

**BRITISH COLUMBIA HUMANIST ASSOCIATION**

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## **Reject the TWU Law Degree Program**

For ratification: 14 August 2013

**Whereas** Humanism is committed to the equal dignity of all persons, regardless of belief or sexual orientation, and to the separation of church and state;

**Whereas** the *UN Declaration of Human Rights*, the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and the *BC Human Rights Code* prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion or sexual orientation;

**Whereas** Trinity Western University's (TWU) Community Covenant discriminates against women<sup>1</sup> and against gay, lesbian, and bisexual students<sup>2</sup>;

**Whereas** the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) determined TWU's policies, including their mandatory Statement of Faith for faculty and staff, violate the principle of academic freedom<sup>3</sup>;

**Whereas** TWU has received at least \$6.3 million in funding from the Governments of BC and Canada<sup>4</sup>;

**Whereas** TWU has applied the Federation of Law Societies of Canada (FLSC) to create an accredited law school;

**And whereas** a rejection of TWU's application by the FLSC could potentially survive a court challenge<sup>5</sup>;

The Board of Directors of the British Columbia Humanist Association calls on that the Province of British Columbia and the FLSC to deny the application by TWU to create a law degree program.

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<sup>1</sup> "Members of the TWU community, therefore, commit themselves to...uphold [all persons'] God-given worth from conception to death." *TWU Community Covenant Agreement* Source: <http://twu.ca/studenthandbook/twu-community-covenant-agreement.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> "...community members voluntarily abstain from...sexual intimacy that violates the sacredness of marriage between a man and a woman." *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Source: <http://www.caut.ca/docs/reports/report-of-caut-ad-hoc-investigatory-committee-on-twu.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

<sup>4</sup> \$2.6 million in 2009 from both the Governments of BC and Canada source:

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/696.nsf/eng/00512.html> and \$1.1 million in 2011 source:

[http://www.markwarawa.com/In%20the%20media/mark\\_in\\_the\\_news/twu-granted--1.1-million](http://www.markwarawa.com/In%20the%20media/mark_in_the_news/twu-granted--1.1-million)

<sup>5</sup> Craig, Elaine, "The Case for the Federation of Law Societies Rejecting Trinity Western University's Proposed Law Degree Program." *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law*, Vol. 25(1), 2013. <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2202408>