----  
Sworn before me this 26 day

of July, 2023

-----  
A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
**Barrister & Solicitor**

The Department of Indigenous Studies vehemently condemns the anti-Indigenous rhetoric routinely disseminated by former MRU professor Frances Widdowson and deplores the fact that she is being given a platform to legitimize that discourse on our campus. Widdowson has left us in no doubt as to her positions; she has regularly espoused these views through published articles, public speaking, broadcast podcasts, and other public forums. She specifically denounces the TRC's classification of the Residential School system as genocide and disputes the veracity of the unmarked graves of Indigenous children found at the sites of multiple former Residential School sites.

The facts of the Residential School system and the experiences of Indigenous children within that system were rigorously established through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

- At least 150,000 Indigenous children across multiple generations were removed from their families and communities.
- They were processed through an alien education system that was designed to forcibly remove all vestiges of their original identities, cultures, and languages.
- These policies, which are a matter of historical record within Canada, clearly meet the United Nations definition of genocide, as listed in Article II of the [\*Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide\*](#).
- Such was the extent of the abuses suffered by Indigenous children within this system that Pope Francis formally apologized “for the evil committed by so many Christians against the Indigenous peoples.”[1]

The University of Lethbridge's land acknowledgement states that,

Our University's name is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. The University is located in traditional Blackfoot Confederacy territory. We honour the Blackfoot people and their traditional ways of knowing in caring for this land, as well as all Indigenous Peoples who have helped shape and continue to strengthen our University community.

This honoring must include a commitment from all faculty to ensure that Indigenous histories, cultures, memories, and lives, past and present, are represented faithfully, truthfully, and safely, on this campus. It must be a commitment to social justice. It must be a commitment to stand next to Indigenous students on our campus, Indigenous staff and faculty, as well as the communities upon whose territory we sit, and the communities to whom those students, faculty, and staff, belong. It must be a commitment from all faculty to ensure that Indigenous Peoples of all generations and nations are welcomed and acknowledged across campus. It must be a commitment from all faculty to vigorously reject ideologies which continue to propagate violence against Indigenous Peoples through the rhetoric of historical erasure, dismissal, diminishment, and dehumanization, such as that espoused by Dr. Widdowson.

That this scheduled public lecture has been granted space within Iniskim is a betrayal of every one of those commitments.

The Department of Indigenous Studies – January 2023

[1] <https://apnews.com/article/pope-francis-canada-apology-visit137ad23719603e9d370257f257ec0163>

This is Exhibit " H " referred to  
in the Affidavit of

**Frances Widdowson**

Sworn before me this 26 day  
of July, 2023

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
**Barrister & Solicitor**



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## Notice Board (/notice/)

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### Statement from the President — Controversial Guest Speaker Appearance

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

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This notice is from the archives of The Notice Board. Information contained in this notice was accurate at the time of publication but may no longer be so.

*The University of Lethbridge has become aware of a guest speaker, invited by one of our faculty members, whose views are in conflict with a number of the values held by the University — including the University's stated commitment to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. We strongly disagree with assertions that seek to minimize the significant and detrimental impact of Canada's residential school system. I have heard from many students, faculty and staff who have expressed their disappointment that this event is taking place. It is encouraging that a concurrent evidence-based counter-lecture has also been organized, and that the vast majority of our community finds these views abhorrent.*

*There are some in the community who have asked the University to step in and cancel the Widdowson lecture. Below, please find the University's position regarding free expression.*

The University of Lethbridge's mandate affirms its commitment to protect free inquiry and scholarship, facilitate access to scholarly resources, and support artistic expression and free and open scholarly discussion of issues.

The opening paragraph of the University's Statement on Free Expression (<https://uleth.sharepoint.com/sites/Policy/Policies/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FPolicy%2FPolicies%2FFree%20Expression%5FBOG%20Approved%5FDec%2012%5F2019%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FPolicy%2FPolicies&p=true&ga=1>), as noted above, clearly outlines the principles of free expression and aligns with a commitment to academic freedom which the University of Lethbridge vigorously defends.

Guest speakers who are presenting on campus or to our campus community are afforded the same commitment to freedom of expression as members of our campus community, though the University does not endorse in any way, the opinions and views of any speaker, whether from Ulethbridge or the external community. Our university is true to the tenets of equity, diversity and inclusion and is committed to meeting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. These are the values we endorse and continuously work toward.

Freedom of speech is inextricably associated with freedom of expression and is afforded the same commitments with bounds determined by the requirements of Canadian Law. Freedom of expression does not protect violence or threats of violence and examples of how it is limited include Criminal Code hate speech laws, hate and discriminatory speech provisions within provincial human rights codes, and anti-defamation laws.

Members of the University community have the right to criticize and question views expressed on campus, but they may not obstruct or interfere with others' freedom of expression. Debate or deliberation on campus may not be suppressed because the ideas put forward are thought by some, or even most, to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or misguided. We encourage all members of our internal and external community to carefully evaluate scholarly evidence and rely upon peer reviewed resources in their careful assessment and engagement with the views of speakers. It is for individual members of the University community, not the University as an institution, to make those judgments for themselves based on the scholarly evidence, and to act on those judgments not by seeking to suppress speech, but by openly and vigorously contesting the ideas they oppose.

There are limits to freedom of expression. The University does not tolerate behaviour that undermines the safety of our diverse community, and the University will restrict expression that violates the law, defames an individual, or that constitutes a threat or harassment.

*Again, the University strongly believes the viewpoints of this guest speaker are not consistent with the values of our institution. We also know that this issue may personally adversely affect many members of our university community and support is available. For our students, please access assistance by contacting Counselling Services (<https://www.ulethbridge.ca/counselling/>), the *likaisskini* Indigenous Services (<https://www.ulethbridge.ca/indigenous/>), or connect with an Elder in Residence (<https://www.ulethbridge.ca/first-nations-metis-inuit/elder-residence>) Faculty and staff members can connect with the Employee Family Assistance Program (<https://uleth.sharepoint.com/sites/human-resources/SitePages/employee-and-family-assistance-program-efap.aspx>).*

Mike Mahon, PhD  
President & Vice-Chancellor

Office of the President (/notice/filter/385)    Campus Community (/notice/filter/221)

Contact:

This is Exhibit " I " referred to  
in the Affidavit of

..Frances Widdowson.....

Sworn before me this 26 day

of July 2023

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
**Barrister & Solicitor**

---

**From:** First Charger, Patti [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** January 27, 2023 2:16 PM  
**To:** Crow, Nathan [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Viminitz, Paul [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Everychildmatters

Oki Nathan,

Nice to meet you. My name is Patti First Charger and I am from the Blood Reserve. I am in the BA Psychology program. I've really enjoyed my program so far and I am so thankful I decided to come back to school. Anyways (deep breath) I first found out about this guest speaker 2 days ago. At first, I distance myself from the topic because I was initially confused and felt hurt. But last night, when I read the email that her "freedom of speech" will be carried through, is when I finally gave in to my feelings and cried. After I cried it out, I gathered myself and asked myself why I felt this way. I validated my feelings and saw that they triggered how I felt growing up. I always felt displaced in this "white world" and their sneaky polite racism haha. Then how my identity of being Blackfoot was compromised growing up because I couldn't speak our own language and I didn't know how to practice our traditional ways. My mother clearly said she didn't want to teach us our language because of the abuse she endured if she spoke Blackfoot in residential school. She didn't want us to suffer like she did. This invited speaker also triggered how I felt unheard and unseen growing up, and still feel to this day. Lastly, I felt very betrayed by our University to accommodate her hurtful views and opinions on Residential School Survivors. I smudged and prayed for this speaker and for the individuals' ones who invited her.

In the end, it is only an opinion shared by a very hurtful persons viewpoint. It only proves that our University still has so much work to do in educating

themselves on Truth and Reconciliation. And who is better to educate them? I believe it is up to us, the UofL Indigenous Students, Residential School Survivors, and any organizations like 'Every Child Matters'.

