



Rights to Dissent

Letter by Gail Davidson - 6 Feb 2022.

Originally sent to Ottawa Police Chief Sloly.

Attention Chief Peter Sloly;

Re: Rights to Dissent and the recent threat to use the Canadian Armed Forces to end the Ottawa protest

As you know, rights to freedoms of peaceful assembly, expression, and dissent are essential to democracy and are protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and international and regional human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. "The Right to Dissent: A guide to international obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the right of all persons to participate in public affairs by engaging in criticism, opposition and dissent," published by Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada is available for your information.

The Truckers' Convoy in Ottawa is a peaceful assembly by people lawfully exercising protected rights to assembly and expression as a means of participating in public affairs and engaging in human rights advocacy. The Truckers' Convoy and their supporters are engaging in a peaceful protest to call on their elected representatives to restore rights restricted or extinguished by mandates, dialogue with Members of Parliament, and end COVID-19-related mandates. The Truckers' Convoy has not threatened, used, or condoned violence.

As you are aware, the legal duty of police is to enable peaceful assemblies and to protect protesters engaged in peaceful dissent from violence by state and non-state actors, unlawful restrictions, and the actions of anyone seeking to use the assembly for unlawful purposes. Canada's duty and that of the Ottawa Police is, as expressed by the UN Human Rights Council, "to facilitate peaceful protests by providing protesters with access to public space and protecting them, where necessary, against any forms of threats." [...]

Canadian and international law prohibits the use or threatened use of force against lawful protesters by both state and non-state actors. Any threat to use armed intervention and potentially lethal weaponry to forcibly end the lawful Truckers' Convoy assembly is itself unlawful. The Ottawa Police must condemn—not promote—any threat to use armed military action to forcibly 'shut down' a peaceful protest. Instead the Ottawa Police must stress the need for Members of Parliament to also act lawfully in response to the legitimate and pressing concerns raised by the Truckers' Convoy and shared by millions of Canadians, through dialogue and negotiations with protesters. [...]

Fringe and Unacceptable Professor

A paradox by Jesse D. Billett - 5 February 2022.
Originally published at liturgyscholar.ca.

For the record: I am a member of Canadian Academics for Covid Ethics. I am one of the original signatories of the Greater Toronto Declaration. (The petition was recently taken down, without explanation, by Change.org.)

I oppose the cruel and irrational COVID-19 policies of the Province of Ontario, and still more those that have been adopted by the University of Toronto, under which my students are being expelled and my colleagues are being fired.

The university's policy can be summarized as follows:



Heartbroken

Analysis by Claus Rinner
- 9 Feb 2022.

There are many reasons to be heartbroken at the tail end of the corona crisis. Families have lost loved ones in isolation, and possibly due to isolation. Young people died tragically and unnecessarily from COVID—thanks in part to the suppression of effective treatment protocols—or from drug overdoses—quite possibly a result of their lives being turned upside down by the pandemic response measures. And 2021 all-cause mortality increased in concert with the ramping up of COVID-19 vaccination programs in many countries. In addition to death, heart disease is one of the many known adverse event of the injections.

In its weekly report on "adverse events following immunization" (AEFI), Public Health Ontario (PHO) monitors safety signals during the rollout of the inoculations. Inflammation of the heart (myocarditis and pericarditis) is an "adverse events of special interest" (AESI) for PHO. In September 2021, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health had issued a "preferential recommendation" for the Pfizer product over Moderna for young males aged 18-24, later expanded to the male teenager group aged 12-17. [...] Media reports at the time pegged the risks at 1 in 5000 for Moderna, compared to 1 in 28000 for Pfizer.

Thanks to my well-informed Twitter bubble, I have started to see numerous media reports about increasing heart issues in the population. And about the possible reasons. [...]

One widely shared news item read "Shaking duvet too vigorously while making your bed can increase your chances of a heart attack, scientists warn." Sadly, fact checkers will mercilessly debunk just about any good story ... in this case, an eagle-eyed Snopes writer noticed an irregularity in the picture that came with the

- Students and faculty who haven't submitted proof of vaccination, even if they're willing to stay away from campus, aren't eligible for any accommodation to study or work remotely, because their classes or job responsibilities might require them to come to campus.

- Students and faculty who have submitted proof of vaccination, but are still scared to come to campus, are eligible to receive accommodations to study or work remotely, so that their classes or job responsibilities won't require them to come to campus.

The government's position is bad enough:

- "You aren't allowed to come to campus unless you submit proof of vaccination."

The university's position is surreal:

- "You aren't even allowed to STAY AWAY FROM CAMPUS unless you submit proof of vaccination."

story. Snopes cleverly uncovers the motivations behind sharing the deadly duvet shaking story, namely: "These posts falsely argued that the media was attempting to disguise an increased risk of heart attacks from the COVID-19 vaccine by publishing a wave of articles blaming other factors (such as rigorously shaking a duvet cover) for heart attacks."

Whether the frequency of health reports in the legacy media is indeed higher than usual, and could be part of a campaign to normalize heart issues, will be difficult to prove. But the use of the mass media to nudge the population into compliance with pandemic restrictions is well established. Nudging our attention away from concerning public health trends would be a logical next step. And it is clear that many Canadians suffer from literal or metaphorical "broken heart symptom" and "post-pandemic stress disorder" causing cardio-vascular issues. That's yet another reason for a great reset of public health—back to a holistic perspective on health as a complex system of interconnected individuals, environments, and circumstances that can be supported gently but never mechanically controlled.

Convoy for Freedom Toronto 2022

Photographs by Steve Mann - taken 5 Feb 2022

