

<http://induecourse.ca/open-letter-regarding-conservative-party-campaign-tactics/> *The following letter has been signed by 587 Canadian academics, condemning the tactics being employed by the Conservative Party of Canada in the current federal election campaign. It will appear in newspapers tomorrow, but there is no room in print to reproduce all of the signatures. So we are making the full list available here:*

We are a diverse group of academics with different political views and different political allegiances. We are united by a common interest in the integrity of democratic processes and a concern about the ugly and dangerous turn we have recently witnessed in the election campaign. In democratic electoral politics there is an ethical line that distinguishes spirited partisan strategy from cynical tactics that betray the values of mutual respect and toleration that lie at the heart of civil democratic discourse. Honourable politicians do not cross that line even when they think doing so will be politically advantageous. Disreputable politicians ignore the line when they find it convenient to do so.

The Conservative Party under Stephen Harper has already come perilously close to this line by suggesting that religion is an appropriate basis to select refugees and by fanning fears of terrorism as a pretext for revoking citizenship from some Canadians. Distinguishing 'old-stock' Canadians from new ones was also divisive and problematic. Increasingly, the Conservatives seem to have been opting for a particularly nasty form of "wedge politics".

However, by injecting the inflammatory rhetoric of 'barbaric cultural practices' into the current campaign, the Conservative Party has flagrantly crossed the line. The repeated use of this phrase along with a proposed tip line to root out undesirables are cynically calculated to distract

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and divide citizens by insinuating that some law abiding and peaceful members of the community are freedom-hating barbarians who threaten Canadian society. The Conservatives know that Canada faces no such threat and that the vast majority of citizens, irrespective of their religious commitments or cultural backgrounds, embrace the basic rights and liberties upon which our democracy is based. By conjuring up a phantom menace to the country and implying that some immigrants and religious minorities are enemies, the Conservatives hope to pit Canadians against one another. Like many sophisticated forms of vicious propaganda, the invocation of barbarism is meant to create fear and anxiety rather than to identify a real problem.

We enjoy the rule of law in Canada and it requires the equal application of the law. Those who break the law should be treated within a common system of criminal justice. A special mechanism that targets some minorities for extra scrutiny is as unnecessary as it is odious. The devious strategists who have devised this campaign know that their objectives are not well served by employing racist or anti-religious epithets, so they ask us to imagine unspecified but supposedly real barbarians. So we are encouraged to demonize those who are different from ourselves and whose religious or cultural practices we do not share or understand. In the present context, this is hate mongering, and it has no place in Canadian democracy.

We do not deny that there is room to discuss and debate how contemporary democracies should respond to religious, cultural and linguistic pluralism. Indeed, Canadian legal and political theory is at the forefront of exploring such matters. But a common point of departure for these debates and discussions is a commitment to civility, decency and toleration. Toleration does not require that one like or endorse the cultural or religious practices of others, but it does require that we refrain from insulting the dignity of those with whom we disagree. The Conservatives have shown contempt for a politics of mutual respect. We condemn the unethical Conservative strategy that brings shame to Canadian politics. We hope that Canadians will join us in repudiating the politics of hate. Instead let us embrace a nobler vision of civil discourse that is truly oriented to achieving the common good for all Canadians.

Signed,

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Colin Macleod, Professor, Department of Philosophy and Faculty of Law, Victoria University

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Avigail Eisenberg, Professor, Department of Political Science, Victoria University

and

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Marc Spooner	Associate Professor	Education	University of Regina
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Margaret Denike	Associate Professor	Political Science	Dalhousie University
Margaret Little	Professor	Political Studies/ Gender Studies	Queen's University
Margaret Pappano	Associate Professor	English Literature and Language	Concordia University
Margaret Walton-Roberts	Professor	Balsillie School of International Affairs	Wilfrid Laurier University
Margot Young	Professor	Allard School of Law	University of British Columbia
Marguerite Deslauriers	Professor	Philosophy	McGill University
Marguerite MacKenzie	Professor Emerita	Linguistics	Memorial University

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Maria Ines Martinez	Associate Professor	French, Spanish and Italian	University of Manitoba
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Marie Battiste	Professor	Educational Foundations	University of Saskatchewan
Marie-Joëlle Zahar	Professor	Political Science	Université de Montréal
Marie-Josée Massicotte	Associate professor	Political Studies	Université d'Ottawa
Marika Warren	Assistant Professor	Bioethics	Dalhousie University
Marilyn Porter	Professor Emerita	Sociology	Memorial University
Marion Brown	Associate Professor	social work	Dalhousie University
Marjorie Stone	Professor and McCulloch Chair	English	Dalhousie University
Mark CJ Stoddart	Associate Professor	Sociology	Memorial University
Mark Daku	Postdoctoral Fellow	Institute for Health and Social Policy	University of Alberta
Mark Fedyk	Assistant Professor	Department of Philosophy	Mount Allison University
Mark Jones	Professor	English	Queen's University
Martha Jackman	Professor	Law	Université d'Ottawa
Martha Radice	Associate Professor	Sociology & Social Anthropology	Dalhousie University
Martha Shaffer	Associate Professor	Faculty of Law	University of Toronto
Martin Bunton	Associate Professor	History	University of Victoria
Martin Klein	Professor Emeritus	History	University of Toronto
Martin Laberge	Professeur agrégé	Sciences sociales	Université du Québec en Saguenay
Martin Papillon	Associate	Political science	Université de Montréal
Martine Delvaux	Full professor	Études littéraires	Université du Québec à Montréal
Marty Leonard	Professor	Biology	Dalhousie University
Mary Chapman	Professor	English	University of British Columbia

