



Canadian Association of University Teachers  
Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université

[www.caut.ca](http://www.caut.ca)  
[acppu@caut.ca](mailto:acppu@caut.ca)

2705, promenade Queensview Drive  
Ottawa (Ontario) K2B 8K2

Tel/Tel. 613-820-2270  
Fax/Téléc. 613-820-7244

By fax 604-599-2046

February 26, 2010

Mr. Scott L. Nicholl  
Chair  
Board of Governors  
Kwantlen Polytechnic University  
12666-72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Surrey, British Columbia  
V3W 2M8

Dear Mr. Nicholl:

Your December 1, 2009, letter to the Kwantlen Faculty Association has been brought to our attention. I must say I was initially in a state of disbelief when I read your letter. In March 2009, I was a guest of the University, along with CAUT President Penni Stewart. We had been invited by President Atkinson to meet with the senior administration, deans, chairs, program coordinators, and academic staff to discuss the transition from university-college to university. A central part of that discussion was the issue of university governance.

Never during our discussions was there the slightest hint that the University contemplated trying to override the collective agreement it had negotiated with the Faculty Association by claiming that the *University Act* required it to do so.

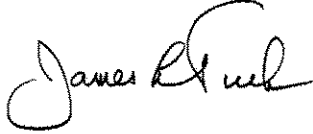
There is nothing in the *University Act* that would permit a special purpose university to disavow provisions in a collective agreement it had negotiated with the faculty association under the *BC Labour Code*.

We strongly urge you to reconsider your position and remove the threat to void sections of the current collective agreement. If Kwantlen wants to be a true university, a useful starting point is for the university to assure the faculty association that it will honour the commitments it made when it signed the collective agreement. Your letter has created a grave sense of concern and distrust that serves no one's interest.

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Please advise us of your intentions in this matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Turk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

James L. Turk  
Executive Director

/js

cc: Terri Van Steinburg  
Cindy Oliver  
David Atkinson  
Penni Stewart