

From: PSFS Strategic Policy & Initiatives PSFS:EX(Lester.Niere@gov.bc.ca)
Minister, PSFS PSFS:EX (PSFS.Minister@gov.bc.ca); s. 22
To: s. 22 PSFS Strategic Policy & Initiatives PSFS:EX
(PSFS.StrategicPolicyandInitiativesBr@gov.bc.ca)
Subject: Our Ref. 131509 - Re: Langara College instructor and Simon Fraser University award
winner's statements about Israel and Palestine
Sent: 12/29/2023 16:50:29

December 29, 2023

Our Ref. 131509

Thank you for your email sent to the Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, regarding a Langara College instructor and Simon Fraser University award winner's statements about Israel and Palestine. As Assistant Deputy Minister of Post-Secondary Policy and Programs Division, Langara College and Simon Fraser University are within my responsibility, and I am responding on behalf of Minister Robinson.

I appreciate you sharing your concerns and thoughts on this matter.

While I agree that there is no place for hate and violence at post-secondary institutions in British Columbia, it is important to note that under the *College and Institute Act* and the *University Act*, institutions such as Langara College and Simon Fraser University are independent from Government, with Boards of Governors responsible for the management and administration of the institutions, including matters related to faculty, staff administration and student affairs.

When an individual is seeking resolution to a matter at a public post-secondary institution, the first step is to raise concerns with appropriate personnel at the institution directly. If you have not already done so, I would encourage you to reach out to Langara College's President and CEO, Dr. Paula Burns at president.office@langara.ca and Simon Fraser University's President and Vice-chancellor, Joy Johnson at pres_office@sfu.ca.

The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, as part of the provincial Government, remains committed to inclusion, justice and equity for all. We will continue to work with all post-secondary institutions to provide world-class education to all students in a safe and supportive environment. We also stand with BC Premier David Eby's recent [pronouncement](#) condemning acts of hate in the province.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Nicola Lemmer
Assistant Deputy Minister
Post-Secondary Policy and Programs Division
Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills