



FACULTY ASSOCIATION

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February 14, 2005

Professor Marsden, President
York University,
4700 Keele Street
North York, ON M3J 1P3

Dear Professor Marsden,

We understand that, recently on your campus, a peaceful protest by students ended abruptly when you called in the police. The police violently suppressed the protest, resulting in several injuries and unlawful detentions. The Windsor University Faculty Association is deeply disturbed by the conduct of both the administration of York University and the police. Under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms (2c) all citizens of Canada, including students, have the right of peaceful assembly. The arbitrary use of violence to quell the exercise of a right that is one of the cornerstones of our democratic nation, and indeed of any truly democratic nation, is abhorrent to us. We view the incident at York University as an affront to the principles on which this nation is based.

We join with faculty at other universities in urging you to restore the reputation of your university by publicly apologizing to those who were attacked by the police. In so doing, you would show that you endorse the rights and freedoms guaranteed to all Canadians under the Charter. Furthermore, you would be showing that you honour and respect the very idea of a university. The tradition of free, open, and critical debate on issues is one that all universities should be endeavoring to foster and maintain. Indeed, this tradition is the lifeblood of a university. We think it is incumbent upon you to dispel the impression created by recent events that York wants to suppress dissent, debate, and the open exchange of ideas. For as anyone familiar with history will attest, free, open and critical debate cannot take place in a climate of fear.

Yours sincerely,

Brian E. Brown, President
Faculty Association