

To the Members of Parliament of the Provincial and Federal NDP,

As progressive academics, we learned with great dismay and disappointment that the Ontario Legislature passed a motion to denounce the Israeli Apartheid Week campus events. We find it even more distressing that NDP members of the legislature were silent and did not denounce this resolution, which accuses activists and intellectuals of "inciting hatred" for their attempt to openly discuss and debate the nature of the Israeli state.

We are extremely dismayed that a political party such as the NDP, which claims to have a base of support among progressive-minded Canadians, would demonstrate such thin knowledge of the current situation and history of Israel, as well as apartheid in South Africa, that it would consider this issue (regardless of what individual NDP members might think of it) to be one that does not even have the right to be openly discussed. In the Toronto Star, Cheri DiNovo, NDP member of the legislature, stated that "what we need to build peace ... are not inflammatory words like apartheid, particularly used inappropriately in the case of Israel". We do not know how familiar Ms. DiNovo is with the Palestinian situation, or if she had researched the matter before making such statements. Regardless, the issue is not about her view of the situation, but rather the right of others to express a different view without the NDP attempting to silence them and threatening their freedom of speech.

Former US President Jimmy Carter, Nelson Mandela, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu have all used the term apartheid to describe the nature of Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. Many South African trade unions and academic organizations also use the same term to describe the conditions endured by Palestinians in the occupied territories. Are Carter, Mandela, and Desmond Tutu using the term apartheid inappropriately in the case of Israel? Is the NDP accusing them of "inciting hatred"? Furthermore, Israeli leaders -- from Menachem Begin to Ehud Olmert -- have also stated that, in the absence of peace, Israel would eventually become an apartheid state.

After many years of frustration with futile peace efforts, where Israel has refused to recognize Palestinians' right to have a proper sovereign state, Palestinians living in the occupied territories decided to launch a campaign to reveal the true nature of the Israeli occupation. In recent years, there have been enormous efforts by the supporters of Israel to shut down this public debate and to stifle free speech when it comes to Israeli human rights violations. It is unconscionable for the NDP to give support to such efforts. This recent resolution passed by the Ontario Legislature is an unacceptable assault on free speech. There are many courageous Jewish people, both in Canada and in Israel, who are not afraid to speak about the true nature of Israeli occupation.

By being silent about this resolution, you have not only betrayed and silenced them but you have also appeased the most reactionary political groups, who are trying to shut down the debate about Israeli apartheid.

Many of us who support the NDP do so because the party stands for values we cherish such as human rights, social justice and human dignity. The NDP would appear to be out of touch with much of the progressive thought among the left in this country as well as with the social movements that push for progressive change. When the NDP buckles under the pressure of a powerful lobby group and betrays its own principles, this tells us that the gap between the NDP and the Conservatives annarrowed to an extent that there is little reason for someone on the left to support the NDP. During Israel's brutal attack on Gaza, Jack Layton and the NDP were shamefully silent. Once again, the NDP has failed to take a public stance on this very public resolution. This is yet another indication that the NDP is not prepared to uphold its values when it comes to Palestinians.

We hope that the NDP will seriously consider changing course and distancing itself from the Conservative Party's view on the situation in Israel/Palestine, and publicly clarifying its position not just in relation to its decision in the Ontario legislature but in the Federal Parliament in future votes related to this issue. Rather than attacking those on the left with whom some in the NDP might disagree, and wrongly accusing them of "inciting hatred," we call on the NDP to listen to what these voices are saying, and to defend, rather than stifle, their freedom of speech.

1. Yasmeen Abu-Laban, Ph.D., Professor and Associate Chair (Research), Department of Political Science, The University of Alberta
2. Nadia Abu-Zahra, Assistant Professor, University of Ottawa
3. Mary Louise Adams, Associate Professor, School of Kinesiology and Health Studies, Queen's University
4. Laurie Adkin, University of Alberta
5. Muhammad Ali Khalidi, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, York University
6. Haroon Akram-Lodhi, Professor, International Studies Department, Trent University
7. Gregory Albo, Associate Professor, York University
8. James Andrews, University of Western Ontario
9. Sima Aprahamian, Ph.D., Sociology-Anthropology & Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University
10. Sedef Arat-Koc, Associate Professor, Department of Politics and Public Administration, Ryerson University
11. Sylvat Aziz, Associate Professor, Queen's University, Kingston
12. Feyzi Baban, Associate Professor, Politics Department, Trent University
13. Abigail Bakan, Professor, Queen's University
14. Dr. Mohamed Bakr, Associate Professor, McMaster University
15. Patricia Balcom, Professeure titulaire, Université de Moncton
16. Himani Bannerji, Professor, Department of Sociology, York University
17. Roger Beck, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto
18. Jody Berland, Department of Humanities, York University
19. Davina Bhandar, Associate Professor, Canadian Studies, Trent University

