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**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT SENATE AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETINGS:
U.S. ELECTION RESULTS AND POLITICAL CLIMATE**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Let me make a few comments on recent developments south of the border and their impact on the world, and specifically on universities and their role in society. The unexpected victory of Donald Trump and the associated spread of an ultra-right narrative is a cause for both concern and reflection.

Although a complex phenomenon, one of its impacts is seen in the recent rise of racist and intimidation tactics and rhetoric we have been hearing about lately—not only in the US, but here in Canada as well, including reports of incidents on university campuses.

I am deeply concerned about these reports of racist rhetoric and acts, not only as a university president, but also as a citizen. As a community we have to be alert and to thoughtfully, but aggressively, deal with such incidents. There are obvious implications for the Western World and for the values we have been fighting for. I see a central role for the university in addressing the broader challenge.

Recently I attended a lecture by Professor Malinda Smith of the University of Alberta, hosted by the Race Equity Caucus of YUFA. Dr. Smith is a critical race scholar and her lecture was an excellent, evidence-based talk in which she shared data that showed how far we still have to go in addressing this issue as a society by exploring how structural barriers and unconscious biases continue to exclude racialized minorities; how dividing practices that privilege and marginalize specific equity groups can lead to inequity among the groups who are seeking equity; and the impact that often unaddressed microaggressions and hostility in the workplace can have on the lives of Indigenous and racialized scholars.

We also heard excellent presentations by our own Professors Narda Razack and Ena Dua. From these talks one can see that this challenge presents an opportunity for all institutions to look at and address inequities of all forms within their organizations. The evidence they presented on as best practice clearly recommended a collaborative approach, not a confrontational one.

I believe that in our collaboration we should realize that while these may look like the challenges we saw in the 60s, the world has changed, the issues have changed, and so the tools, too, have to change as we seek to confront hatred, violent or oppressive acts, and promote human dignity.

All of our efforts and our policies must allow us to support equity. York is a leader in this area, so this is an opportunity to build on our already established strengths and our reputation for social justice. I hope in my time remaining to be a catalyst in these efforts.