



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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**Lesley Cormack**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal

June 11, 2024

Via email: president@suo.ca

Dear Students' Union Okanagan Board of Directors:

Thank you for writing to President Bacon and me affirming the SUO's support for peaceful protest.

As I have stated previously, each of us has a responsibility to help ensure the university remains a space where all members of the university community can respectfully express themselves on any issue, including difficult and contested topics. This includes upholding the right of students and other members of the UBCO community to assemble and express views in peaceful protest, as you rightfully note.

Lawful and peaceful protest, as well as standing up for one's ideals, are important pillars in our society. I respect and indeed encourage our students to exercise these rights. However, in my view, one's ability to exercise those rights ought not infringe on the rights of other members of our campus community, nor create conditions that make it difficult for other students, faculty and staff to study and work.

I recognize divestment is one of the complex issues also raised by members of the encampments. The President and I have communicated a path forward to engaging in discussions regarding ethical investment across both campuses with the university administration. I would hope the SUO would be open to participating in these discussions should members of the encampments express a willingness to meet.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Lesley Cormack  
Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor