

Media Release

CAFA's Statement on the Hate-Motivated Attack at University of Waterloo

For Immediate Release - June 30, 2023

(Edmonton) CAFA is deeply concerned about the violent attack on a professor and multiple students that occurred at University of Waterloo. This violent attack targeted faculty and students in a class about gender and the contemporary world and has been described by the Waterloo police as a hate-motivated incident related to gender expression and gender identity.

CAFA would like to express our deep sympathies for all those victimized in this attack. Their recovery and return to class is our priority.

The attack highlights the growing threat posed by increasing ideologically driven attacks on 2SLGBTQ+ communities and other equity-deserving groups. As academic staff, we are calling on all levels of government to start seriously addressing the rise of gender/sexuality based violent assaults in all aspects of our society. As the rhetoric against trans-scholars and trans-students are amplified in our society, these attacks will become more frequent and our campuses less safe.

We are also calling on all university administrations to denounce this attack in the strongest terms, and to develop safety procedures to keep our communities safe. This attack was ideologically motivated and in many ways is an attack on our academic freedom. Universities are a place where knowledge is discussed and disseminated, and this violent assault is clearly an attempt to silence this sharing of knowledge.

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