Statement on Academic Freedom

Canadian Association of Geographers | Monday, March 29, 2021

Recent events in France remind us that the freedom to study, teach, discuss and disseminate scholarly work is not something we should take for granted. As an academic community, we must remain alert to actions (e.g., sanction) or public expressions that pose a threat to academic freedom (i.e., the right of academic staff members to carry out teaching, research and service activities without political or institutional interference).

The CAG affirms its unwavering support for the principles and practices of academic freedom. We are committed to raise awareness about, and advocate to uphold, academic freedom as a right of academic staff members working in Canadian universities. The CAG also supports efforts to extend this right to academic staff working in other post-secondary institutions in Canada.

We encourage our members to be well-informed of these issues. The links below offer a brief starting point, especially for understanding the ways in which academic freedom is applied in the Canadian context.

Links

Dea, S (9 October, 2018). A brief history of academic freedom. University Affairs. https://www.universityaffairs.ca/opinion/dispatches-academic-freedom/a-brief-history-of-academic-freedom/

Canadian Association of University Teachers (2018) Policy Statement on Academic Freedom. https://www.caut.ca/about-us/caut-policy/lists/caut-policy-statements/policy-statement-on-academic-freedom