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WEST COAST LEGAL EDUCATION AND ACTION FUND (LEAF)
555 – 409 GRANVILLE STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6C 1T2
TEL: (604) 684-8772
FAX: (604) 684-1543
E-MAIL: info@westcoastleaf.org
WEBSITE: www.westcoastleaf.org

February 18, 2014

Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch
10th Floor, 845 Cambie Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 5T3

Re: Proposed Law School at Trinity Western University

We write to offer our support for the CBA's proposed resolution 14-04-M: "Non-Discrimination in Legal Education", and to urge CBABC delegates to endorse the resolution at the upcoming meeting of the CBA's National Council.

Discrimination in the legal profession remains a significant issue in BC and Canada, tarnishing the image of the profession and undermining public confidence in the administration of justice and respect for the rule of law. Women, people with disabilities, racialized persons, LGBTQ folks and other equality seekers continue to face harassment and discrimination in law firms and law schools, a problem that, according to the Law Society of Upper Canada's Discrimination and Harassment Counsel's September 2013 report, has improved little over the past ten years.

We agree that discrimination in legal education undermines the ethical underpinnings of the legal profession and contributes to a corrosive educational environment that is hostile to freedom of expression, human dignity and human flourishing. A law school with discriminatory admissions policies is unfit to prepare students for their role in upholding the rule of law and the human rights and equality principles that underlie our legal system in their careers as lawyers. Nor is it in the public interest to train future lawyers in an institution governed by policies that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or any other ground, or that deny women's constitutionally protected reproductive rights and freedoms.

We urge delegates to vote in favour of the proposed resolution as an important step towards eradicating discrimination and disadvantage in the legal profession.

Yours truly,

Laura Track
Legal Director