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October 31, 2011

**President Shoukri welcomes CAUT finding  
that York University upheld academic freedom**

Dear Members of the York Community:

In 2009, York University co-sponsored a conference into models of statehood for Israel and Palestine. The conference attracted significant public attention and debate and, following its conclusion, the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) asked Dr. Jon Thompson, professor emeritus from the University of New Brunswick, to examine issues of academic freedom in relation to the conference.

The University cooperated with Dr. Thompson. In our submissions, we explained the support we had provided to the conference organizers, and indicated that the senior administration had worked to protect academic freedom and the University's role as an institution of free inquiry.

Dr. Thompson's Report has now been published. I am pleased to note that he has found that York University, including the senior administration, as well as the incoming and outgoing Chairs of the Board, upheld and protected the academic freedom of the conference organizers and the academic integrity of the conference program. His central conclusions in relation to York University are as follows:

"I conclude that senior administrators of both Queen's and York universities correctly took the view that the subject matter of the conference was appropriate for a university event and that the organizers had the academic freedom to design the program and select the speakers. In addition, I conclude that both universities upheld and protected the academic freedom of the conference organizers, and the academic integrity of the conference program."

On behalf of the University, I welcome this recognition of our commitment to the fundamental values of free inquiry and academic freedom at the University, and affirm our continuing commitments in this regard.

Mamdouh Shoukri  
President & Vice-Chancellor

