

November 4, 2020



Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Main Legislative Bldg
Room 281
Toronto M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

The Toronto & York Region Labour Council is strongly opposed to your attempt to make the Canada Christian College a degree granting institution in Ontario through Bill 213, a bill that has nothing to do with post-secondary education. The Labour Council represents 220,000 women and men who work in every sector of the economy, and has a long history of challenging discrimination and bigotry.

The Canada Christian College has a questionable history, flawed governance model, and has served as a soapbox for extreme intolerance. Its current leader, Charles McVety, who inherited the position from his father, is notorious for his anti-gay and Islamophobic views. Canada Christian College's leadership, departments and programs have a long history of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and homophobia. In 1983, under a Conservative government, the institution was denied the ability to grant degrees – for good reason.

In recent years, the CCC has been the site of events featuring a number of extremist speakers fomenting hatred against other Canadians, and in at least one instance, has used white supremacist groups to act as "security".

We recognize that Mr. McVety was crucial to your successful leadership race, and has been profoundly partisan for many years. But his latest utterings including that "the NDP hates Christians and believes that we are second-class citizens who should be shunned from society" indicates a bizarre view of the world and politics that clearly should disqualify him from being in a position to grant university degrees.

A legislative decision to award degree granting power to this institution would be in direct contradiction to the values outlined in the Ontario Human Rights Code. It also violates the process already in place to make decisions about post-secondary institutions. We urge you to withdraw this legislation and ensure that any granting process is ended.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Cartwright". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John Cartwright
President

c.c. Labour Council Executive Board members
Post Secondary Education Quality Assessment Board
Opposition Party Leaders

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