I want to be a part of any peaceful stance we take on this person. She gets no headdress haha

Thank You,  
Patti First Charger

This is Exhibit " J " referred to  
in the Affidavit of

**Frances Widdowson**

Sworn before me this 26 day  
of July 2023

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
**Barrister & Solicitor**

Hello everyone,

I am on study leave but I feel like I would be remiss if I didn't add to what I know has been a chorus of letters from departments but also what I hope has been a barrage of email from community members, students, faculty and staff asking the university to cancel residential school denier Frances Widdowson.

This speaker has been fired from academic institutions due to her racism, transphobia and bigotry. She is known to distort the facts, deny genocide and engage in campaigns of anti-Indigenous and anti-Black racism. She has been invited to this campus by a faculty member, Paul Viminitz, a member of the Philosophy Department, who has been routinely reprimanded by Dean Letts for his use of racial slurs and inappropriate conduct in his classrooms.

Residential school denial is genocide denial and this is a violation of Indigenous rights. This is not a form of speech protected by either the Alberta Human Rights Act or academic freedom as understood by our collective agreement or our Harassment and Discrimination Policy. Both Drs. Widdowson and Viminitz are engaging in forms of hate speech.

The university itself may not have invited this speaker but the university is responsible under the Occupational Health and Safety Act amendments of 2018 to provide an environment free of psychological hazards for faculty, staff and students. Dr. Viminitz has created a psychologically unsafe environment on campus not only through his own conduct but by inviting this speaker. I need not remind you that many students, staff and faculty at the University of Lethbridge are residential school survivors whether through direct experience or inter generational trauma. This is a betrayal of the University of Lethbridge's commitment to Indigenization and reconciliation. I hope that this event is cancelled and that Dr. Viminitz and the department of philosophy are held accountable. Cancelling this event must also be accompanied by appropriate disciplinary action.

Best,

Caroline Hodes, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Women & Gender Studies  
University of Lethbridge  
Office: C886, University Hall  
4401 University Drive  
Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada T1K 3M4

This is Exhibit " **K** " referred to  
in the Affidavit of

**Frances Widdowson**

Sworn before me this **26** day

of **July** 20, **23**

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
**Barrister & Solicitor**

---

**From:** Hodes, Caroline [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** January 31, 2023 11:53 AM  
**To:** Frances Widdowson [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Mahon, Mike [REDACTED]; Mike Mahon, President <[REDACTED]>; Anderson, Ardis [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Brown, Bryson [REDACTED]; Stevens, Katharina [REDACTED]  
Peacock, Kent [REDACTED]; Stingl, Michael [REDACTED] Rodych, Victor <[REDACTED]>  
Viminitz, Paul [REDACTED]; Letts, Matthew <[REDACTED]>; Pamela Lindsay [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]; Mark Mercer [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Defamatory Statements Made by Dr. Caroline Hodes

Hello Heather and Aaron, here is another one with the bystanding Philosophy department saying nothing about either this woman or their colleague's previous harassing emails, Dean Letts is on the thread already.

As a complainant in a formal complaint against these people, can you please direct them to cease communicating with me.

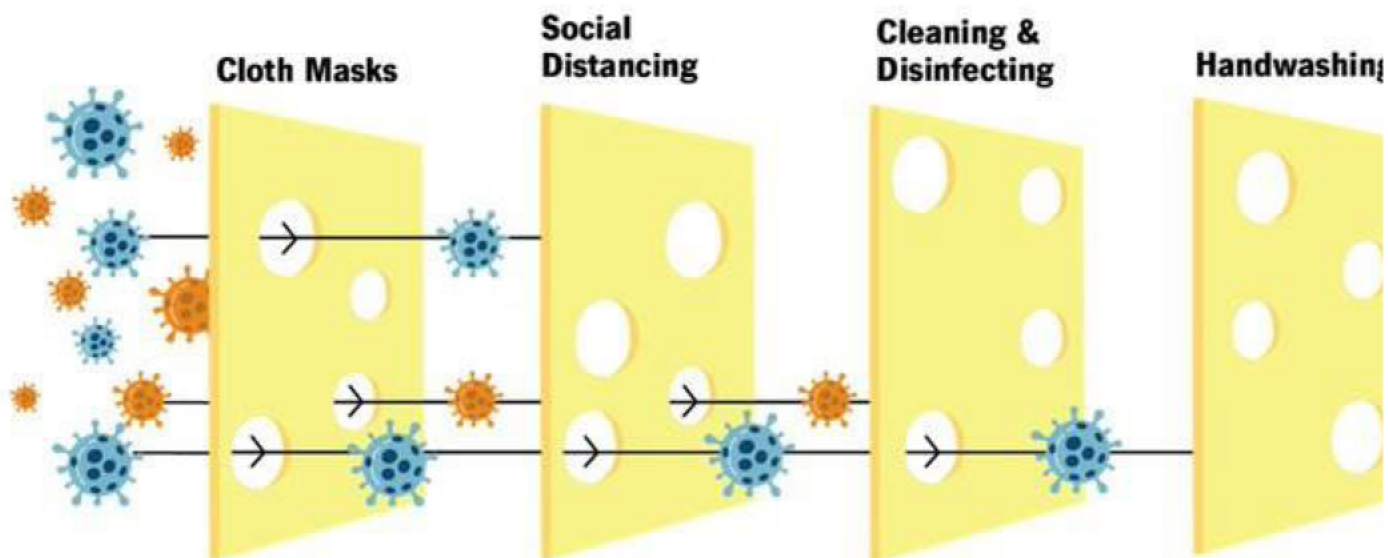
Also, the Holocaust deniers have come out and are posting on Widdowson's page online, my partner informed me before we left for the airport. Given that Paul Viminitz is associated with this woman, please initiate the appropriate investigation into his connections with known anti-Semites and neo-nazi groups.

Best,

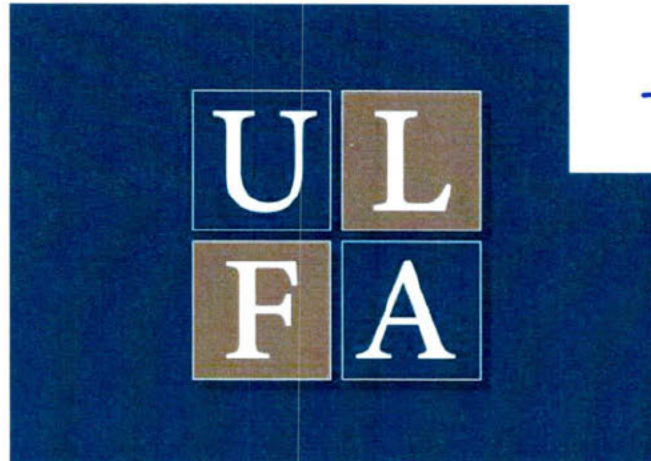
Caroline Hodes, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Women & Gender Studies  
University of Lethbridge

Sik-Ooh-Kotoki, Treaty / Territory, Métis Nation & Blackfoot Confederacy  
Pronouns: She/Her

Help flatten the curve and stop the spread:



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This is Exhibit " L " referred to  
in the Affidavit of

**Frances Widdowson**

Sworn before me this 26 day  
of July 2023

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
**Barrister & Solicitor**

## ULFA Executive Statement About the Controversy on Campus

January 30, 2023 |

Dear Colleagues,

As most Members will be aware, there has been considerable and harmful controversy on campus in the past week concerning a guest lecture.

Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression are implicated in any difficult speech on campus. In this context, ULFA would like to highlight some of the things Members using their Academic Freedom are doing in the following few days to call out and counter unwelcome and hurtful speech and to protect students, colleagues, and community members.

