

Today's Date: May 17, 2024*

TO: President Kevin Hall, University of Victoria

CC: Vice-President Finance & Operations, Vice-President External Relations, Vice-President Indigenous, Vice-President Academic & Provost, Vice-President Research & Innovation, University Secretary, Chancellor, University Board of Governors, University Senate, Campus security, Health and Safety Committee, Faculty and Staff Association, EQHR, Students Union

**Note: Original letter (below) sent to President Kevin Hall on May 14, 2024 with 60 signatories. While still awaiting a response, we are now resending to include additional signatories and addressees.*

Dear President Kevin Hall,

We write as a group of concerned faculty members who are advocating for the University to reach out to the students in the Palestine Solidarity Encampment. We are heartened by your statement encouraging "thoughtful, reasoned and respectful academic discourse" and **"absolute support [for] peaceful demonstrations and the right to freedom of expression"** (May 10 Letter). In that spirit, we are calling for an **immediate meeting between you and a small delegation of the UVic faculty members who have signed this letter**. The purpose of this meeting would be to discuss meaningful ways for you to reach out personally to create a space for constructive dialogue and to actively work toward a peaceful and negotiated outcome. In our role as faculty members, we are committed to helping facilitate this conversation between our UVic students and the administration. We sincerely believe that UVic's engagement **with us, and with UVic students**, is an opportunity for the university to signal to the broader public its active commitment to open and constructive dialogue and academic freedom, especially critical in this era of fiscal crisis and "deep societal divisions" (May 10 Letter).

What we have witnessed in the encampment during these two weeks is a remarkable achievement in higher education: The students have built a place of solidarity, mutual education and peace, a place where students from diverse faiths (Muslims, Jewish, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Hindu, and more) share meals and ideas, a place where Indigenous students lead discussion circles about decolonization, and a place where parents and community members, irrespective of their financial means, show up to deliver food for our students. At many levels, we believe that the best of what UVic aims to provide in its academic mission is taking place on the lawn at this very moment. Students in the Palestine Solidarity Encampment are living many aspects of the university's strategic plan, for instance creating a "culture of change and transformation" by "having the courage to take risks, embrace new ideas, and be open to learning and trying things in new ways." (Distinctly UVic)

Students in the encampment are eager to meet with university leadership in good faith negotiations. We are calling for a meeting with your office as soon as possible to facilitate the start of a meaningful dialogue.

Thank you for responding to this urgent request.

Sincerely,

1. Asad Kiyani (Law)
2. Chris Goto-Jones (Philosophy)
3. Basma Majerbi (Business)
4. Shamma Boyarin (English and RCS)
5. William Carroll (Sociology)
6. Sonya Bird (Linguistics)
7. Bernie Pauly (Nursing)
8. James Rowe (Environmental Studies)
9. Astrid Brousselle (Public Administration)
10. Alexandrine Boudreault Fournier (Anthropology)
11. Audrey Yap (Philosophy)
12. Michael Lines (Libraries)
13. Simon Glezos (Political Science)
14. Adel Guitouni (Business)
15. Tamara Humphrey (Sociology)
16. Rita Kaur Dhamoon (Political Science)
17. Kelli Stajduhar (Nursing)
18. Emile Fromet De Rosnay (French and Francophone studies)
19. Elena Pnevmonidou (Germanic and Slavic Studies)
20. Melia Belli Bose (Art History and Visual Studies)
21. Stephen Ross (English and CSPT)
22. Kelly Aguirre (Political Science)
23. Marilou Gagnon (Nursing)
24. Allie Slemon (Nursing)
25. Anastasia Mallidou (Nursing)
26. Zaheera Jinnah (Social Work)
27. Feng Xu (Political Science)
28. David Boudinot (Libraries)
29. Christopher Douglas (English)
30. Kim Daly (Nursing)
31. Angie Chau (Pacific and Asian Studies)
32. Thiti Jamkajornkeiat (Pacific and Asian Studies)
33. Thea Cacchioni (Gender Studies)
34. Sara Harvey (French and Francophone studies)
35. Matthew Little (PHSP)
36. Darcy Lindberg (Law)
37. Mylène Dorcé (French and Francophone Studies)

38. Gaben Sanchez (Social Work)
39. Kara Shaw (Environmental Studies)
40. Peyman Vahabzadeh (Sociology)
41. Kerry-Ann Dompierre (Nursing)
42. Nick Montgomery (Environmental Studies)
43. Bruce Ravelli (Sociology)
44. Lindsay DuPré (Public Health and Social Policy)
45. Anelyse Weiler (Sociology)
46. Pierre-Luc Landry (French and Francophone Studies)
47. Damien Contandriopoulos (Nursing)
48. Simi Kang (Gender Studies)
49. Niiyokamigaabaw Deondre Smiles (Geography)
50. Christina Chakanyuka (Nursing)
51. ann-elise lewallen (Pacific and Asian Studies)
52. Lisa Chalykoff (English)
53. Beth Stuart (Visual Art)
54. Leanne Kelly (Nursing)
55. James Tully (Law, Political Science)
56. Nina Belmonte (Philosophy)
57. Suzanne Urbanczyk (Linguistics)
58. waaseyaa'sin Christine Sy (Gender Studies)
59. Sarah Wright Cardinal (Public Health & Social Policy)
60. Karen Urbanoski (Public Health & Social Policy)
61. Sujin Lee (Pacific & Asian Studies)
62. Bunni Williams (UVSS Director of Outreach and University Relations)
63. Khushi Wadhwa (UVSS Director of Finance and Operations)
64. Isabelle Easton (UVSS Director of Campaigns and Community Relations)
65. Hemal Sharma (UVSS Director of Student Affairs)
66. Neilesh Bose (History)
67. Elizabeth Vibert (History)
68. Larry Hannant (History)
69. Pooja Parmar (Law)
70. Jason Collins (Academic & Technical Writing Program)
71. John Price (History)
72. Mehmoona Moosa-Mitha (Social Work)
73. Tim Richards (Law)
74. Ricardo Flores (Business)
75. Carmen Galang (Business)