

The Honourable Chris Bentley
Ministry of the Attorney General
11th floor
720 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2K1

October 19, 2010

Dear Mr. Bentley:

I write to express the concern of the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association with the arrest of Mr. Alex Hundert on Friday, September 17th, 2010, following his invited participation in a panel discussion entitled 'Strengthening our Resolve: Movement Building and Ongoing Resistance to the G20 Agenda' at Wilfrid Laurier's Faculty of Social Work and another panel under the same title two days later at Ryerson University. He was arrested for allegedly breaking a bail condition that limits his right to attend public demonstrations.

It is unacceptable that participation in a properly constituted university panel discussion can be arbitrarily construed as participation in a "public demonstration", or that a taped recording of the panel discussion made by undercover police officers can be used in a court of law to criminalize lawful and peaceful dissent. This is a blatant disregard of academic freedom, freedom of expression and of the role of the university. The central mission of our universities is to explore and debate the urgent and important issues of the day and to do so without fear of surveillance by any agent of the state.

Limiting or suppressing debate on controversial issues poses a clear threat to the purpose of post-secondary education. The message that Mr. Hundert has lost his right to share his views in a public forum cannot be tolerated in a free and democratic society.

We join with colleagues at Ontario's Universities and across the country in demanding the immediate revocation of Mr. Hundert's highly restrictive conditions of bail. Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association would like to add our voice to the voices of the many who see his treatment as a dangerous and undemocratic precedent.

Sincerely,

Judy Bates
President, Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association

cc: William Blair, Chief, Metropolitan Toronto Police Services
The Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
Dr. Max Blouw, President, Wilfrid Laurier University
Dr. Susan Cadell, Acting Dean, Faculty of Social Work, Wilfrid Laurier University
James L. Turk, Executive Director, CAUT
Alex Hundert