The first and most important are the plans for **same-day counter-programming, safe-spaces, peaceful protest, and elder-led prayer** organized by the Institute for Child and Youth Studies and the Department of Indigenous Studies:

**Location:** TH201 (Turcotte Hall) and Zoom (pre-registration required)

**Time:** 4pm-7pm.

**Tentative Schedule:**

- 4-4:30pm Elder-Led Prayer
- 4:30-6pm Lecture and Question and Answer: "Truth Before Reconciliation: How to Identify and Confront Residential School Denialism" by Sean Carleton, Assistant Professor of History and Indigenous Studies at the University of Manitoba.
- 6-7pm Group time (questions, comments, sharing)

Further details (including how to register online) can be found at the following URL:

<https://www.ulethbridge.ca/notice/events/truth-reconciliation-how-identify-and-confront-residential-school-denialism>

In addition to this Member-led initiative, the Board and University Administration are offering support to students, faculty, and community members through Counselling Services, Employee Family Assistance Program, [Iikaiskini Indigenous Services](#), and Elder in Residence program. Additional resources for **immediate support** include:

- The 24/7 Crisis Support line of the Indian Residential School Survivors Society : **1-800-721-0066**
- The 24-hour National Indian Residential School Crisis Line: **1-866-925-4419**

Beyond this, many individuals and groups on campus have made statements condemning Residential School Denialism or providing resources for teaching about Residential Schools and Truth and Reconciliation, including SNAC+, the Department of Indigenous Studies, and the University Administration.

These activities, too, are protected by Academic Freedom — which is not an unfettered right to say whatever you want, but rather a [contractual right](#) to “teach, engage in scholarly activity, and perform service without interference and without jeopardizing employment.” This right carries with it the duty “to use that freedom in a manner consistent with the scholarly obligation to base teaching, scholarly activity and service in an honest and careful search for knowledge.”

As scholars we are used to submitting our ideas to, and engaging in, peer evaluation. Exercising our right to call out work we consider to be of poor quality, misleading, or otherwise substandard is an important part of our Academic Freedom. As the admirable efforts of many of our colleagues on campus over the past week have demonstrated, it is through using our Academic Freedom to insist on such standards and to protect those who are harmed by careless and dehumanizing speech that the true value of the university as a place to learn, critique, and advance knowledge becomes apparent.

Claims that equity and academic freedom are incompatible creates a false binary. In fact, research-based, open-minded academic investigation can and must promote and support communities who have historically been treated inequitably. Here are a few resources concerning the issue of Indian Residential Schools.

- Prefatory to the talk by Sean Carleton, and for interested individuals who are not able to attend, there is a directly related article in [The Conversation](#) of 5 August 2021, co-authored by Sean Carleton and Daniel Heath Justice.
- Canadian Geographic has a [live online map](#) of Survivor-led investigated burial sites.
- The [TRC Calls to Action #76](#) stipulates the need to find and bring all missing and stolen children home to their communities.
- Reports such as Dr. Scott Hamilton’s [“Where are the Children Buried?”](#) make clear that the discovery of unmarked graves is a long-term and research-based process.

Truth and Reconciliation is an ongoing project and acknowledging inequity, racism, and privilege is difficult and exacting work. It is only by insisting on such high standards that we can hope to advance our common goals. We state our solidarity with our Indigenous colleagues and students, with the Indigenous people of the Siksikaitapii (Blackfoot Confederacy) territory on which our University is located, and with the struggles for truth, acknowledgement and healing of all Indigenous peoples.

The ULFA Executive

<p><b>ULFA Office</b></p> <p>Room D620, University Hall 4401 University Drive</p> <p><b>P: 403-329-2578</b></p> <p><b>E: <a href="mailto:admin@ulfa.ca">admin@ulfa.ca</a></b></p>	<p><b>Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Before Signing a Contract</li> <li>New Member Info</li> <li>Collective Agreement</li> <li>Kudos</li> <li>Sutherland Service Award</li> <li>Retirement Info</li> <li>Member Login</li> </ul>	<p><b>Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get Support</li> <li>Benefits</li> <li>Events</li> <li>Workshops, Training, &amp; Webinars</li> <li>Resources</li> </ul>	<p><b>Taking Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get Involved</li> <li>Bargaining Updates</li> <li>Job Action Updates</li> <li>Statements</li> <li>Memorandums of Understanding</li> <li>Working Groups</li> </ul>	<p><b>Committees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ombuds Officer</li> <li>Executive</li> <li>Negotiating</li> <li>Gender, Equity and Diversity</li> <li>Bargaining Resource</li> <li>Grievance</li> <li>Joint Equity</li> <li>Job Action</li> <li>Nominating</li> </ul>	<p><b>About Us</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our History</li> <li>OurTeam</li> <li>FAQs</li> <li>Documents</li> </ul>
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The posts on this site are intended to provide general information to the membership of ULFA about labour matters. The information they contain is provided without prejudice or guarantee and is intended for a general, non-specialist audience. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information these posts contain is accurate, posts on this site do not represent an official legal or negotiating position of the Association. In the event of a disagreement between a post on this site and an official notice or document, the official document is correct.







University of  
**Lethbridge**

(/)

This is Exhibit " M " referred to  
in the Affidavit of

Frances Widdowson

Sworn before me this 26 day

of July 2023

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**

**Barrister & Solicitor**

## Notice Board (/notice/)

### Statement from the President — Controversial Guest Speaker Appearance (UPDATE)

MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2023

This notice is from the archives of The Notice Board. Information contained in this notice was accurate at the time of publication but may no longer be so.

Today, I write with an important update to the statement I issued on Thursday regarding a controversial speaker, invited by one of our faculty members, to deliver a talk on campus. You can read that statement here (<https://www.ulethbridge.ca/notice/notices/statement-president-%E2%80%94-controversial-guest-speaker-appearance#.Y9flx-zMJFw>).

In that statement, I addressed the value and necessity of freedom of expression and our strong commitment to it. But importantly, I highlighted there are limits to freedom of expression. In assessing these limits the University must be attentive to the safety of our diverse community.

Over the past few days, and upon learning of this lecture, we have sought guidance from those with considerable cultural, scholarly, sectoral and legal expertise, including continuing guidance from the Vice-Provost, Indigenous Relations and others. We have also received considerable input from the communities we serve — internal and external. This input confirmed that assertions that seek to minimize the significant and detrimental impact of Canada's residential school system are harmful.

In 2019, the University developed a statement that ensured a commitment to free expression on our campus. Our statement acknowledges the University must be able to reasonably regulate the use of facilities, time, place and manner of expression.

To ensure our community is safe, in the context of this planned lecture, the University will not provide space for this public lecture to occur on campus.

Our University's Blackfoot name is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. We are committed to the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada. It is clear that the harm associated with this talk is an impediment to meaningful reconciliation.

Indigenous peoples have and continue to play an undeniably impactful role in shaping the University of Lethbridge that we know today. A continued commitment to providing a safe place for our diverse community, including our faculty, our staff, and especially our students, is critical in allowing us all to contribute to the evolution and growth of the University of Lethbridge.

Mike Mahon, PhD

President & Vice-Chancellor

Office of the President (/notice/filter/385)

Campus Community (/notice/filter/221)

This is Exhibit " N " referred to  
in the Affidavit of

**Frances Widdowson**

-----  
Sworn before me this 26 day  
of July, 2023

  
-----  
A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
**Barrister & Solicitor**

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**ULeithbridge Indigenous Studies**  
@UofL\_Indigenous

The Department of Indigenous Studies would like to thank President Mahon and the university's administration for rescinding campus space for Frances Widdowson's public lecture.

12:30 PM · Jan 30, 2023 · 18.2K Views

34 Retweets 4 Quotes 250 Likes 1 Bookmark



Tweet your reply

Reply



**ULeithbridge Indigenous Studies** @UofL\_Indigenous · Jan 30

Replying to @UofL\_Indigenous

We are so thankful for reaffirming the university's commitment to the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada and look forward to working with the university to meet that commitment in the years ahead.

1 Reply 4 Retweets 55 Likes 1,487 Views



**Jon Bell** @JonBell888 · Jan 30

Replying to @UofL\_Indigenous

I wonder how the Aboriginal industry might react to being cancelled. With a lot of the billions given by the federal government, don't see the plight of women and children on reserves improving at all.

1 Reply 3 Retweets 253 Views



**Sara Bearin'TheWoke** @TeaseTheNinja · Jan 30

Replying to @UofL\_Indigenous

Disgusting.

