

November 27, 2019

Honorable Jason Kenney, MLA, Premier of the Province of Alberta  
307 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Kenney,

The Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations, representing 7000 academic staff members, is appalled and concerned by your comments in the Legislature on November 25, 2019, that implied that the credibility of our academic colleague, Dr. Melanee Thomas, Associate Professor, of the University of Calgary was compromised by her politics.

The Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations stands in support of our academic colleagues and their rights to academic freedom and public critique. We view your remarks as an attempt to diminish Dr. Thomas's academic credibility and her opinion as part of the United Conservative Party's ongoing efforts to silence dissent and marginalize post-secondary education.

Mr. Kenney, the post-secondary education sector will not be silenced, and we will not stand by silently while smear tactics are used against our academic colleagues. Furthermore, we will not stand by silently as post-secondary education in publicly-funded institutions is compromised by a government that rewards its political friends and supporters while ignoring the well-being of the next generation of Albertans.

The Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations calls for you to publicly apologize to Dr. Melanee Thomas for your remarks.

Sincerely,



Dr. Heather Bruce,  
President CAFA