



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

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VIA EMAIL (naomi.yamamoto.mla@leg.bc.ca)

November 8, 2011

Hon. Naomi Yamamoto
Minister of Advanced Education
PO Box 9056, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

We are writing on behalf of the 66,000 academic staff represented by the Canadian Association of University Teachers at 124 universities and colleges across Canada to express concern about what we see as antidemocratic provisions in Bill 18 - the *Advanced Education Statutes Amendment Act*.

We recognize your government's desire to limit potential conflicts of interest for elected members of boards of governors of BC's public universities, colleges and institutes, but the provisions of Bill 18 go far beyond what might be necessary to achieve this end.

Prohibiting leaders of faculty and staff associations from serving on boards of governors and empowering appointed and ex-officio members of boards to remove elected members of boards is a clear violation of democratic principles and practice.

Not only are the proposals contrary to longstanding practice in British Columbia universities, colleges and institutes, they are also a reversal of a practice that has worked well for many years across Canada.

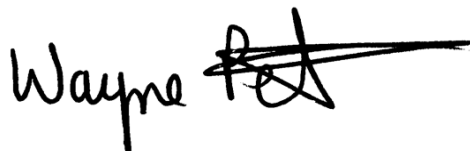
For more than 100 years, since the Flavelle Royal Commission in 1906, Canadian universities have been characterized by collegial governance structures – a recognition of the unique nature of post-secondary educational institutions whose governance requires the active participation of the academic staff.

We cannot imagine the B.C. Government would want to exclude from a governance role those in whom the academic staff have shown trust by electing them leaders of their association. Nor can we imagine that your government wants to be seen to be giving the authority to unelected members of boards of governors to oust the elected members.

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We strongly urge you to amend your legislation by removing sections 19, 20, 32, 34, 49, and 50. We also strongly urge you to enter into discussions with our colleagues in the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC and the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC to craft mechanisms that deal constructively with potential conflicts of interest in institutional governance while respecting democratic principles and the unique nature of our post-secondary institutions.

Yours truly,

Handwritten signature of Wayne D. Peters in black ink, featuring a stylized 'W' and a long horizontal stroke.

Wayne D. Peters
President

Handwritten signature of James L. Turk in black ink, featuring a large 'J' and 'T'.

James L. Turk
Executive Director

/mmp

cc: The Hon. Christy Clark, Premier
David Mirhady, President, CUFA/BC
Cindy Oliver, President, FPSE