First Nations for censorship. That doesn't make any sense.

Debate her don't cancel her!

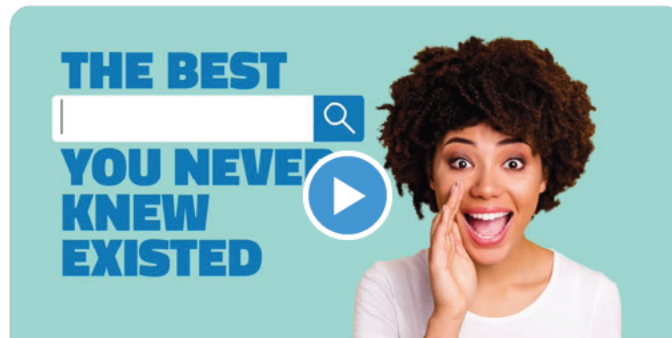
4 Replies 18 Likes 1,020 Views

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### Relevant people



**ULeithbridge Indigenous Studies**  
@UofL\_Indigenous  
Department of Indigenous Studies  
the University of Lethbridge

### What's happening

NBA · as night  
**Pacers at Raptors**

Sports ending  
**Zeke**  
876 weeks

Politics ending  
**#manifestation**  
76K Tweets

Ending  
**REAL WOMEN**  
8.2K weeks

Ending  
**THE WALLS ARE CLOSING**  
670 Tweets

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**Promoted**

**Dr T** @dts... Jan 31  
 Replying to @UofL\_Indigenous @Ad...  
 The University of...  
 They have voted the...  
 This needs to be addressed NOW

**Niko** @lavrys · Jan 31  
 Replying to @UofL\_Indigenous  
 So, the Department of Indigenous Studies supports academic censorship then? Good to know.

**Dr T** @dts... Jan 31  
 Replying to @avysand @UofL\_Indigenous  
 This isn't an academic de...  
 This is a tax... funded sect...

**Waterloo SAFS** @WatSAFS · Jan 31  
 Replying to @UofL\_Indigenous @uLeithbridge @WokeAcademy

*"Intellectuals who take it upon themselves to filter facts, in the interest of their own vision, are denying to others the right they claim for themselves, to look at the world as it is and reach their own conclusions."*

*Having an opinion, or expressing an opinion, is radically different from blocking information from reaching others who could form their own opinions."*

~ Thomas Sowell  
*Intellectuals and Society*

**Waterloo SAFS** @WatSAFS · Jan 30  
 Replying to @UofL\_Indigenous  
 How can you even know you disagree with someone if you don't listen to them speak? If you have heard them and still disagree, why should you deny the opportunity to others? This liberal fundamentalism undermines the public good.

**Peter Ives** @PeterRives · Jan 30  
 Replying to @WatSAFS and @UofL\_Indigenous  
 Are serious? FW has published books and articles, and was presumably asked to speak based on something. Your response is typically inane. It is 2023, university lectures aren't like they were in 1950

**Relevant people**

**ULeithbridge Indig**  
 @UofL\_Indigenous  
 Department of Indigenous Studies  
 the University of Le...

**What's happening**

NBA · as night  
**Pacers at Raptors**

Sports ending  
**Zeke**  
 876 weeks

Poems ending  
**#manifestation**  
 76K Tweets

ending  
**REAL WOMEN**  
 82K weeks

ending  
**THE WALLS ARE CLOSING**  
 670 Tweets

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127

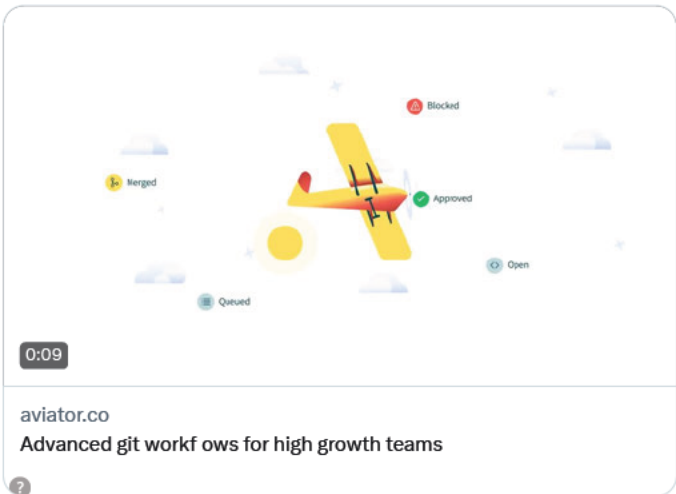
This Tweet is from an account that no longer exists. [Learn more](#)

**Thread**

**Dr T** @drtspeaks · Jan 31  
 Replying to @GigaCha12987624 and @UofL\_Indigenous  
 This isn't a university anymore, it's an activist training camp.

30

**Aviator.Co** @Aviator\_co\_ · Jan 31  
 Are you frustrated with broken builds and ongoing code reviews in your dev projects? With Aviator you can be more efficient, manage stacked PRs, simplify cumbersome merge processes and identify flaky tests. Put your mundane, frustrating workflows on autopilot.



aviator.co  
 Advanced git workflows for high growth teams

2 3 31 169.7K

Promoted

**ML** @mollyrules · Jan 30  
 Replying to @UofL\_Indigenous  
 Good decision. @uLethbridge No platform for hate.

2 9 561

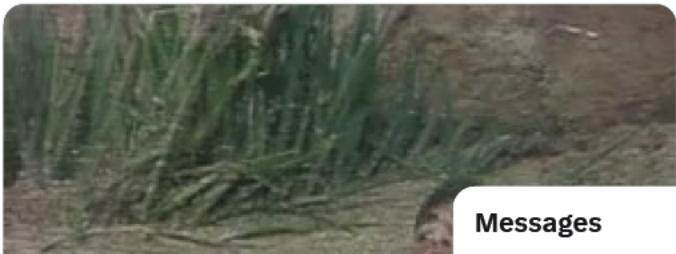
**Dr T** @drtspeaks · Jan 31  
 Replying to @mollyrules @UofL\_Indigenous and @uLethbridge  
 Not everything that you disagree with is hate.

1 1 63

[Show replies](#)

**More Replies**

**lilmixedbean** @lilmixedbean · Jan 30  
 Replying to @UofL\_Indigenous  
 In other words, thank you for silencing the voices of our opposition because we're incapable as an establishment to debate her point of view, got it. You realize this paints us as fragile, pathetic, weak & incapable of mere debate, further solidifying that 🇨🇦 education is done



**Relevant people**

**ULethbridge Indig**  
 @UofL\_Indigenous  
 Department of Indigenous Studies  
 the University of Lethbridge

**What's happening**

NBA · as night  
**Pacers at Raptors**

Sports ending  
**Zeke**  
 876 weeks

Politics ending  
**#manifestation**  
 76K Tweets

Ending  
**REAL WOMEN**  
 8.2K weeks

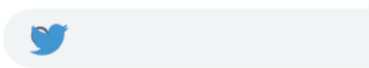
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**THE WALLS ARE CLOSING**  
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2 replies 1 like 201 retweets



Barry 🇨🇦🇩🇪🇨🇦 @Bgstony · Jan 31

Replying to @imixedbean and @UofL\_Indigenous

This was not a debate. It was an invitation to speak. The university cancelled the invitation. They did so out of respect to their broad community.

I suspect there's more to learn from this process than anyone might learn from the reactionary musings of Frances Widdowson.

2 replies 1 like 165 retweets

Show replies



PageWizard Games, Learning & Entertai... @PageWizard... · Jan 30

Replying to @UofL\_Indigenous

Disappointing to see a Department affirm its lack of academic principles. I hope you understand that by putting out statements like this, you're only further affirming Widdowson's (legitimate) concerns that academic freedom is at serious threat in Canadian universities.

