



Public statement on recent incidents at the University of Ottawa

March 30, 2021

The Association deplores the recent insidious comments circulating on social media that demonstrate poor knowledge of Quebec and its citizens. The Association represents a large number of professors from Quebec and condemns the gratuitous accusations and questionable generalizations that have been made.

We are aware that the recent hateful comments have had a negative impact on our Quebec members, but have also affected Quebec students and every Quebecer who works at University of Ottawa.

We also take this opportunity to remind President Frémont and his administration that, while Professor Attaran enjoys academic freedom, the University also has an obligation to ensure a workplace free of harassment and violence and the obligation to enforce these regulations, particularly Regulation 67a—Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination.

The Association remains perplexed by the different treatment and the severity of measures adopted against our colleague Lieutenant-Duval, which includes Frémont's recent misleading media statements against her in an attempt to justify the mismanagement of his administration. This new controversy is only the latest failure of his administration.

The fight against racism inevitably involves education, communication, and understanding of each other. We do not believe that the recent actions of the university administration are helpful in any way in the fight against racism or discrimination.

Furthermore, we must again deplore the double standard between full-time and part-time academic staff in the exercise of academic freedom. It is clear that these comments would not have been tolerated and would have been treated differently if they had come from a part-time professor even though we purportedly have the same rights. We are committed to seeing that this situation changes at the University of Ottawa.