20. Malcolm Blincow, Associate Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, York University
21. Katherine Blouin, Assistant Professor in Greek and Roman History, Program Director, Classics, Department of Humanities, University of Toronto Scarborough
22. Deborah Brock, Associate Professor, York University
23. Andrew Brook, Chancellor's Professor of Philosophy, Carleton University
24. Bill Burgess, Geography Department, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, BC
25. Mike Burke, Department of Politics and Public Administration, Ryerson University
26. Paula Butler, PhD, Dept. of Women's Studies, Trent University
27. Chris Beyers, Associate Professor, International Development, Trent University
28. Dominique Caouette, Assistant Professor, Université de Montréal
29. Dr. Anna Carastathis, California State University (Canadian Citizen and permanent resident of Quebec)
30. Sheila Cavanagh, Associate Professor, York University.
31. Nadine Changfoot, Associate Professor, Trent University
32. Peter Chidiac, University of Western Ontario
33. Lily Cho, Dept. of English, University of Western Ontario
34. Donna M. Chovanec, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Alberta
35. Lynne Cohen Professor (Retired), University of Ottawa
36. Janet M. Conway, PhD, Canada Research Chair in Social Justice and Associate Professor, Brock University
37. Deborah Cook, Professor of Philosophy, University of Windsor
38. Dr. Edwin E. Daniel, Ph.D., FRSC, Professor Emeritus, McMaster University, Professor Emeritus, University of Alberta
39. Howard Davidson, University of Victoria
40. Maneesha Deckha, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Victoria
43. Michel Desjardins, Wilfrid Laurier University
44. Judith Deutsch (member of Science for Peace and of Independent Jewish Voices, two of the organizations that endorse Israeli Apartheid Week)
45. Rita Dhamoon, Assistant Professor, University of the Fraser Valley.
46. Suha Diab, Teaching Assistant, Carleton University

47. Peter Eglin, Professor of Sociology, Wilfrid Laurier University
48. Ivar Ekeland, FRSC, Canada Research Chair in Mathematical Economics, UBC
49. Christo El Morr, Assistant Professor, York University
50. Michael Epp, Assistant Professor, Trent University, President of the Peterborough Riding of the NDP
51. Kate Ervine, Assistant Professor, Trent University
52. Mohammad Fadel, Assistant Professor of Law, University of Toronto Faculty of Law
53. Dr. David Fancy, Chair, Department of Dramatic Arts, Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts, Brock University
54. Randa Farah, Associate Professor, University of Western Ontario
55. Dr Hanı Faris., Professor of Political Science.
56. L. M. Findlay M.A. D.Phil. F.R.S.C., Professor of English and Director, Humanities Research Unit, University of Saskatchewan
57. Peter Fitting, Professor Emeritus, French/Cinema Studies, University of Toronto
58. Scott Forsyth, Associate Professor, Film and Political Science, York University
59. François Fortier, Assistant Professor, School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa
60. Margot Francis, Assistant Professor, Women Studies/Sociology, Brock University
61. Joel French, President, U of A Campus NDP, Co-Chair, BA Candidate in Middle Eastern & African Studies and Religious Studies, University of Alberta
62. Gavin Fridell, Assistant Professor, Politics Department, Trent University
63. Richard Fung, Associate Professor, Faculty of Art, Ontario College of Art and Design
64. Grace-Edward Galabuzi, Associate Professor, Department of Politics and Public Administration, Ryerson University
65. Dina Georgis, Assistant Professor, Women and Gender Studies Institute, University of Toronto
66. Liette Gilbert, PhD, Associate Professor, PhD Coordinator and Associate Dean Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
67. Mark Golden, Classics, University of Winnipeg
68. Todd Gordon, Political Science, York University
69. Peter Gose, Chair of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University