5 likes 430 retweets



Lev Tistcuck @LevTistcuck · Jan 30

Replying to @UofL\_Indigenous

You guys are disgusting. Every day I have less respect for you. True colours are showing

3 likes 216 retweets



Globalist Worst Nightmare @DontTreadOnCan · Jan 30

Replying to @UofL\_Indigenous

Shutting down someone, doesn't make you right. It makes you a fascist. Shame to those, who can't handle debate. Grow up and learn. This is 2023, not 1492. Get over yourselves. The TRC is corrupt! #Canada

4 likes 224 retweets



Marcela Cast 🇨🇦🇩🇪🇨🇦 #TrudeauResign @amociclismo · Jan 31

Replying to @UofL\_Indigenous

Good to see Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship getting involved. [wokeacademy.info/wp-content/up...](https://www.wokeacademy.info/wp-content/up...)

62 retweets



Taste of Reality @RealityTasteof · Feb 6

Replying to @UofL\_Indigenous

Never heard of her but now I'm interested in what she has say.

6 retweets

Relevant people



ULethbridge Indig @UofL\_Indigenous Department of Indigenous Studies at the University of Lethbridge

What's happening

NBA · as night Pacers at Raptors

Sports ending Zeke 876 weeks

Politics ending #manifestation 76K Tweets

ending REAL WOMEN 82K weeks

ending THE WALLS ARE CLOSING 670 Tweets

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WokeAcademy.Info @WokeAcademy

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Frances Widdowson

16m

To the University of Lethbridge: I WILL be speaking at The Atrium at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1, 2023. The title of my talk is "How 'Woke-ism' Threatens Academic Freedom". You will have to haul me away by security to stop me.

9

2 shares

2:15 PM · Jan 30, 2023 · 2,268 Views

3 Retweets 3 Quotes 9 Likes



Tweet your reply!

Reply

This is Exhibit " O " referred to in the Affidavit of

Frances Widdowson

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A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

Glenn Blackett Barrister & Solicitor

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Gad Saad @GadSaad Professor, Evolution Scientist, Author. Oj alone. Retweets do imply an endorseme

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Trending in Germany #Rhodos 12.3K Tweets

Technology · Trending #TwitterX 401K Tweets

Trending in Germany Anna 141K Tweets

Trending in Germany #Xitter 3,270 Tweets

Trending in Germany Kindergeld

Trending Carolyn Bennett

Trending in Germany Fenster 2,917 Tweets

Trending in Germany #gefragtgejagt

Sesame Street · Trending Elmo 14.7K Tweets



Messages





# Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship

This is Exhibit " P " referred to in the Affidavit of

Frances Widdowson

Sworn before me this 26 day of July 2023

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
**Barrister & Solicitor**

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ca

Paul Viminiz, PhD (Lethbridge)

Frances Widdowson, Ph.D. (MRU)

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John J. Furedy, Ph.D. (Toronto)

31 January 2023

Michael J. Mahon, PhD  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
The University of Lethbridge

Dear President Mahon,

I am writing as president of the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship (SAFS), an organization of university faculty members and others dedicated to the defense of academic freedom and the merit principle in higher education. (For further information, see our website at [www.safs.ca](http://www.safs.ca).)

Your statement on Monday 26 January 2023, "Statement from the President - Controversial Guest Speaker Appearance," violated the important principle of institutional neutrality (see the [Kalven Report](#) for a discussion) by describing Frances Widdowson's views as "in conflict with a number of values held by the University" and by (falsely) suggesting that Dr Widdowson "seek[s] to minimize the significant and detrimental impact of Canada's residential schools system." A university performs its social mission by enabling competing interpretations and views to be heard and debated. When the university itself states a position on a matter of controversy, it renders itself inhospitable to robust and candid debate. The

university must remain neutral so that scholars, students and all other interested parties can discuss matters freely and openly in their search for truth.

Nonetheless, in your 26 January statement, you properly and firmly rejected calls to cancel Dr Widdowson's talk, "How 'Woke-ism' Threatens Academic Freedom," a talk organized by university of Lethbridge philosophy professor Paul Viminiz. In that statement, you affirmed the "commitment" of the University of Lethbridge "to protect free inquiry and scholarship [and] facilitate access to scholarly resources...." You added that "Guest speakers ... are afforded the same commitment to freedom of expression as members of our campus community." Those who object to Dr Widdowson's views may voice their disagreement, "but they may not obstruct or interfere with others' freedom of expression. Debate or deliberation on campus may not be suppressed because the ideas put forward are thought by some, or even most, to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or misguided."

[Redacted signature area]



Despite the violation of the principle of institutional neutrality in the 26 January statement, you and the University of Lethbridge would have acted well and commendably were that the end of the matter. In ensuring that Dr Widdowson may speak on campus and explaining the University of Lethbridge's commitment to academic values and its academic mission, you would have performed your duties as a university president well.

Unfortunately, on 30 January, you updated your statement by retracting it and cancelling Dr Widdowson's scheduled talk.

In doing so, you have expressed disdain for discussion and debate and violated Dr Viminitz's right, as a professor at the University of Lethbridge, to fair use of university resources. (Both Dr Widdowson and Dr Viminitz are on the Board of Directors of the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship. They have recused themselves from SAFS involvement in this case.)

Nothing that you mention in your 30 January statement justifies your action. That some members of the University of Lethbridge community were upset that Dr Widdowson was scheduled to speak should have been held by you to be irrelevant to the university's mission to promote inquiry and discussion. You noted in your 26 January statement that the university may restrict "expression that violates the law, defames an individual, or constitutes a threat or harassment." Dr Widdowson's talk would have done none of these and in your 30 January statement you give no reason for thinking it would.

As a professor at Lethbridge, Dr Viminitz may invite speakers to campus and organize public talks featuring guests of the university. Cancelling Dr Widdowson's talk is tantamount to violating Dr Viminitz's academic freedom. It is also to deny the many members of the university community who wished to hear Dr Widdowson speak on campus the opportunity to do so.

You mention "harm associated with this talk," harm independent of defamation, threat or harassment. In doing so, you stretch the concept of harm so thin and wide that just about anything is covered by it. Anyone who wishes to shut down a talk in the future need only mention harm and you will be unable to find a principle by which to allow the talk to proceed.

That, as you claim, "this talk is an impediment to meaningful reconciliation" is not only false but dangerous, for it militates against openness and candour in discussions of reconciliation. Reconciliation, which, admirable as it may be, is not an academic value, must respect freedom of expression and academic freedom if it is to be mutual and lasting.

Cancelling Dr Widdowson's talk is an outrage that will stain the University of Lethbridge for years.

We respectfully request that you respond to our letter. With your permission, we will post your response along with this letter on our website.

Sincerely,



Mark Mercer, PhD  
President, Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship (SAFS)

[Redacted contact information]

[Redacted contact information]

This is Exhibit " Q " referred to in the Affidavit of

~~Frances Widdowson~~

Sworn before me this 26 day

of July 26, 23

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

Glenn Blackett

Barrister & Solicitor



FEBRUARY 1, 2023 NEWS ARTICLE

# CAUT: University of Lethbridge was wrong to cancel campus talk

(Ottawa – January 31, 2023) The Canadian Association of University Teachers is criticizing the University of Lethbridge administration for cancelling a planned talk on campus.

In a letter issued today to the University’s President, Michael Mahon, CAUT says the talk by Dr. Frances Widdowson should have been allowed to proceed.

The decision to cancel the event “raises serious concerns about the University of Lethbridge’s commitment to freedom of expression and academic freedom,” the letter states.

CAUT notes that while many profoundly disagree with Dr. Widdowson’s views, a university should “welcome controversial speakers and vigorous debate, not seek to restrict discourse or speakers.”

CAUT is the national voice of more than 72,000 academic and professional staff at 120 colleges and universities.

-30-

Dear President Mahon:

The Canadian Association of University Teachers is deeply concerned about your decision to cancel a planned talk on campus by Dr. Frances Widdowson. Your actions raise serious concerns about the University of Lethbridge’s commitment to freedom of expression and academic freedom.

