



## **Kwantlen Students Speak Out against Breach of Academic Freedom**

**Surrey, BC** – Representatives of the Kwantlen Student Association (KSA) have stated their support for Kwantlen Polytechnic University professor Russel Ogden, whose research has been interrupted by Kwantlen's administration. **Kwantlen's controversial move to bar Ogden's research into assisted suicide and euthanasia came even after Kwantlen's Research Ethics Board had already given the research its stamp of approval.** The KSA maintains that academic freedom must include the freedom to teach, research and publish, and to address public (and sometimes controversial) issues without fear of institutional penalties or hindrances. **In this case, it appears that Kwantlen's administration has inappropriately meddled with bona fide research, for non-academic reasons.**

Professor Ogden faced a very similar research challenge when he was a graduate student at Simon Fraser University working on his Masters in Criminology, and his research was vindicated in that earlier case. If Kwantlen wishes to come up to speed with the surrounding universities, the administration needs to consider the policies and choices made by those same surrounding universities. Now that Kwantlen is becoming a full polytechnic university, the Kwantlen administration needs to look at its outdated academic policies and strive to meet the high standards of other post-secondary institutions in BC.

**"We at the KSA believe that Russel Ogden is being denied the right to continue work on his research for non-academic reasons,"** said Ashley Fehr, Director of Academic Affairs. "At this time, we're calling on Kwantlen's new president to have a second look at this important issue of academic freedom."

The KSA believes that Kwantlen students will be denied a quality education if their instructors are impeded in their ability research and inquire into any subject, especially sensitive and controversial issues.

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***The KSA represents over 17,000 students on the four lower-mainland campuses of the new Kwantlen Polytechnic University.***

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