

Canada Palestine Association,

June 11, 2009

President Shoukri,

York University,

Dear President Shoukri:

We are writing to thank you for your standing firm in your support for the principle of academic freedom and your continued support for the conference planned at York University: " Israel/Palestine: Mapping Models of Statehood and Paths to Peace."

The pressures applied by B'nai B'rith on Mr. Gary Goodyear, Minister of state for Science and Technology, to oppose this conference, are in violation of all principles of academic freedom that we, in Canada, claim to uphold. B'nai B'rith and similar groups make the baseless claim that any criticism of the brutal Israeli policies and practices against the Palestinian people, under illegal occupation, is equated with anti-Semitism. This claim is baseless and is opposed by many distinguished Jewish intellectuals and Israeli human rights groups, like B'Tselem and others.

It is important for all of us to stand by the principles of justice and human rights.

Thank you again for your continued principled stand.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.

President, Canada Palestine Association.