

Daniel Draper



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April 3, 2008

Mr. David Leaman

LGBTQ@UTSC

University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus
1265 Military Trail
Scarborough, ON
M1C 1A4

Dear Mr. Leaman:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the University of Manitoba Students' Union which represents the over 22,000 strong undergraduate population of the University of Manitoba. I would like to express my support of LGBTTT@UTSC in the wake of the recent acts of violence against the centre's resources including the arson of the centre's bulletin board. These hate-filled attacks highlight the need for further awareness activities and the reason for the existence of centers like LGBTTT@UTSC.

The incidents in question would seem to have been a deliberate act of terrorism against the LGBTTT* population of your campus and are completely unacceptable. These acts are an attack on your ability to function as a cohesive group and have, no doubt, created a negative atmosphere for members of the community on your campus. It is important that all members of the student populace feel safe attending classes at their university, not just those in a sexual, gender or other minority and these incidents put that in jeopardy.

It is encouraging to see that your centre held an event yesterday to raise awareness of these issues on your campus. The fact that you are not being discouraged by the violation of the safety of your space is reassuring and encouraging. As Jen Hassum of CFS-Ontario expressed in her letter of April 1, 2008, "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."

We stand in solidarity with LGBTTT@UTSC as your centre endures this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to contact with us at the University of Manitoba Students' Union if you ever need anything in your struggle against the issues of homophobia and transphobia on your campus.

Sincerely,

Daniel Draper

LGBTTT* Community Representative

University of Manitoba Students' Union

Local 103 - Canadian Federation of Students