



Canadian Federation of University Women
Fédération Canadienne des Femmes Diplômées des Universités

251 Bank Street, Suite 305, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 1X3
Tel: 613 234 8252; Fax: 613 234 8221
www.cfuw.org; E-mail: cfuw1@rogers.com

Human Rights and Academic Freedom – CFUW Statement

December 15, 2008

Dr. Nancy Olivieri is a medical doctor who has recently been served a lawsuit by a drug manufacturer (Apotex). As a result she may not talk about the factual things that happened to her nor can she participate in conferences on academic freedom that are unrelated to her case.

The Canadian Federation of University Women supports the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Right to Academic Freedom (Lima Declaration).

On December 10th, 2008, is the 60th Anniversary of the adoption of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Article 19 of the Declaration of Human Rights states: *Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.*

Academic freedom is a constitutionally protected right in Canada under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The Canadian Federation of University Women holds the view that this legal action against Dr. Olivieri raises serious and disturbing issues about the academic freedoms of individuals tasked with observing drug outcomes, the ethics of informing their clients and the power of drug companies to suppress information. There is a real need to ensure that medical research and the public interest are protected from inappropriate health outcomes.

Related:

The Globe and Mail, December 8, 2008

New chapter in Apotex legal battle

<http://www.globecampus.ca/in-the-news/article/new-chapter-in-apotex-legal-battle/>

Canadian Association of University Teachers Statement, December 8, 2008

Apotex Inc. v. Olivieri: An Attack on Academic Freedom

<http://www.caut.ca/pages.asp?page=722>

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: 1948-2008

60th Anniversary

<http://www.un.org/events/humanrights/udhr60/>

www.medicare.ca