70. John Greyson, Associate Professor, York University
71. Ricardo Grinspun, Associate Professor, York University
72. Atiqa Hachimi, Assistant Professor of Linguistics and Women's and Gender Studies, University of Toronto, Scarborough
73. Wael Haddara, BScPharm, MD, FRCPC, Assistant Professor, University of Western Ontario
74. Laam Hae, York University
75. Paul Handford, Biology Department, University of Western Ontario
76. Jens Hanssen, Assistant Professor, Middle Eastern and Mediterranean History, University of Toronto
77. Paul Hamel, Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto
78. Julia Harrision, Professor, Director of Frost Centre, Trent University
79. David Heap, University of Western Ontario
80. Hugh Hodges, Associate Professor, English Department, Trent University
81. Derek Hrynyshyn, McMaster University
82. Jacqueline S. Ismael, Professor of Social Work, The University of Calgary
83. Tareq Y. Ismael, Professor of Political Science, The University of Calgary
84. Radha Jhappan, Professor, Dept. of Political Science, Carleton University
85. Steve Jordan, Associate Professor, McGill University
86. Ilan Kapoor, Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
87. Michael Keefer, Professor, School of English and Theatre Studies, University of Guelph
88. Paul Keen, Professor and Chair, Department of English, Carleton University
89. Paul Kellogg, Assistant Professor, Trent University
90. Samantha King, Associate Professor, School of Ki91. Gary Kinsman, Professor of Sociology. Laurentian University, Sudbury
92. Stefan Kipfer, Associate Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
93. Martin Klein, Professor Emeritus, Department of History, University of Toronto
94. Mustafa Koc, Associate Professor, Sociology, Ryerson University
95. Dr. Martijn Konings, Lecturer in Department of Political Economy, University of Sydney

96. Robert Korol, Professor emeritus, Civil Engineering, McMaster University
97. Kirsten Kozolanka, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University
98. Clarice Kuhling, Contract Faculty, Wilfrid Laurier University, York University
99. Alex Latta, Assistant Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University
100. David Leadbeater, Associate Professor, Laurentian University
101. Winnie Lem, Professor, International Development, Trent University
102. Charmain Levy, Professor, University of Quebec,
103. Abby Lippman, PhD, Professor, McGill University
104. Margaret Little, Gender Studies/ Political Studies, Queen's University
105. Andrew Lugg, Professor Emeritus, Philosophy, University of Ottawa
106. Colleen Lundy, MSW, PhD, Professor, School of Social Work, Carleton University
107. Rashmi Luther, School of Social Work, Carleton University
108. Geoff Martin, Political Science, Mount Allison University
109. Graeme MacQueen, Ph.D. (McMaster University, retired)
110. David McNally, Professor, York University
111. Dr. Michael C.K. Ma, Department of Criminology, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
112. Rianne Mahon, Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University
113. Paul Manning, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Trent University
114. Marie-Josée Massicotte, Assistant Professor, School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa
115. Robert MacDermid, Associate Professor, York University
116. Barbara L. Marshall, Professor, Department of Sociology, Trent University
117. Kamal Mattar, MSc MD FRCSC, University of Toronto
118. Anne Meneley, Associate Professor, Associate Chair of Cultural and Linguistic Anthropology Department of Anthropology, Trent University
119. Kamil Mogab
120. Patricia Molloy, Department of Communication Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University

121. Toby Moorsom, Sessional Instructor, Department of History, Trent University
122. Howard Mount, University of Toronto
123. Martin Muldoon, Professor Emeritus, York University
124. Dr. Tiffany Muller Myrdahl, University of Lethbridge
125. Nisha Nath, Doctoral Student, Department of Political Science, University of Alberta
126. Denise Nadeau, Interfaith Summer Institute for Justice, Peace and Social Movements, Simon Fraser University.
127. Mary-Jo Nadeau, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Wilfrid Laurier University
128. Joanne Naiman, Professor Emerita, Department of Sociology, Ryerson University
129. Neil Naiman, Senior Scholar, Glendon College, York University
130. Sheryl Nestel, PhD, OISE/University of Toronto
131. Melanie Newton, Associate Professor of History, University of Toronto
132. Máire Noonan, Directeur des études des cycles supérieurs, Département d'études françaises, Université Western Ontario
133. Liisa L. North, Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Science and CERLAC, York University
134. Colleen O'Manique, Associate Professor, Women's Studies, Trent University
135. Margaret Pappano, Associate Professor, English, Queen's University
136. Janice Paquette, Vanier College, Montreal
137. Sylvie Paquerot, Professor School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa
138. Viviana Patroni, Department of Social Science and CERLAC, York University
139. Steve Patten, Associate Professor, Undergraduate Chair & Honors Advisor, Department of Political Science, University of Alberta
140. James Penney, Associate Professor, Cultural Studies, Trent University
141. James Petras, BA
142. Michele Pisa MD PhD, Retired Professor, McMaster University
143. Dr. Garry Potter, Wilfrid Laurier University
144. W.V.Prestwich, Professor Emeritus, Dep't. of Applied Radiation and Medical Physics, McMaster University

