



November 29, 2019

Office of the Premier
207 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Kenney,

I am writing to put on record my Association's disappointment at your *ad hominem* attack on one of the members of my Association, Dr. Melanee Thomas, in the legislature on the afternoon of Monday 25th November. Your statement questioning Dr. Thomas' academic credibility was unconscionable and provides evidence in support of allegations that your Government is anti-intellectual.

Your comment spawned a litany of social media comments from others associated with your Government that constitutes coordinated bullying, and which will have a chilling effect on other academic staff working at Alberta's great research-intensive universities, discouraging them from sharing their expertise with the public. This is especially concerning coming at a time when your Government is decimating post-secondary education in Alberta through large funding cuts and appears proud of its intolerance toward dissenting views.

Dr. Thomas is a political scientist held in high esteem by colleagues at the University of Calgary and across Canada. In addition to her scholarly writing, she is to be applauded for being willing to share her knowledge and expertise with the public through commentary in the mainstream media. Alberta needs more public intellectuals like Dr. Thomas to speak out firmly and frequently on matters of importance to Albertans.

My Association expects better from Alberta's Government, and especially from its Premier who sets the tone for government MLAs and staffers.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul Rogers
President

K:\EXTERNAL\GOVTREL\19-20\MT.DOCX