

September 24, 2015



Via email

Peter Nunoda
President and CEO
Vancouver Community College
1155 East Broadway
Vancouver, BC
V5T 4V5

Dear Mr. Nunoda:

Sir, it has come to my attention that on September 16, 2015 Samantha Welsh was approached by you and Dave Stevenson, Manager of Student Services, who had been told by Craig McGuigan that it would be inappropriate for staff to participate in the upcoming protest on campus. Ms Welsh was later approached by Karen Shortt, President of the Faculty Association, to inquire about a protest that might take place on campus during the Minister of Advanced Education's visit.

It seems that the message given to Ms Welsh was that it would be unadvisable for her or any staff to attend such protest. She also felt she was being asked to stop the students that she serves from attending or organizing a protest, and this is clearly not her job. Considering the blatant disregard our present provincial government has for properly funding education at all levels I would hope that you would be eager to shine a light on the dilemma that faces our educational institutions throughout our province.

As I am sure you are aware, it is the right of Ms Welsh or any Canadian, as protected by law, to congregate in peaceful protest (Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms) so I am surprised at the tactic taken by your staff and would hope that it will be corrected without reprisals directed at Ms Welsh.

It is also unfortunate that this is our first communication since my being elected President of CUPE Local 15. As of yet, I have been unable to schedule a meet and greet with you and your staff as I believe we are all working towards the same goal. I hope we will be able to facilitate such a meeting in the near future.

Yours truly,

Warren Williams
President

wwilliams@cupe15.org



Rmm/Local 467-UW

copy: S. Wong, CUPE National Representative
R. Ilder, CUPE National College Coordinator
E. Somers, Local 15 Staff Representative

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