



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

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February 26, 2010

Mr. Scott L. Nicholl
Chair
Board of Governors
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
12666-72nd Avenue
Surrey, British Columbia
V3W 2M8

Dear Mr. Nicholl:

Your December 1, 2009, letter to the Kwantlen Faculty Association has been brought to our attention. I must say I was initially in a state of disbelief when I read your letter. In March 2009, I was a guest of the University, along with CAUT President Penni Stewart. We had been invited by President Atkinson to meet with the senior administration, deans, chairs, program coordinators, and academic staff to discuss the transition from university-college to university. A central part of that discussion was the issue of university governance.

Never during our discussions was there the slightest hint that the University contemplated trying to override the collective agreement it had negotiated with the Faculty Association by claiming that the *University Act* required it to do so.

There is nothing in the *University Act* that would permit a special purpose university to disavow provisions in a collective agreement it had negotiated with the faculty association under the *BC Labour Code*.

We strongly urge you to reconsider your position and remove the threat to void sections of the current collective agreement. If Kwantlen wants to be a true university, a useful starting point is for the university to assure the faculty association that it will honour the commitments it made when it signed the collective agreement. Your letter has created a grave sense of concern and distrust that serves no one's interest.

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Please advise us of your intentions in this matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Turk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

James L. Turk
Executive Director

/js

cc: Terri Van Steinburg
Cindy Oliver
David Atkinson
Penni Stewart