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Mary Louise Adams	Professor	Kinesiology	Queen's University
Mary Lynn Stewart	Professor Emerita	Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies	Western University
Mary Rimmer	Professor	English	University of New Brunswick
Mathieu Marion	Professor	Philosophy	Université du Québec à Montréal
Matt James	Associate Professor	Political Science	University of Victoria
Matt Soar	Associate Professor	Communication Studies	Concordia University
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Mavis Fenn	Associate Professor	Religious Studies	University of Waterloo
Megan Daves	Associate Professor	Social Science	York University
Melanie Adrian	Assistant Professor	Law and Legal Studies	Carleton University
Melissa Williams	Professor	Department of Political Science	University of Toronto
Michael Frishkopf	Full Professor	Music	University of Alberta
Michael Hawley	Associate Professor	Humanities	Mount Royal University
Michael Lambek, FRSC	Professor	Anthropology	University of Toronto
Michael MacMillan	Professor	Political & Canadian Studies	West Saint Vincent University
Michael Orsini	Full Professor	School of Political Studies	Université d'Ottawa
Michael V. Smith	Associate Professor	Creative Studies	University of British Columbia
Michel Seymour	Full Professor	Philosophy	Université de Montréal
Micheline Hughes	PhD Student	Native Studies	University of Manitoba
Michelle Cho	Assistant Professor	East Asian Studies	McGill University
Miguel Torrens	Librarian IV	Libraries	University of Toronto

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Miriam Smith	Professor	Department of Social Science	York University
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Moira Howes	Associate Professor	Philosophy	Trent University
Monica Patterson	Assistant Professor	Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies	Gayle Sturtis University
Monique Deveaux	Professor	Philosophy	University of Guelph
Mythili Rajiva	Associate Professor	Institute of Feminist and Gender Studies	University of Ottawa
Nadine Attewell	Associate Professor	English and Cultural Studies	McMaster University
Nancy Bertoldi	Associate Professor	Political Science	University of Toronto
Narendra Subramanian	Associate Professor	Political Science	McGill University
Natalie Beausoleil	Associate Professor	Community Health and Humanities, Medicine	Memorial University
Natalie Carlino	Professor	Sociology	Vanier College
Natalie Zemon Davis, CA	Adjunct Professor	History	University of Toronto
Nathalie Casemajor	Associate Professor	Social sciences	Université du Québec en
Nathalie Mondain	Associate Professor	Sociology and anthropology	University of Ottawa
Nicholas Ray	Adjunct Professor	Philosophy	University of Waterloo and
Nicolas Fillion	Assistant Professor	Philosophy	Simon Fraser University
Nicolas Sallée	Professeur adjoint	Sociologie	Université de Montréal
Nicole Markotic	Professor	English Language, Literature, and Creative Writing	University of Windsor
Nicole O'Byrne	Associate Professor	Faculty of Law	University of New Brunswick
Nicole O'Byrne	Associate Professor	Faculty of Law	University of New Brunswick
Nicole Power	Associate Professor	Sociology	Memorial University
Nigel DeSouza	Sessional Professor	Philosophy	University of Ottawa

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Nik Luka	Associate Professor	Schools of Architecture and Urban Planning	McGill University
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Nima Naghibi	Associate Professor	English	Ryerson University
Nissim Mannathukkaren	Associate Professor	International Development Studies	Dalhousie University
Pablo Gilabert	Associate Professor	Philosophy	Concordia University
Pamela E. Klassen	Professor	Study of Religion	University of Toronto
Pamela Miller	Retired	Osler Library	McGill University
Pascale Dufour	Full Professor	Political Science	University of Montreal
Patricia D. McGuire	Faculty	Social Work	Carleton University
Patricia Dold	Associate Professor	Religious Studies	Memorial University
Patricia Rae	Full Professor	English	Queen's University
Patrick Fafard	Associate Professor	Graduate School of Public and International Affairs	University of Ottawa
Patrick Macklem	Professor	Faculty of Law	University of Toronto
Patrick Turmel	Associate Professor	Philosophy	Université Laval
Patrizia Gentile	Associate Professor	Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies in Human Rights	York University
Paul Bramadat	Associate Professor and Director	Centre for Studies in Religion and Society	University of Victoria
Paul Leduc Browne	Professeur	Département des sciences sociales	Université du Québec en
Paul Morris	Associate Professor	English	Université de Saint-Bonif
Paul Orlowski	Associate Professor	Educational Foundations	University of Saskatchewan
Paul Shaffer	Associate Professor	Intl. Development Studies	Trent University
Paul Yachnin	Professor	Institute for the Public	McGill University
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Rachel Berger	Associate Professor	History	Concordia University
Rachel Brickner	Associate Professor	Politics	Acadia University
Rachel Warburton	Associate Professor	English	Lakehead University
Rahul Kumar	Associate Professor	Philosophy	Queen's University
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Rebecca Johnson	Professor	Faculty of Law	University of Victoria
Rebecca Kingston	Professor	Political Science	University of Toronto
Rebecca Schein	Assistant Professor	Institute of Interdisciplinary Gender Studies	Carleton University
Reg Whitaker	Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus	Political Science	York University
Rémi Léger	Assistant Professor	Political Science	Simon Fraser University
Renée Biodeau	Professor	Philosophy	Université Laval
Reuben Rose-Redwood	Associate Professor	Department of Geography	University of Victoria

