



April 1, 2008

Mr. David Leaman  
LGBTQ@UTSC  
University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus  
1265 Military Trail  
Scarborough ON M1C 1A4

**RE: ARSON OF LGBTQ@UTSC BULLETIN BOARD**

Dear David and LGBTQ@UTSC members:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, the provincial component of Canada's largest student organisation. The Federation represents over 300,000 college and university students in Ontario from more than 30 students' unions. I am writing in support of LGBTQ@UTSC after learning of the hate-motivated incidents that have taken place on your campus, including the recent act of arson.

The successive acts of vandalism against the LGBTQ@UTSC campus group's bulletin board are unacceptable. These incidents not only attack the ability of your group to function, but also create a chilling climate on campus for queer and trans students. All students have the right to feel safe in their learning environment, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

I am pleased to see that LGBTQ@UTSC has responded to these incidents by exposing students to the sexual and gender diversity of the campus community. Your actions send a strong message to the perpetrators that homophobia and transphobia have no place on campus, and that acts of hate will only be met with increased visibility of queer and trans students. Your actions will also allow students of all identities to participate in building a safer and more inclusive campus community for LGBTQ students.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if we can assist you in working towards a resolution and prevention of future acts of homophobia and transphobia. We look forward to supporting LGBTQ@UTSC in its fight against intolerance and for building a safer campus for queer and trans students.

Sincerely,

Jen Hassum  
Chairperson

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