



UKRAINIAN CANADIAN STUDENTS' UNION
СОЮЗ УКРАЇНСЬКОГО СТУДЕНТСТВА КАНАДИ
UNION DES ÉTUDIANTS UKRAINIENS CANADIENS

April 14, 2022

Chris Whitaker, President and CEO of Humber College
LRC615, North
205 Humber College Blvd,
Etobicoke, ON M9W 5L7

Dear Chris Whitaker:

Re: Call for Humber College to take immediate action in student discrimination and harassment case

STUDENTS TAKE ACTION AGAINST PROPAGANDA PROMOTER AND GENOCIDE DENIER

On Monday April 11, 2022, a professor of liberal studies in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Innovative Learning at Humber College conducted a lecture which promoted hurtful and false narratives of Ukraine and its history. The professor used class time to justify the imperial, terroristic and violent invasion and war in Ukraine, and to directly contradict the efforts made by the Canadian government in supporting Ukraine during the Russian invasion. In doing so he stated “Neo-Nazis have links to the Ukrainian military, who Canada was training. Canada knew they were training people who had Nazi and fascist ideology.” This information was spewed by the professor, while knowing that international students from Ukraine, whose family and friends are risking their lives for Ukraine’s independence, were sitting through this. The professor continued on by justifying the heinous war crimes being committed by the Russian regime by stating “As it happens, blaming Russia is precisely what Ukrainian fascists always do.”

In addition to the lecture given to students, the textbook used in the course is authored by the professor, which denies the purposeful and systemic genocidal character of the Holodomor. In his book *Canada in The World*, the professor denies that the Holodomor was a genocide by stating “In addition to rebranding Ukrainian fascists as national heroes, the Ukrainian right pushed a nationalist narrative around a famine in the 1930s which it called the Holodomor.”

The Holodomor was a genocidal famine in Ukraine that occurred in 1932-1933 during which millions of men, women, and children were starved to death by the Soviet regime of Joseph Stalin. Holodomor means “death inflicted by starvation” in Ukrainian. The Holodomor is a recognized genocide by the Parliament of Canada and most legislatures in Canada, in addition to countless other countries and international government organizations around the world.



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In its Human Rights Policy, Humber College states that “The College has the right as well as legal and moral responsibility, to ensure that all its members are treated fairly, equitably, and respectfully, in order to provide a learning, working, and living environment free from discrimination and harassment.” Section 1.3 of The Policy ensures that equitable treatment without discrimination and harassment will be enforced by The College. The Ukrainian Canadian Students’ Union (SUSK), which represents the interests of Ukrainian Canadian students across Canada, calls upon Humber College to condemn the actions of this faculty member. The behaviours of this professor directly contradict the Human Rights Policy at this institution, causing the students in the class to be outraged and agonized by the derogatory comments spewed by the professor. SUSK calls upon Humber College to launch a full investigation of this professor and his professional ethics and guidelines as per Section 1.3 of the Human Rights Policy.

SUSK calls on its allies and community members to act against aggressors who perpetrate misinformation and disinformation at the hands of Russian aggression. The statements made by this professor demonstrate his blatant ignorance of this war, or that he is a pawn of Russia’s propaganda.

This professor is entitled to his opinions, however ill-considered or inane they may be. That agreed, we do not believe Humber College should condone or permit hate speech or the kind of Ukrainophobia our students encountered. We would appreciate it if you would review our concerns to ensure that the kind of intemperate language and hateful commentary reportedly deployed is never again given voice at Humber College.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this complaint.

Yours truly,
Ukrainian Canadian Students’ Union

Danya Pankiw, National President