



Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms

May 17, 2013

Nona Robinson
Associate Vice President Students
Blackburn Hall Suite 112
1600 West Bank Drive
Peterborough, ON, K9J 7B8

Ms. Robinson:

RE: Trent Lifeline appeal of the TSCA refusal to grant club status

We write on behalf of Heather Anne Robertson, further to our letter of February 6, 2013.

Ms. Robertson requested an appeal in February, of the initial TSCA denial of club status to Trent Lifeline in January. Since that time, you have been engaged in an appeal process and have continued to deny Trent Lifeline the club status it seeks, and to which it is legally entitled. The result of this appeal process is that you have denied Trent Lifeline its right to exist on campus for the entire semester.

Regarding Trent Lifeline's appeal, please advise as to whether other campus clubs at Trent University are subjected to a three-month delay and multiple queries before they are registered. If yes, we hereby request specific examples, including information about the delays to which other groups have been subjected, and the specific content of queries put to other groups prior to their recognition as campus clubs.

Further, please advise us as to which other clubs at Trent have had to provide risk management plans or blanket statements regarding risk management *in order to obtain their club status*.

We assume that other clubs at Trent provide risk management plans *after* obtaining their club status, and do so in respect of specific events which the club proposes to hold. If our assumption is incorrect on this point, then we hereby request copies of other risk management plans that other clubs were required to file *in order to receive their club status*.

We note that when Trent Lifeline first applied for club status in January, the TSCA representative did not ask Trent Lifeline to submit a risk management plan. This suggests that providing a risk management plan in order to obtain club status is not a normal part of the process. The TSCA's rejection of Trent Lifeline's application made no mention of risk management. The appeal process should have been to review and resolve the rejection of club status, not to subject the club members to a continuous stream of new questions and demands.

Trent Lifeline has responded promptly to all of your questions and all of your requests for information. And yet you have denied Trent Lifeline its legal right to exist and operate on campus on par with other clubs. We are disappointed that the appeal process took almost three months, since the January 2013 denial.

Further, you have not explained which rules, regulations, bylaws or policies might constitute the basis for your decision.


Ms. Robertson, on behalf of Trent Lifeline, has indicated in very clear terms that this club and its members agree to abide by all rules, regulations, bylaws and policies of both Trent University and the Trent Central Student Association. Trent Lifeline has also indicated that, like all other campus clubs, it will discuss its proposed activities and events with the University and with the Student Association ahead of time, prior to those events or activities taking place. Any further demands which you place on Trent Lifeline, or any restrictions or conditions placed on Trent Lifeline that are not imposed on other clubs, are discriminatory and illegal.

Ms. Robertson and other members of Trent Lifeline merely seek to enjoy the same expressive freedom, and the same freedom of association rights, as other tuition-paying students: nothing more, nothing less, and nothing else.

Ms. Robertson had requested an appeal of the decision by the TCSA. However, the appeal process that you have offered her has resulted in continued and unjustified delays, putting Trent Lifeline in a position where its only reasonable recourse is to commence legal proceedings against Trent University and the TCSA without further warning or notice.

We await your response to our queries.

Yours truly,



John Carpay

cc. Heather Anne Robertson
Dr. Clive Seligman, Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship
Cara Zwibel, Canadian Civil Liberties Association