

May 30, 2012

The Hon. Jean Charest  
Édifice Honoré-Mercier  
3<sup>e</sup> étage  
835 boul. Rene-Levésque Est  
Québec (Québec)  
G1A 1B4

Dear Premier Charest,

We write to protest, in the strongest terms, the draconian measures introduced by your government in Bill 78. We represent university faculty who encourage students to express their opinions as developing scholars and citizens, and we support their right to freedom of speech and of assembly. Peaceful assembly and free expression are fundamental rights guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and we strongly condemn your move to gag students and make it illegal for them to demonstrate en masse. While your government might not like to hear students' criticism, it is their right to make it, and the introduction of Bill 78 has only served to bolster their cause. While many Canadians might disagree with student views regarding tuition increases, Bill 78 is an egregious and heavy-handed attempt to suppress dissent and goes against Canadian values and traditions of free speech.

We urge you to repeal Bill 78 immediately, drop all fines, and reverse the arrests made under its jurisdiction.

Sincerely,



Gillian Poulter, PhD  
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