

The State of Debate in Canada

Peter Vogal

Deputy Leader, CHP Canada

Most of you are probably aware of the difficulty that Trinity Western University is having with their vision of a law school.¹ Their graduates will not be able to practice law in either Ontario or Nova Scotia as it stands now.

These decisions are being challenged in court, and ARPA has been given intervenor standing in Nova Scotia, but is still waiting for it in Ontario. In the meantime, Ezra Levant is doing all he can to keep New Brunswick from similarly banning Christian lawyers.

Good job on both counts, but the fact that these battles have to be fought is alarming. Rather than engage and perhaps lay down some criteria for anyone wanting to practice law, the law societies plugged their ears and said "no."

This is anti-intellectual, but rather polite, even friendly compared with the actions of some university students at University of Victoria on September 10th. According to the National Campus Life Network (NCLN):

On September 10th, two women rushed a pro-life club table at the University of Victoria, snatching the fetal models on display and dumping used cat litter all over the table. Youth Protecting Youth (YPY) was participating in the university's Clubs Days event and had a recruitment table to sign up new members and engage with other students on the pro-life issues.

Let's just think about that for a minute: Who should we expect good, logical debate from most? The more educated among us, we hope – perhaps University students. Where should we expect the greatest freedom to express a wide diversity of opinions in a respectful, intellectual setting? At a university, we expect. Where should we least expect uncivilized, physical attacks on others for holding dissenting views? Again, universities, we expect – and should expect! But here we have two students at a Canadian University who decided that their best argument against a moral issue that they disagreed with was – kitty litter – used kitty litter. That is gross, and I mean gross in the stinky kind of way, but also intellectually revolting. How do people like this get into University? They seem like the type who should be in organized crime, and in jail in the long run.

I hope the university suspends them, but realistically, if I had a say in the university, I would want them expelled because otherwise they might go on to graduate and cause further embarrassment to the university.

In case you are wondering about whether this pro-life club was welcome on campus or if they were challenged, you're right, they were not treated equally back in 2008-2010. According to NCLN, "In previous years the UVSS has attempted to ban and censure the club and was sued by the club in 2010." So this club was told "no" by the student council, but the club courageously fought back, sued and won, out of

court. Now they are a recognized club again. But it's the response of the students who said "no" in the first place that is worrying, because it is the same kind of a response that the law societies have given TWU. Let's hope that they fight back with the same courage as Youth Protecting Youth, and let's also hope that none of the opposing "intellectuals" respond with the new anti-life argument of choice – used kitty litter.

For real moral and intellectual engagement of current political ideas, the CHP is the best choice you have. Please become a member² if you are not and get more involved if you are. Our country needs more citizens to debate current issues from a knowledge of the truth rather than with uncivilized attacks.

One other civilized and extremely important thing that you can do is to get involved in a Life Chain on October 5th. Remember to be civilized even though those who disagree with you might not be. Remember to pray – this debate is ultimately spiritual.

Footnotes

¹ www.chp.ca/commentary/canada-might-be-better-off-if-more-followed-trinity-westerns-ideals

² www.chp.ca/get-involved