145. Trevor Purvis, Associate Professor, Department of Law/Institute of Political Economy, Carleton University.
146. Dr. Rebecca Raby, Associate Professor, Brock University
147. Momin Rahman, Assistant Professor, Sociology Department, Trent University
148. Denis G. Rancourt, former professor of physics, University of Ottawa
149. Leda Raptis, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology and Dept. of Pathology, Queen's University
150. James A. Reilly, Professor, Modern Middle East History, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto
151. Richard Roman, University of Toronto
152. Herman Rosenfeld, University of Toronto
153. Dr. Stephanie Ross, Assistant Professor and Coordinator Work and Labour Studies Programme, Department of Social Science, York University
154. Marty Roth, Emeritus Professor of English, University of Minnesota (living in Vancouver)
155. Reuben Roth, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Laurentian University
156. Blair Rutherford, Ph.D., Director, Institute of African Studies, Professor, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Carleton University
157. Kimberly Rygiel, Assistant Professor, Political Science Department, Wilfrid Laurier University
158. Magaly San Martin, George Brown & Sheridan Colleges
159. Julian Samuel, Lecturer in Film Studies, Graduate Section, Visual Arts, MFA programme, Concordia University
160. Joan I. Sangster, FRSC, Professor, History and Women's Studies, Trent University
161. Alexis Scott, MA Candidate, Social Justice & Equity Studies, Brock University
162. Dr. Carol Schwartz, Research Associate, University of Toronto
163. Alan Sears, Ph.D., Department of Sociology, Ryerson University
164. Dr Kyla Elizabeth Sentes, Sessional Instructor, University of Alberta,
165. Paul Shaffer, Assistant Professor, Trent University
166. Yasmine Shamsie, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Wilfrid Laurier University

167. Jayeeta Sharma, Assistant Professor, Dept of History, University of Toronto
168. Dr. Ben-Zion Shek, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto
169. Eric Shragge, School of Community and Public Affairs, Concordia University
170. Kevin Siena, Associate Professor, Trent University
171. Charles Simon-Aaron, University of Malaya, Department of International Relations and Strategic Studies, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
172. Bill Skidmore, Professor, Carleton University
173. Jacqueline Solway, Professor, Department of International Relations/Anthropology, Trent University
174. Susan Spronk, Assistant Professor, School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa
175. Douglass St. Christian, Associate Professor, Anthropology University of Western Ontario
176. Tim Stapleton, Professor, History Department, Trent University
177. Daiva Stasiulus, Professor, Sociology Department, Carleton University
178. Elaine Stavro, Associate Professor, Department of Politics, Trent University
179. Paul Stevens, Professor and Canada Research Chair, Department of English, University of Toronto
180. Dr. Erin Steuterm, Professor, Sociology Department, Mount Allison University
181. Donald Swartz, Professor, Department of Public Administration, Carleton University
182. Rick Telfer, MA (PhD candidate) & Adjunct Professor of Sociology, Fanshawe College
183. Dr. Marcus Taylor, Assistant Professor, Department of Global Development Studies
184. Sunera Thobani, Associate Professor, University of British Columbia.
185. David Thomas, Assistant Professor, Mount Allison University
186. Mark Thomas, Associate Professor, Sociology, York University
187. Rania Tfaily, Carleton University
189. John Wadland, Professor Emeritus, Trent University
190. William Walters, Professor, Department of Political Science; and Department of Sociology, Carleton University

191. Frances Widdowson, Assistant Professor, Department of Policy Studies, Mount Royal University
192. Cynthia Wright, University of Toronto
193. David Wurfel, Prof. Emeritus of Political Science, Univ. of Windsor
194. b.h. Yael, Professor, Ontario College of Art & Design
195. Hitay Yukseker, Queen's University
196. Anna Zalik, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies
197. Ismail Zayid, M.D., FRCPC, Professor [Ret'd] Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University.
198. Melvin Zimmerman, Senior Scholar, French Studies, York University
199. Jesse Zimmerman, Students Against Israeli Apartheid, York University
200. Jasmin Zine, Ph.D, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology & Muslim Studies Option, Wilfrid Laurier University