The foundational role of a university is aptly captured in the University of Toronto’s Statement of Institutional Purpose:

*Within the unique university context, the most crucial of all human rights are the rights of freedom of speech, academic freedom, and freedom of research. And we affirm that these rights are meaningless unless they entail the right to raise deeply disturbing questions and provocative challenges to the cherished beliefs of society at large and of the university itself.*



Dr. Widdowson certainly does raise disturbing and provocative questions. While many profoundly disagree with her, a university should welcome controversial speakers and vigorous debate, not seek to restrict discourse or speakers.

The University of Lethbridge owes its academic community an assurance that it will not act in ways contrary to its foundational purpose of supporting, fostering, and defending freedom of expression and academic freedom.

Sincerely,

David Robinson  
Executive Director

This is Exhibit " R " referred to  
in the Affidavit of

.....**Frances Widdowson**.....

Sworn before me this 26 day

of July, 2023

.....  
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**Courtney Theriault**  
@cspotweet

Advanced Education minister Demetrios Nicolaides says he'll be announcing "new steps to strengthen free speech" on AB campuses in the coming weeks.

This, after University of Lethbridge cancelled an appearance by controversial former MR prof Frances Widdowson. #yeg #yyc #ableg

*"Earlier today, I learned of the University of Lethbridge's decision to cancel a controversial guest speaker who was scheduled to speak later this week. I understand past comments made by this speaker are controversial, but I believe it is important for our universities and colleges to foster a strong culture of free speech and diverse viewpoints, even when those viewpoints are deemed controversial, or even offensive, barring speech intended to incite hatred or violence of course."*

*I will be announcing new steps to strengthen free speech on Alberta's post-secondary campuses in the near future. It should be for students, not university administrators, to make the final decision about whether to listen to a speech or not.*

*I would also note that the above comments should not be construed as agreement with any past comments made by the speaker in question."*

11:04 AM · Jan 31, 2023 · 92.7K Views

26 Retweets · 44 Quotes · 68 Likes · 2 Bookmarks



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**Courtney Theriault**  
@cspotweet

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Reporter with @CityNewsYeg. Likes- nothing. Dislikes- nothing. Story idea? Courtney.Theriault@RCI.rogers.com! He/him. Mastadon: @CourtneyTheriault@mstdn.ca

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Politics · Trending

**Qin Gang**

14K Tweets

Trending in Germany

**#Rhodos**

10.7K Tweets

Technology · Trending

**#TwitterX**

458K Tweets

Music · Trending

**#Coldplay**

8,280 Tweets

Trending in Germany

**Lola**

35K Tweets

*“Earlier today, I learned of the University of Lethbridge's decision to cancel a controversial guest speaker who was scheduled to speak later this week. I understand past comments made by this speaker are controversial, but I believe it is important for our universities and colleges to foster a strong culture of free speech and diverse viewpoints, even when those viewpoints are deemed controversial, or even offensive, barring speech intended to incite hatred or violence of course.*

*I will be announcing new steps to strengthen free speech on Alberta's post-secondary campuses in the near future. It should be for students, not university administrators, to make the final decision about whether to listen to a speech or not.*

*I would also note that the above comments should not be construed as agreement with any past comments made by the speaker in question.”*



# Notice Board (/notice/)

## President Statement — Peaceful Protest of Controversial Speaker

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023

This notice is from the archives of The Notice Board. Information contained in this notice was accurate at the time of publication but may no longer be so.

Earlier tonight, over 700 students, staff, faculty and community supporters engaged in a protest of a controversial speaker, and another large group attended a lecture on the importance of truth before reconciliation. Tonight's events were a coming together of our community to show support for each other and a reflection of the values of the University of Lethbridge.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our community members for conducting themselves in such a peaceful and powerful manner.

Mike Mahon, PhD  
President & Vice-Chancellor

Office of the President (/notice/filter/385)    Campus Community (/notice/filter/221)

**Contact:**

Mike Mahon | [president@uleth.ca](mailto:president@uleth.ca) (<mailto:president@uleth.ca>)

This is Exhibit " S " referred to  
in the Affidavit of

**Frances Widdowson**

Sworn before me this 26 day  
of July 2023

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
**Barrister & Solicitor**

This is Exhibit " T " referred to  
in the Affidavit of

-----  
**Frances Widdowson**  
-----

Sworn before me this 26 day

of July, 2023

-----  
A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**

**Barrister & Solicitor**



**Jay Gamble**

@DrJayDrNo

Drummed the fuck out on her ear.

5:08 PM · Feb 1, 2023 · 16.1K Views

5 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 177 Likes



**Jay Gamble** @DrJayDrNo · 4h

I was wondering why I had to hide reply and block a bunch of racist, residential school denying goobers recently: it appears Widdowson linked to one of my tweets and accused me of gloating.

Hardly. I had nothing to do with it. I was simply expressing my pride in ULeth students.

1 3 42 1,081



**Jay Gamble** @DrJayDrNo · 4h

What I find particularly rich about the account is her howling and whining about having her freeze peach taken from her in a piece that has links to the three "lectures" she delivered at ULeth.

She complains about not being able to talk with links to the talks she gave. 🤔🤔🤔🤔



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**Brendan Cummins**  
@religionandhist

So proud of these students right now. So sorry I couldn't be there in person to support them.

**Paul McKenzie-Jones** @ScouseProf\_PMJ · Feb 1



4:59 PM · Feb 1, 2023 · 3,281 Views

2 Retweets 1 Quote 58 Likes



**A** Tweet your reply!

Reply

**karen smith-myles (she/her)** @myles\_karen · Feb 1  
Beautiful!



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in the Affidavit of

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of July 20, 23

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
Barrister & Solicitor

### Relevant people

**Brendan Cummins**  
@religionandhist  
Instructor #LDS Sc  
Education. Historian  
particularly LDS & n  
movements. Opini  
mine alone. Obvious

**Paul McKenzie-Jon**  
@ScouseProf\_PMJ  
Scouse, not English.  
anti-social, but defi  
Tweets are personal  
Perpetually annoyec

### Trends for you

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**Anna**  
142K Tweets

Trending in Germany  
**#Rhodos**  
12.4k Tweets

Entertainment · Trending  
**Barbie**  
2.06M Tweets

Technology · Trending  
**#TwitterX**  
431K Tweets

Trending in Germany  
**#Gewitter**  
1,922 Tweets

Trending in Germany  
**WeChat**  
21.2K Tweets

Trending in Germany  
**#Xitter**  
3,617 Tweets

Trending in Germany  
**Böhmermann**

⋮

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**Brendan Cummins**  
@religionandhis1

Announcing when & where they would speak was a deliberate provocation, looking for a response. But when they couldn't control the space or who had access, the arrogant narrative changed. And they were not prepared for THIS response. So proud of the students for standing up.

**Sarah Jones** @sarahdoesnews · Feb 1

"I wasn't frightened at all. I've seen this before, but nothing like this. Nothing at this level," said Widdowson. "The president, it's all on him. He's a panderer to activism. His university is going to be destroyed and that's really tragic." #UniversityofLethbridge #LNN #yql

[Show this thread](#)

8:24 AM · Feb 2, 2023 · 1,806 Views

2 Retweets 36 Likes



Relevant people



**Brendan Cummins**  
@religionandhis1  
Instructor #uleth S Education. Historian particularly LDS & i movements. Opinions mine alone. Obvious



**Sarah Jones**  
@sarahdoesnews  
She/Her | Reporter | Broadcast news a - YLW - YQL

What's happening

- NHL · Last night  
**Kraken at Predators**
- Trending in Canada  
**Selena**  
Trending with **Hailey**
- Business & finance · Trending  
**Deutsche Bank**  
84.3K Tweets
- Politics · Trending  
**Trudeau and Biden**  
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**Watching The World burn, Sbarton** @Sbarton007Shawn · Feb 2  
Replying to @religionandhis1

I think the students made it pretty clear what they thought about her opinions.

1 Like 57 Retweets



**Mervmagoo** @mervmagoo · Feb 2  
Replying to @religionandhis1

Seriously. So proud.

