MSVUFA stands in solidarity with faculty, students, and staff at the University of Waterloo

Mount Saint Vincent University Faculty Association (MSVUFA) stands in solidarity with faculty, students, and staff at the University of Waterloo, where last week a professor and students in a class called Philosophy/Gender and Social Justice were violently attacked by a man who was "motivated by hate related to gender expression and identity."

Universities must be places where students and faculty can learn, teach, and research without fear for their safety and well-being, and where ideas, perspectives and experiences can be shared without fear of repression, violence, and other forms of oppression.

Across Canada and around the world there is a rise in what has been bizarrely termed "anti-woke" views and legislation that are putting people at risk for harm and violence. Anti-gender (i.e. misogyny, homophobia, transphobia) and white supremacist discourses are attempting to censor critical theories, ban certain books and other curriculum materials, create fearmongering, and move back efforts made in equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility, and decolonization in universities.

Together, university administrations and faculty unions must actively demonstrate support for colleagues who teach social justice courses and the students who take them (especially those who are racialized, minoritized, and face intersectional forms of threats and violence).

Together, we must continue to develop practices and establish policies that make universities physically safe places for teaching, learning, scholarship, research, and activism.

Together, we must reaffirm our commitment to academic freedom.

Together, we denounce hate in all forms.

In solidarity,

Susie Brigham, President of MSVUFA