

November 22, 2021

Dear Ms. Collington,

It is with sadness that I formally withdraw from French Studies at the University of Waterloo. As a graduate, I re-enrolled last semester to complete my French diploma. However, throughout the semester, I was appalled by the coercive and threatening “special list” emails I began to receive asking me to declare my vaccination status. I am disappointed that my alma mater has taken this route and chosen to be pressured by the government and take government incentives to push vaccination on its students and professors.

Further, when I attempted to communicate with the university that it was 1) not their right to ask for my private medical information, and 2) irrelevant, since I am living abroad and have no intention of returning to campus at any point during the next calendar year, I received no reply to two email messages to the Communications Department (the department that issued the emails), nor any to the phone message I left after various attempts to contact someone with whom I could discuss this matter. After I gave no response to the coercive emails, I note that the threatened “punishment” seems non-existent. Further, the university seems prepared to continue to take my money. I have just received a bill for my Winter semester tuition. Regardless, I had already planned to withdraw as soon as the add/drop period began. I cannot continue to support an institution that supports these mandates.

As I have already graduated with my bachelor’s degree and am a mature student, it is not large a sacrifice for me to do what I believe every student should do who is being pressured to surrender bodily sovereignty for the sake of their education: withdraw from the university and refuse to surrender their rights. If everyone did this, perhaps administrators at universities like the University of Waterloo would wake up and realize that this is a fundamentally un-Canadian action and contrary to the spirit of *concordia cum veritate*, a motto I think, sadly, the university no longer embodies.

I will pursue my DELF B2 French qualification through other means and my tuition will go elsewhere. Please note that everyone I have dealt with in the French Department has been wonderful and helpful and a pleasure to learn from and with. For that reason, and because I believe the university has lost its way in the pursuit of truth, I am sad this step is necessary.

Since no other avenue is available to me to register my disappointment about this policy, I would appreciate it if you would bring my letter and concerns to the attention of the department issuing these mandates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carey Clark". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Carey" and last name "Clark" clearly distinguishable.

Carey Clark