1 Like 50 Retweets



**Soracom.io** @SoracomIoT  
Soracom named as a Visionary in 2023 Gartner Magic Quadrant for Managed IoT Connectivity Services, Worldwide.

Download the full report to find out why!  
[loom.ly/42KhOFM](https://loom.ly/42KhOFM)

This is Exhibit " V " referred to in the Affidavit of **Frances Widdowson** Sworn before me this 26 day of July, 2023

Glenn Blackett  
Barrister & Solicitor










**SORACOM**

**Soracom named a Visionary**

in the 2023 Gartner® Magic Quadrant™ for Managed IoT Connectivity Services, Worldwide

Gartner. [Read the Report](#)

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 **Shelly Wismath**  
@ShellyWismath

It was an incredible event - I too am proud of our students, amazed and impressed by all the people who organized and turned out!

 **Brendan Cummins** @religionandhis1 · Feb 1

So proud of these students right now. So sorry I couldn't be there in person to support them. [twitter.com/ScouseProf\\_PMJ...](https://twitter.com/ScouseProf_PMJ...)

7:01 PM · Feb 1, 2023 · 687 Views

1 Retweet 19 Likes

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A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
**Barrister & Solicitor**

**Relevant people**

 **Shelly Wismath**  
@ShellyWismath  
Professor of Mathe  
Researcher. 3M Na  
Fellow 2017. Dean,  
Education at the #  
Views my own.

 **Brendan Cummin:**  
@religionandhis1  
Instructor #uleth S  
Education. Historie  
particularly LDS & i  
movements. Opin  
mine alone. Obvio

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NHL · Last night  
**Rangers at Hurricanes**

Trending  
**Lockdowns**  
21.8K Tweets

Trending in Canada  
**Pikachu**  
66.8K Tweets

Politics · Trending  
**Trudeau and Biden**  
7,032 Tweets

Politics · Trending  
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← **Shelly Wismath**  
1,403 Tweets



**Shelly Wismath**  
@ShellyWismath

Professor of Mathematics. SoTL Researcher. 3M National Teaching Fellow 2017. Dean, School of Liberal Education at the #uLethbridge. Views my own.

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**Trushar Patel, PhD**  
@trushar\_7

I'm incredibly proud of the @uLethbridge community.

6:40 PM · Feb 1, 2023 · 6,002 Views

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**Kari Tanaka** @KariTanaka · Feb 1

Replying to @trushar\_7 and @uLethbridge

Oh, me too! Literally getting teary looking at the pictures and videos of our campus today! 🥰💙💛💙💛

- 
- 
- 13
- 377
- 



**Amy She / Her** @mormonmombutnot · Feb 1

Replying to @trushar\_7 @kairveeb and @uLethbridge

Same. So proud to be an alum. This is the school I loved

- 
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- 3
- 235
- 



**Glenda** 🇺🇸🇨🇦 @glenda\_aus · Feb 1

Replying to @trushar\_7 and @uLethbridge

I was there and it was truly amazing to be part of.

- 
- 
- 2
- 116
- 

This is Exhibit " X " referred to in the Affidavit of

**Frances Widdowson**

Sworn before me this 26 day of July, 2023

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**  
Barrister & Solicitor

Relevant people



**Trushar Patel, PhD**  
@trushar\_7

Assoc Prof, @CRC  
Dean (🇺🇸) @UofLA  
@uLethbridge. CEC  
BioTech | FRSC @R  
Editor @EurBiophy  
Virology



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**Trudeau and Biden**  
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Trending  
**Danielle Smith**  
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← **Trushar Patel, PhD**  
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@trushar\_7

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# TRENDING ISSUE

## Free speech does not give you the right to deny facts and cause injury

Statement by Bobby-Joe Borodey, Chair AUPE’s Human Rights Committee

Feb 01, 2023

### Social share



This is Exhibit “ Y ” referred to in the Affidavit of

**Frances Widdowson**

Sworn before me this 26 day

of July, 2023

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

**Glenn Blackett**

**Barrister & Solicitor**

Freedom of speech does not include the freedom to deny the truth or cause harm to others.

The Human Rights Committee of the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE) supports the decision of the University of Lethbridge to move a lecture from a controversial speaker to a site off campus.

Frances Widdowson, a former professor at Calgary's Mount Royal University, was invited to give a guest lecture on the Lethbridge campus. Widdowson has publicly rejected the conclusion of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that the residential school system was "genocidal." She has argued in favour of assimilating Indigenous people.

She has also said that the Black Lives Matter movement "destroyed" Mount Royal University.

The damage done to generations of Indigenous children at residential schools in Canada is fact. It is not a matter for debate. Providing a space on campus for a guest lecturer to engage in denialism of those facts is harmful, especially to Indigenous students or staff on campus.

Last week, Albertans heard the news that hundreds of Indigenous children died at the former Blue Quills Indian Residential School in Alberta.

On Friday, the world marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Today, (Wed., Feb. 1) marks the beginning of Black History Month.

The issues of race are real and continue to affect us. That's why we are called to remember the truth and to reject denials. Failure to do so leaves us at risk of future genocides. It's not enough to just say "never again." Those words must be accompanied by actions.

As the University of Lethbridge Faculty Associations says in its statement, the principle of academic freedom does not give an "an unfettered right to say whatever you want," but a contractual right to engage in scholarly activity. Academic freedom includes protecting "those who are harmed by careless and dehumanizing speech," says ULFA.

AUPE is grateful that, after much public pressure and consulting with internal and external groups, the University of Lethbridge decided to move Widdowson's lecture today off campus.

University president Mike Mahon said in a statement: "This input confirmed that assertions that seek to minimize the significant and detrimental impact of Canada's

residential school system are harmful.”

However, AUPE is concerned that the immediate reaction of the Government or Alberta was that it would take new steps to "strengthen free speech" on post-secondary campuses.

We remind the government and Advanced Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides that free speech does not and should not include the freedom to deny the truth and cause harm to others. Any attempts to change that will be resisted.

It is imperative that Alberta and all of Canada engage in real efforts towards Truth and Reconciliation. Allowing and supporting those who deny the truth, and cause real harm to others, undermines those efforts.

We encourage all Albertans to find out more about Truth and Reconciliation from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

Talking about these issues is difficult and can cause mental-health injuries. Help is available. **The Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line (1-800-721-0066) is available 24-hours a day** for anyone experiencing pain or distress as a result of his or her Residential school experience. AUPE members and their immediate families have access to free crisis counselling 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call **AUPE’s Crisis Support Service line at 1-844-744-7026**.

Some employers also offer counselling services. Check your collective agreement or contact you employer to find out if they offer support.

