

Morin, Lois

4.4(I)

From: Deborah Cowen
Sent: July-08-19 11:41 AM
To: Office of the Mayor
Cc: Morin, Lois; info@hamiltonpolice.on.ca; Samantha Craggs - CBC; tmoro@thespec.com; scolby@thestar.ca
Subject: Letter from 100 Professors from the urban region in support of Pride Defenders
Attachments: Open letter to Hamilton Mayor Eisenberger from scholars.pdf

Dear Mayor Eisenberger,

Please find attached a letter from 100 Professors from our shared urban region in support of the Hamilton Pride Defenders.

Sincerely,

Deborah Cowen

she/her or they/them pronouns

Professor, Department of Geography & Planning

University of Toronto

100 St. George Street, #5047

Toronto, ON M5S 3G3

Territory of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum

2016 Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Fellow

July 8, 2019

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger,

We write to you as scholars who live and work across our shared urban region - the Greater Golden Horseshoe in the territory of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum. We write to register profound concern about the recent treatment of members of Hamilton's queer, trans and Two Spirit community by your office and by the Hamilton Police Services. We are disappointed with your conduct, outraged by the unjust treatment of queer, trans and Two Spirit people, and insistent that Hamilton can and must do better.

Organized hate groups descended upon Hamilton's 2019 Pride celebrations in an attempt to intimidate and harass participants. In response, members of Hamilton's queer, trans and Two Spirit community mobilized creative tactics to physically shield pride participants and protect them from violence and hatred. Instead of supporting members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, your office and the Hamilton police aggressively targeted and criminalized them. This is a troubling reminder of the necessity of Pride, a global movement that emerged out of the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion in which queer and trans New Yorkers, many of colour, resisted systemic police violence.

Recent events in Hamilton are also just one episode in a much larger story of marginalization of local queer, trans and Two Spirit people. As an [important June 2019 report](#) makes clear, members of Hamilton's 2SLGBTQ+ community are experiencing deepening forms of socio-economic marginalization, and harassment in public spaces and services. The report documents that 51% of respondents have experienced discrimination or harassment in outdoor public spaces and 53% of respondents have experienced harassment, violence or hate crimes at least once in Hamilton. For transgender respondents, this number was 61%. The report also highlights the lack of trust in the police; only 10% of respondents who had experienced harassment, violence or hate crimes reported the incident. 26% faced barriers or discrimination in housing, and unemployment rates are nearly twice the level of the broader population. This is unacceptable.

These are serious times and the stakes are high. The emboldening of right wing extremism can have life or death consequences for 2SLGBTQ+ people. We implore you to show responsible leadership and to choose the right path by:

1. Releasing all queer, trans and Two Spirit people incarcerated in relation to Pride events and dropping all charges against Pride defenders;
2. Consulting with Hamilton's established 2SLGBTQ+ advisory committee on ways forward;
3. Initiating discussions with your 2SLGBTQ+ advisory committee about the creation of community space.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Good, Department of Communication, Popular Culture and Film, Brock University
David McIntosh, Professor, Digital Futures, OCAD University
William Graham, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, University of Toronto
Jennifer Nedelsky, Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

Lance T. McCreedy, Department of Leadership, Higher & Adult Education, University of Toronto
 Deborah Cowen, Department of Geography & Planning, University of Toronto, Robert Nelder,
 National Seniors Advisory Council to Egale,
 Suzanne Mills, Labour Studies & Geography and Earth Sciences, McMaster University
 Ute Lehrer, Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
 Sue Ruddick, Department of Geography & Planning, University of Toronto.
 Craig Fortier, Department of Social Development Studies, Renison University College
 Matthew Farish, Department of Geography & Planning, University of Toronto
 Patricia Wood, Department of Geography, York University
 Ranu Basu, Department of Geography, York University
 Joshua Moufawad-Paul, Department of Philosophy, York University
 Shiri Pasternak, Department of Criminology, Ryerson University
 Brett Story, School of Image Arts, Ryerson University
 Mary Nyquist, Department of English and Comparative Literature, University of Toronto
 Joseph Carens, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto
 Alissa Trotz, Caribbean Studies & Women and Gender Studies, University of Toronto
 Mark Hunter, Department of Human Geography, University of Toronto
 Elspeth Brown, Department of History, University of Toronto
 Whitney Kemble, Library, University of Toronto Scarborough
 Linda Peake, Professor, Department of Social Science, York University
 Natalie Zemon Davis, Department of History, University of Toronto
 Dana Seidler, Professor of English, Director of the Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies
 Chester Scoville, Department of English, University of Toronto
 Maureen FitzGerald, Fellow, The Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies
 Victor Li (Emeritus), Dept. of English and Centre for Comparative Literature
 Kass Banning, Cinema Studies Institute, University of Toronto
 Rebecca Nelson, Department of Geography & Planning, University of Toronto
 Katherine McKittrick, Professor, Dept of Gender Studies, Queen's University
 Katherine Blouin, Associate Professor, Departments of Historical and Cultural Studies and of
 Classics, University of Toronto
 Natalie Oswin, Department of Geography, McGill University
 Girish Daswani, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto
 Peter Fitting, emeritus, French/Cinema Studies, University of Toronto
 E. Natalie Rothman, History, University of Toronto
 Nancy Jackson, (Emerita) OISE, University of Toronto
 Jamie Magnusson, Associate Professor, OISE, University of Toronto
 Atiqa Hachimi, Department of Historical and Cultural Studies, University of Toronto
 Rebecca Comay, Department of Philosophy and Centre for Comparative Literature , University
 of Toronto
 Stephanie Ross, Associate Professor, School of Labour Studies, McMaster University
 Sarah Wakefield, Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto
 Naomi Nagy, Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Toronto
 Carolyn Prouse, Department of Geography and Planning, Queen's University
 Eva-Lynn Jagoe, Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Toronto

