

PETITION

Ensure Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech for APSA Members in Canada

Whereas the APSA is committed to “promoting scholarly research and communication, domestically and internationally; ... defending the legitimacy of scholarly research into politics and government; ... encouraging the application of rigorous ethical and intellectual standards in the profession; [and] serving the public, including disseminating research and preparing citizens to be effective citizens and political participants” [http://www.apsanet.org/content_4403.cfm];

And whereas the Association in its policy for determining the site of its annual meeting states as a general guideline that the “APSA is committed to high standards of professional conduct and ethics in siting, planning, and conducting its meetings, including protection of academic freedom, equitable access to opportunity, and a commitment to non-discrimination,” and moreover now encourages “enhanced engagement with host cities on state and local issues of importance to the APSA” [<http://www.apsanet.org/imgtest/APSA%20Meeting%20Siting%20Policy%206-26-2008.pdf>];

And whereas Canada’s Human Rights Commissions (HRCs) have recently sought to suppress speech and impose legal penalties on speakers for expressing opinions on issues ranging from the morality of homosexual conduct and the question of legal recognition of same-sex unions to the threat to freedom posed by violent extremists acting in the name of Islam — speech that, according to all accounts, would be protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States;

And whereas, while we know of no direct suppression of academic freedom that has yet occurred in Canada, yet the writ of Canada’s HRCs runs without evident limit to encompass any speech, academic or otherwise, to which potential complainants take “offense” — and whereas, the arbitrariness and procedurally unconstrained practices of the HRCs create an air of uncertainty regarding whose speech, on what subjects, before what audiences, will be targeted next;

And whereas members of the Association ought to be able at the 2009 annual meeting to present research and argument on controversial topics, such as public policy concerning homosexuality or the character of and proper response to terrorist elements acting in the name of Islam, without fear of legal repercussions of any kind,

THEREFORE we petition the Council and staff of the APSA to take all steps necessary to ensure that academic freedom and free speech, even on controversial topics such as these, are not threatened at the 2009 annual meeting, including soliciting legal advice and seeking the assurance of the Government of Canada and local authorities that the civil rights and liberties of members to free speech and academic freedom will be secure.

Current Signatories (institutional affiliations for identification purposes only)

William B. Allen, *Michigan State University*
Joseph E. Alulis, *North Park University*
Hadley Arkes, *Amherst College*
Richard Avramenko, *University of Wisconsin, Madison*
Francis Beckwith, *Baylor University*
Walter Berns, *American Enterprise Institute*
Joseph M. Bessette, *Claremont McKenna College*
Luigi Bradizza, *Louisiana State University*
Stanley C. Brubaker, *Colgate University*
Andrew E. Busch, *Claremont McKenna College*
James W. Ceaser, *University of Virginia*
Robert L. Clinton, *Southern Illinois University*
Barry Cooper, *University of Calgary*
William F. Connelly, Jr., *Washington and Lee University*
Patrick J. Deneen, *Georgetown University*
Donald A. Downs, *University of Wisconsin, Madison*
Robert K. Faulkner, *Boston College*
David F. Forte, *Cleveland State University*
Matthew J. Franck, *Radford University*
Timothy Fuller, *Colorado College*
Robert P. George, *Princeton University*
Gary D. Glenn, *Northern Illinois University*
Kenneth L. Grasso, *Texas State University*
Lowell Gustafson, *Villanova University*
Ralph C. Hancock, *Brigham Young University*
Richard F. Hassing, *Catholic University of America*
John F. von Heyking, *University of Lethbridge*
Matthew S. Holland, *Brigham Young University*
Carson Holloway, *University of Nebraska at Omaha*
Robert Jeffrey, *Wofford College*
Brian T. Kennedy, *Claremont Institute*
Charles R. Kesler, *Claremont McKenna College*
Stephen M. King, *Public Interest Institute*
Harvey Klehr, *Emory University*
Peter Augustine Lawler, *Berry College*
Elizabeth A. Larrivee, *PhD Candidate*
Leslie Lenkowsky, *Indiana University*
John B. Londregan, *Princeton University*
Justin D. Lyons, *Ashland University*
Harvey C. Mansfield, *Harvard University*
Robert Maranto, *University of Arkansas*

David E. Marion, *Hampden-Sydney College*
Ken T. Masugi, *The Claremont Institute*
William G. Mayer, *Northeastern University*
Joshua M. Mitchell, *Georgetown University*
Lucas E. Morel, *Washington and Lee University*
Paul D. Moreno, *Hillsdale College*
Richard Morgan, *Bowdoin College*
William Morrissey, *Hillsdale College*
Mary P. Nichols, *Baylor University*
Anthony A. Peacock, *Utah State University*
Ronald J. Pestritto, *Hillsdale College*
Paul C. Peterson, *Coastal Carolina University*
Anne R. Pierce, *Independent Scholar*
Donald P. Racheter, *Public Interest Institute*
Paul A. Rahe, *Hillsdale College*
James Roberts, *University of Southern Maine*
Erik Root, *West Liberty State College*
Ralph A. Rossum, *Claremont McKenna College*
Stanley Rothman, *Smith College*
Charles T. Rubin, *Duquesne University*
Leslie G. Rubin, *Duquesne University*
Ellis Sandoz, *Louisiana State University*
Dante Scala, *University of New Hampshire*
David L. Schaefer, *College of the Holy Cross*
Jeffrey A. Segal, *Stony Brook University*
Colleen Sheehan, *Villanova University*
Mark G. Shiffman, *Villanova University*
Robert D. Stacey, *Regent University*
Richard G. Stevens, *American University*
Kimberly Stewart, *PhD Candidate*
James R. Stoner, *Louisiana State University*
Carol M. Swain, *Vanderbilt University*
Michael M. Uhlmann, *Claremont Graduate University*
Bradley C.S. Watson, *St. Vincent College*
Thomas G. West, *University of Dallas*
Bradford P. Wilson, *Princeton University*
James Q. Wilson, *Past President of APSA*
Christopher Wolfe, *Marquette University*
Jean Yarbrough, *Bowdoin College*
Scott E. Yenor, *Boise State University*

To add your name to this petition, please send an e-mail confirming your electronic signature to:

TorontoAPSA@gmail.com (APSA Members Only).

<http://www.freestudies.org/torontopetition.html>

Please direct inquiries to Bradley Watson at bwatson@stvincent.edu and (724) 805-2145 or James Stoner at poston@lsu.edu and (225) 578-2538