

June 3, 2020

Dear Dean Walters,

I hope you are staying safe and well in these trying and unprecedented times.

My name is Dakota Bundy, and I am a 1st year student here at Queen's Law. We share the same values of building a strong community at Queen's Law. As a Black Canadian woman attending law school, I understand intimately the importance of addressing and disrupting patterns of discrimination and racism and so I am writing this letter with hopes of opening an honest dialogue within this faculty.

I am reaching out in light of recent events in the United States and Canada. George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless other Black Americans have lost their lives because of anti-Black racism and police brutality in the United States. Anti-Black racism and violence are present, and rampant, in Canada as well. The tragic death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, an Afro-Indigenous Toronto woman, on May 27th, 2020, exemplifies this. While the circumstances of Regis Korchinski-Paquet's death are still under investigation by the SIU, there are drastically conflicting accounts of what occurred and a massive lack of transparency and accountability on the part of the Toronto police. I attended the peaceful protest in Toronto on May 30th to demand justice for Regis, an end to police brutality, and to advocate for immediate systemic change, as many people, myself included, believe the eyewitness statements of Regis' family members and neighbours who claim that she was pushed off of the balcony by the police and that the police are directly responsible for her death. The senseless death of Regis, and many other Black Canadians, such as D'Andre Campbell, Andrew Loku and Stephon Clark, and serious injuries sustained as a result police brutality, such as the case of Dafonte Miller, are a constant reminder that violence against the Black community is not just an American problem. Canada is not immune.

Our legal studies and our future careers in law intersect inevitably with the ways in which Black, Indigenous, and racialized individuals face everyday injustices in this country. We have an ineluctable responsibility to educate ourselves, to obtain a profound understanding, and to make a concerted, genuine, and undeniable effort to consistently address these injustices and to challenge systemic racism in our practice. Understanding racial bias and the ways it impacts Black people is vital for us to be a part of society without contributing to discrimination and anti-Black racism. This is especially important to recognize and understand in institutions such as this one, where the population is predominantly white. If we look at the statistics for the class of 2022, 61% of the students are white, and 39% of the students are racialized - just 1% of the class is Black. With this disparity in mind, it is critical to address the fact that some members of the Queen's Law community, have been, and will continue to be, afforded more opportunities and privileges than the racialized students. It is essential that those with privilege both recognize it and use it for the benefit of issues that may not directly affect them. It is imperative that we use our voices and respective privilege to combat these racial injustices. Staying silent or not acting

on the issue of racism is to ignore the experiences of racialized students, and to silence, ignore, and condone the Anti-Black racism experienced by Black people.

Moving forward, I hope that all members of the Queen's Law community take their responsibilities as it pertains to racial injustice seriously. Many of the individuals I have spoken to are unsure of where to start, or are looking for more resources, and so I have included the links to multiple petitions and links to donate for those who are financially able to further support this cause.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I hope this begins an open and honest dialogue between us, and beyond, about what it means to truly build a strong, informed, and inclusive community.

Black Lives Matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dakota Bundy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dakota Bundy

Petitions:

To sign the petition in support for Ahmaud Arbery and his family: <https://www.change.org/p/liberty-county-district-attorney-justice-for-ahmaud-arbery>

To sign the petition in support of George Floyd and his family: <https://www.change.org/p/mayor-jacob-frey-justice-for-george-floyd>

To sign the petition in support for Tony McDade and his family: <https://www.change.org/p/black-lives-matter-activists-justice-for-tony-mcdade>

To sign the petition in support of Breonna Taylor and her family: <https://www.change.org/p/andy-beshear-justice-for-breonna-taylor>

To sign the petition in support for Regis Korchinski-Paquet and her family: <https://www.change.org/p/justice-for-regis-korchinski-paquet>

To sign the petition in support of justice for Dafonte Miller: <https://www.change.org/p/minister-of-the-attorney-general-justice-for-dafontemiller-oshawa>

To sign the petition in support of zero police violence: <https://www.joincampaignzero.org/?>

To sign the petition in support of banning the inhumane use of rubber bullets: [https://www.change.org/p/united-nations-ban-the-use-of-inhumane-rubber-bullets?fbclid=IwAR3BCkb8L\\_jCiWnkS4EWh10dzpCQhc\\_wKxpyhyo1pYwvLpE-UBo9Sc9Ory4](https://www.change.org/p/united-nations-ban-the-use-of-inhumane-rubber-bullets?fbclid=IwAR3BCkb8L_jCiWnkS4EWh10dzpCQhc_wKxpyhyo1pYwvLpE-UBo9Sc9Ory4)

Various petitions related to racial injustice: <https://saytheirmames.carrd.co/#petitions>

## Links to Donate:

To donate to Ahmaud Arbaury's family: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/i-run-with-maud>

To donate to George Floyd's family: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/georgefloyd>

To donate to Tony McDade's family: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/in-memory-of-tony-mcdade>

To donate to Regis Korchinski-Paquet's family: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/justice-for-regis>

To donate to D'Andre Campbell's family: <https://ca.gofundme.com/f/in-loving-memory-of-d039andre-anthony-campbell>

To donate to Black Lives Matter (Toronto): <https://blacklivesmatter.ca/donate/>

To donate to Reclaim the Block: <https://secure.everyaction.com/zae4prEeKESHBy0MKXTIcQ2>

To donate to Black Vision Collective: <https://secure.everyaction.com/4omQDAR0oUiUagTu0EG-Ig2>

To donate to NAACP Legal Defense

Fund: [https://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6857/p/salsa/donation/common/public/?donate\\_page\\_KEY=15780&\\_ga=2.116183750.1996968215.1591149420-1948351395.1591149420](https://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6857/p/salsa/donation/common/public/?donate_page_KEY=15780&_ga=2.116183750.1996968215.1591149420-1948351395.1591149420)

To donate to the Black Legal Action Centre: <https://www.blacklegalactioncentre.ca/>

To donate to Campaign Zero: <https://www.joincampaignzero.org>

List of Bail Funds for protesters across the United States: <https://bailfunds.github.io>