

KWANTLEN FACULTY ASSOCIATION RESPONSE TO USA EXECUTIVE ORDER BANNING CITIZENS OF SEVEN COUNTRIES FROM ENTERING THE UNITED STATES

The Kwantlen Faculty Association stands in full support of the [Statement from KPU President Dr. Alan Davis](#) on the U.S. travel ban. We, along with colleagues within the Kwantlen community and the greater academic community, were deeply disturbed by the Trump's Executive Order.

On Friday January 27, 2017, United States President Trump signed an Executive Order entitled "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States." The Executive Order temporarily bans citizens of seven predominantly Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States. Those countries are Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.

President Trump's Executive Order undermines and contradicts the core values of Kwantlen Polytechnic and all post-secondary institutions that value diversity, inclusion, openness, and fundamental human rights. Universities are founded on the principles of academic freedom, and inherent in those principles is the notion of the free exchange of ideas and scholarly inquiry from diverse

and multiple perspectives. A diversity of thought cannot happen without a diversity of community.

The opposition to the travel ban from the academic community in Canada and the United States has been swift and strong. [The Statement from Universities Canada](#) expresses strong opposition to the executive action taken by the Trump government. In addition, the [Association of American Universities](#), the [Association of Public and Land-grant Universities](#), and the [Canadian Tech Community](#) have all issued equally strong statements of opposition.

This order is not an abstract political news story. It impacts many students, staff, and faculty within our community, and faculty associations and unions are speaking out. Our colleagues at Simon Fraser University Faculty Association capture this impact eloquently in [their message](#): "This ban, and any unreasonable restriction on mobility, has serious implications for our work as faculty, the principles that underlie our institutions, and our commitment to scholarship and dialogue."

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In an unusual step that highlights the seriousness of the travel ban, the [Canadian Association of University Teachers](#) press release (January 30) advises Canadian academics who might be affected by the order and who have travel plans to the United States within the 90 day period to consider postponing their travel plans, seeking legal counsel and consulting the CAUT Travel Advisory, [Travelling to the United States: Your Rights at the Border](#).

In its January 30, 2017 [press release](#), the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) advises Canadians with dual citizenship from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen to consider avoiding travelling through a U.S. port of entry and provides Canada's emergency travel number (613-996-8885) for Canadians encountering problems crossing the U.S. Border.

Furthermore, the BCCLA has called on the Government of Canada [to suspend the "Safe Third Country" agreement with the United States](#) joining other organizations, including Amnesty International, the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers, the Canadian Council for Refugees, and the Canadian Civil

Liberties Association, who state that the United States can no longer be considered a safe country in which to seek asylum.

The effect of Trump's Executive Order on our colleagues cannot be understated. It has made a dramatic and real impact on our colleagues and students.

The Kwantlen Faculty Association stands in solidarity with President Alan Davis and Kwantlen's senior administration team in their support of and commitment to the free flow and exchange of ideas and the enrichment of our campuses being nurtured by international students, faculty, and staff.

We will be working closely with Kwantlen's administration to support our faculty. If you have any questions or need any assistance arising from the Executive Order travel ban, please contact the Kwantlen Faculty Association at 604-599-2200.

In solidarity,

Bob, Gillian, Diane, Suzanne,
Panteli, Kyla and Maureen.

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