## NEWS CATEGORY

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Trending issue

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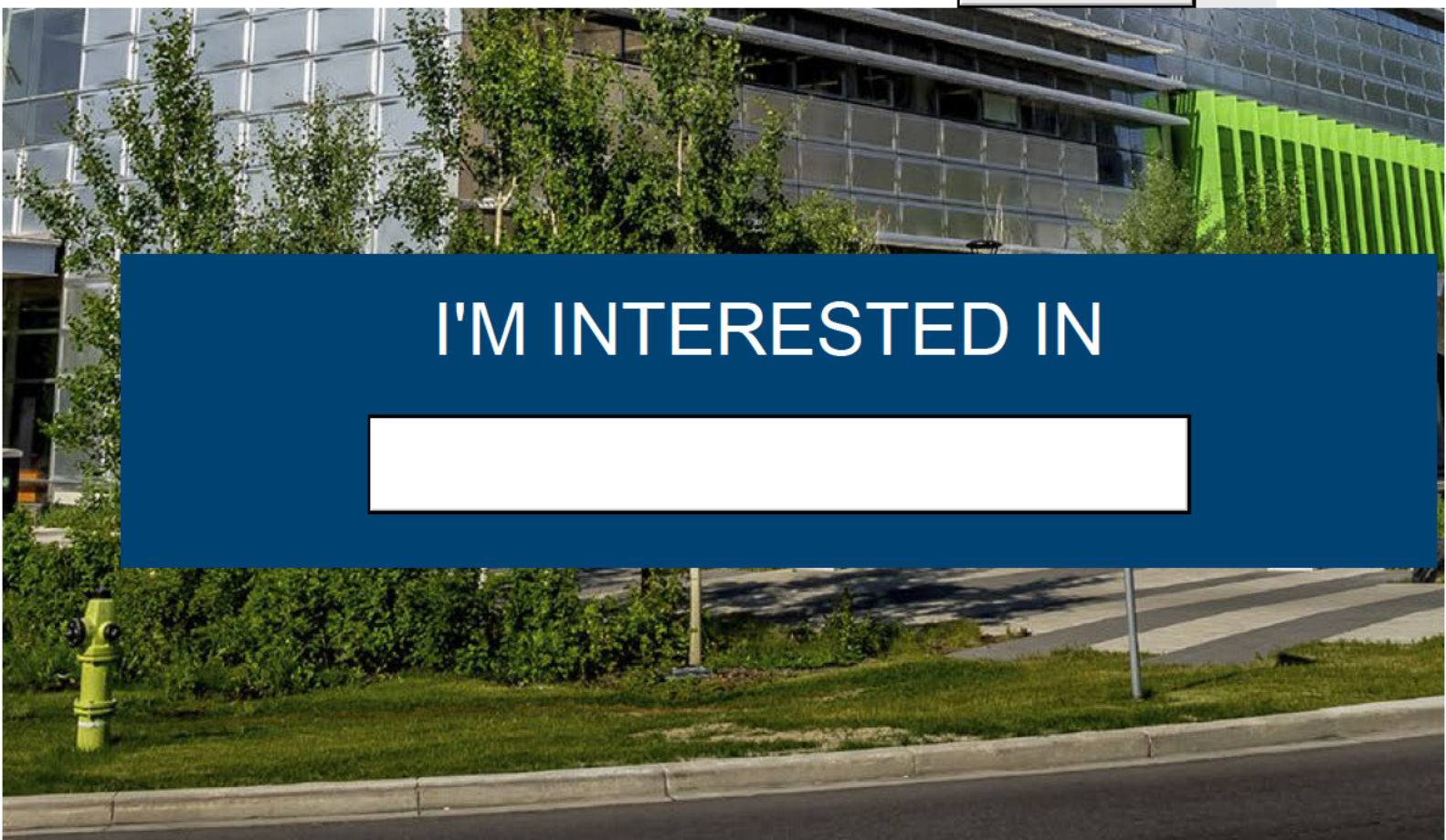
This is Exhibit " Z " referred to  
in the Affidavit of

**Frances Widdowson**  
-----

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## STATEMENT: FREE SPEECH ON CAMPUS

*February 3, 2023 | Found in [News](#)*

The Students' Union (SU) stands with our counterparts from the University of Lethbridge Students' Union as they push back strongly against hate on their campus.

U of L students made it clear that there is no place for hate on their campus. As Advanced Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides said earlier this week "it should be

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for students to make the final decision about whether to listen to a speech or not.” U of L students stood up, held firm, and made it clear that they had no interest in hearing a lecture that denies the genocidal nature of residential schools and the lasting harm these institutions have done to Indigenous peoples. That decision should be respected.

Universities are bastions of free speech and expression. However, just like all freedoms, there are limits. Just as Section 1 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms puts reasonable limitations on rights and freedoms, there should be limits on our campuses.

Denying the genocidal nature of residential schools and suggesting the contemporary civil rights movement is destroying post-secondary institutions is an antagonistic position designed to incite hate and discrimination.

Administration at the University of Lethbridge deserves credit for listening to students and making the difficult, but correct decision to cancel the lecture.

University of Calgary administration could learn from this example to better manage speech and expression on campus. For years, University of Calgary administration has allowed anti-abortion demonstrators on campus in areas that students must walk through to attend their classes. Protestors bring graphic imagery intended incite anger from members of the campus community. This has led to ongoing harassment of students as students have reported being shouted at and followed.

The SU has asked the university to take action and follow its own harassment policy when speech includes harassment and discrimination. To date, the University

of Calgary has done nothing with regard to these demonstrations, and protestors continue to create an intimidating and hostile educational environment for students.

The SU renews its calls for the university to restrict graphic and misleading imagery and to ensure that students are not shouted at, harassed, or followed by protestors. The SU calls for the university to take action and ensure debate of ideas is meaningful, not antagonistic and not rooted in harassment.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Mike Brown, External Communications Specialist

University of Calgary Students' Union




403-560-0577 or [Michael.brown1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:Michael.brown1@ucalgary.ca)



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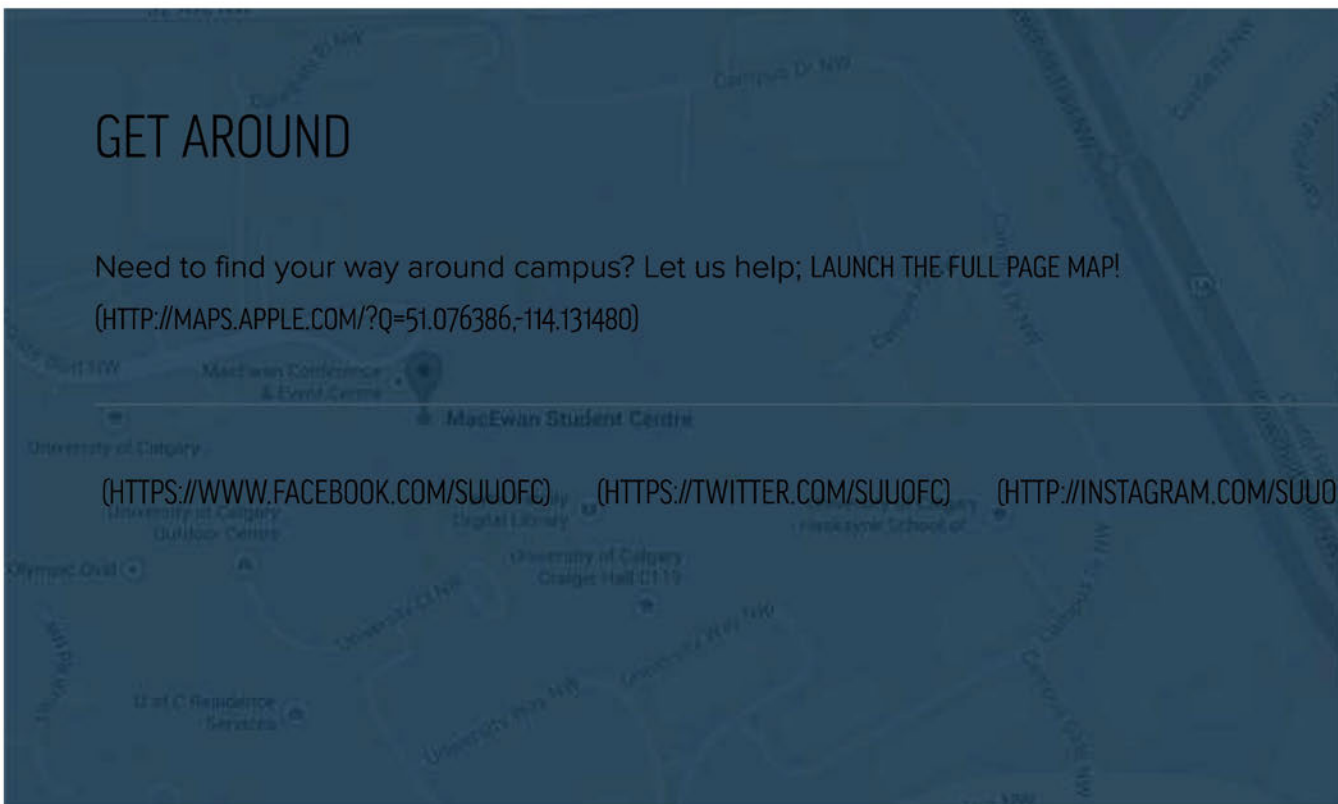
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