

Hon. Ross Romano
Minister of Colleges and Universities
Ministry of Colleges and Universities
5th Floor, 438 University Ave
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5
ross.romano@pc.ola.org

October 28, 2020

Dear Minister Romano,

I am contacting you on behalf of the OCAD U Faculty Association, which represents over 600 University faculty instructors, technicians and staff.

Our members are horrified that your government has paved the legislative way for the Canada Christian College to be granted university status and to award degrees.

No university in Ontario should have hate as its mandate. Canada Christian College is run by Charles McVety, a publicly reviled and controversial televangelical who has trafficked hateful messages chock full of homophobia, transphobia, racism and Islamophobia on every platform he has access to. McVety is so disturbing that even the ultra conservative Christian Television Station (CTS) removed his program from their channel for being 'malevolent, insidious & conspiratorial'. Discrimination should never be the backbone of educational curriculum. McVety has been public in broadcasting an ideological agenda that sows fear, incites hate and spews ignorance.

We are not only concerned with the proposal that McVety's College may secure University status in Ontario, but we are also deeply offended at the undemocratic process deployed by your government to fast track, what appears to have been considered a 'done deal'. The proposal for redesignating the name change for the College into a University, is crammed into an omnibus bill and yet the college has not even completed the process of applying for the redesignation to the Post-secondary Education Quality Assessment Board. The assumptions imply the review process is itself a sham.

Additionally, we are concerned that your government is energizing efforts to build resources and support to privatize postsecondary education in Ontario. When private institutions are given degree-granting privileges public education suffers.

Ontario College of Art &
Design Faculty Association
#248 - 100 McCaul Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5T 1W1

The quality and accessibility of postsecondary education in Ontario has already been negatively impacted by COVID-19 and years of underfunding. We encourage your government to understand that public postsecondary education in Ontario needs support.

A government 'for the people' should not grant accreditation and degree-granting privileges to institutions that do not meet the anti-discriminatory and anti-hate speech principles outlined in the Ontario Human Rights Code. At a minimum, we, 'the people', should expect our government to not allow malicious, hateful and discriminatory agendas to masquerade as education. Truly, the full ask is for a government that stands solidly alongside all our communities – Muslim, queer and marginalized – to reject hate, in all its guises.

Granting university status to the Canada Christian College is a signal to those in our midst who breed hate and fester in the sidelines, waiting for opportunity. Hateful views lead to hateful actions. Nooses on construction sites, gay bashings and transphobic murders and violence in Mosques – these are all connected.

Your Ministry must immediately change course. There is too much at stake.

Sincerely,



Min Sook Lee

President, OCADFA

Associate Professor, OCAD University, Faculty of Art

CC: Mina Rajabi Paak, Policy Analyst, Community and Government Relations, Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations. MRajabi@ocufa.on.ca

Jessica Bell (University—Rosedale)

JBell-QP@ndp.on.ca

Laura Mae Lindo (Kitchener Centre), the Official Opposition's Anti-Racism critic.
LLindo-QP@ndp.on.ca

Chris Glover (Spadina—Fort York), the Official Opposition's Colleges and Universities critic. CGlover-CO@ndp.on.ca

Kathleen O. Wynne (Don Valley West), Liberal Party's Colleges and Universities critic.
Kwynne.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Mike Shreiner, Green Party of Ontario. Mschreiner@ola.org