Karina Vernon, Associate Professor, Department of English University of Toronto Scarborough
Peter Johnson, Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo
Ken Derry, Department of Historical Studies, University of Toronto
Jo Sharma, Historical and Cultural Studies Department, University of Toronto
Melanie Heath, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, McMaster University
Kanishka Goonewardena, Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto
Gavin Smith, Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto
Gabrielle Moser, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences & School of Interdisciplinary Studies, OCAD University
Ebru Ustundag, Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Tourism Studies, Brock University
Honor Ford-Smith, Associate Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
Tina Fetner, Associate Professor, Sociology, McMaster University
Grace Adeniyi-Ogunyankin, Departments of Geography & Planning and Gender Studies, Queen's University
Mariana Valverde, Professor, Centre for Criminology & Sociolegal Studies
Shannon Moore, Director of Women's and Gender Studies, Associate Professor Child and Youth Studies, Brock University
Victoria Tahmasebi-Birgani, Women and Gender Studies Program, University of Toronto Mississauga
Margot Francis, Associate Professor, Women and Gender Studies, Brock University
Tamara El-Hoss, Associate Professor, Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Brock University
Emily Gilbert, Professor, Director of the Canadian Studies Program, Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto
Zaheer Baber, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto
Scott Morgensen, Associate Professor, Department of Gender Studies, Queen's University
Robyn Bourgeois, Assistant Professor, Women's and Gender Studies, Brock University
Mary-Beth Raddon, Associate Professor, Sociology, Brock University
Simone Weil Davis, Assistant Professor, Associate Director, Ethics, Society & Law, Trinity College, University of Toronto
Isabelle Cochelin, Centre for Medieval Studies and Dept of History, University of Toronto
James Deutsch, Div. of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Toronto
David Townsend, Professor Emeritus, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto
Edward Sammons, CDTs, University of Toronto
Franca Iacovetta, Professor of History, University of Toronto
Steven Tufts, Department of Geography, York University
Lisa Boucher, Gender & Women's Studies, Trent University
Min Sook Lee, Associate Professor, Art & Social Change, OCAD University
Bhavani Raman, Associate Professor of History, University of Toronto
Harriet Sonne de Torrens, Librarian, University of Toronto Mississauga
Leanne Taylor, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, Brock University

Luca Somigli, Professor, Dept. of Italian Studies, University of Toronto
Gokboru Sarp Tanyildiz, Sociology Department, York University
Michelle Buckley, Department of Human Geography, University of Toronto Scarborough
Nancy Cook, Department of Sociology, Brock University
Meg Luxton, School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, York University
Luisa Sotomayor, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
David Butz, Professor, Department of Geography & Tourism Studies, Brock University.
Richard Fung, Professor, Faculty of Art, OCAD University
Vinh Nguyen, Assistant Professor, English, University of Waterloo
Jenny Foster, Associate Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
Mark Thomas, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, York University
Stefan Kipfer, Associate Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
Alexis Kyle Mitchell, PhD, Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto
Janet M. Conway, PhD, Nancy's Chair in Women's Studies, Mount Saint Vincent University and
Professor of Sociology, Brock University
Rebecca Raby, Professor, Department of Child and Youth Studies, Brock University
Kamala Kempadoo, Professor, Department of Social Science, York University
Angela Henshilwood, Engineering Librarian, University of Toronto
Nelly Cancilla, Digital Scholarship & Liaison Librarian, University of Toronto Mississauga
Nancy Worth, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography & Environmental Management,
University of Waterloo
Justin Podur, Associate Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
Beatrice Jauregui, Assistant Professor, Centre for Criminology & Sociolegal Studies, University
of Toronto

Cc: Chief Eric Girt, Hamilton Police Services; Hamilton Police Services Board