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Richard Vernon	Distinguished University Professor	Political Science	University of Western Ontario
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Robert Huish	Associate Professor	International Development Studies	Dalhousie University
Robert Leckey	Associate Professor	Faculty of Law	McGill University
Robert Tittler	Distinguished Professor Emeritus	History	Concordia University
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Robert Whitney	Professor	Dept. of History and Political Science	University of New Brunswick
Robert Wisnovsky	Professor	Institute of Islamic Studies	McGill University
Roberta Hamilton	Professor Emerita	Sociology	Queen's University
Robin Whitaker	Associate Professor	Anthropology	Memorial University
Robyn Jackman	MSWC	Social Work	Dalhousie University
Roni Gechtman	Associate Professor and Chair	Department of History	Mount Saint Vincent University
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Roxanne Mykitiuk	Associate Professor of Law	Osgoode Hall Law School	York University
Ruth Marshall	Associate Professor	Political Science & Studies in Religion	University of Toronto
Ryoa Chung	Associate Professor	Philosophy	Université de Montréal
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Samantha King	Professor	School of Kinesiology and Health Studies	Queen's University
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Sandrine Jean	Professor	Anthropology	Memorial University
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Sara Eisler	Associate Professor	Chemistry	University of New Brunswick
Sara Humphreys	Lecturer	English	St. Jerome's University
Sarah Bassnett	Associate Professor	Visual Arts	Western University
Sarah Brophy	Professor	English and Cultural Studies	Wilfrid Laurier University
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Sasha Mullally	Associate Professor	History	University of New Brunswick
Scott Matthews	Associate professor	Political Science	Memorial University
Sean Mills	Assistant Professor	History	University of Toronto
Shannon Dea	Associate Professor	Dept. of Philosophy/ Women's Studies	Western University
Sharry Aiken	Associate Professor	Law	Queen's University
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Sophie M. Lavoie	Associate Professor	Culture & Language Studies	University of New Brunswick
Sophie McCall	Associate Professor	English	Simon Fraser University
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Stéphanie Demers	Professor	Education	Université du Québec en Outaouais
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Stephen Brooke	Professor	History	York University
Stephen Schryer	Associate Professor	English	University of New Brunswick
Steven Baur	Associate Professor	Performing Arts	Dalhousie University
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Steven Maynard	Lecturer	History	Queen's University
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Tammy Findlay	Associate Professor	Political and Canadian Studies	Saint Vincent University
Tania Das Gupta	Professor	Equity Studies	York University
Ted Monchesky	Professor	Physics and Atmospheric Sciences	Dalhousie University
Terry Goldie	Professor	English	York University
Theodore McLaughlin	Assistant Professor	Political Science	Université de Montréal
Theresa Ulicki	Assistant Professor	International Development Studies	Ball State University
Thomas Collombat	Professor	Social Sciences	Université du Québec en
Tim Kenyon	Professor	Philosophy	University of Waterloo
Tina Loo	Professor	History	University of British Columbia
Tolly Bradford	Assistant Professor	History	Concordia University of Edmonton
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Toni Pickard	Associate Professor (Retired)		Queen's University
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Trevor Holmes	Instructor	Women's Studies	University of Waterloo
Ubaka Ogbogu	Assistant Professor	Law / Pharmacy	University of Alberta
Valérie Amiraux	Full Professor	Sociology	University of Montreal
Veena Dwivedi	Associate Professor	Applied Ling/Neuroscience	Brock University
Veronica Auste	Assistant Professor	English	St. Jerome's University

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Wendy A. Adams	Associate Professor	Faculty of Law	McGill University
Will Straw	Full Professor	McGill Institute for the Study of Cities	McGill University
Willeen Keough	Associate Professor	History	Simon Fraser University
William Clare Roberts	Assistant Professor	Political Science	McGill University
William K. Carroll	Professor	Sociology	University of Victoria
Winnie Lem	Professor	International Development Studies	University of Toronto
Zelda Abramson	Associate Professor	Sociology	Acadia University
Zoë Sinel	Assistant Professor	Law	University of Western Ontario