



Statement on the Violent Sweep of Palestine Solidarity Encampments at the Universities of Alberta and Calgary

The Students' Association of MacEwan University (SAMU) is deeply troubled by the violence used against student protesters by municipal police and campus administration on the University of Alberta and University of Calgary campuses. The use of flash bang explosives, less-lethal weaponry, and escalation tactics presented a material danger to student safety and disproportionate reaction to the peaceful protests. Students experienced violence and mistreatment, and several have reported injuries.

Students' freedom of peaceful assembly and free expression are protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and SAMU is concerned to see university leadership infringe these rights. We condemn, in the strongest terms, the use of excessive force to disperse peaceful protesters. University administrators cannot and must not resort to committing, endorsing, or sanctioning violence against students as a response to breaches of universities' policies.

We also know that a number of MacEwan University students and community members were present at the encampment on the University of Alberta campus. SAMU stands with our students as they exercise their charter-protected rights, and we call on the administration of the University of Calgary, University of Alberta, and MacEwan University to uphold and protect these rights. Specifically, we are asking for the following:

- An independent, third-party investigation of the encampment sweep and the decision-making process leading up to the involvement of the Edmonton and Calgary Police Service, to provide students and the community clarity and transparency about their rights on campus and steps these institutions have taken to infringe or protect their rights;
- That administration of MacEwan University and other post-secondary institutions in Alberta defend students' assembly and expression rights on campus grounds, including public rejection of the use of violence against peaceful protesters; and
- Ongoing, open, peaceful dialogue between university administrators and student protesters, including the prevention of legal and academic sanctions against students partaking in peaceful protests on or off campus.

To the students of MacEwan University who are affected by this situation, know that we stand with you in exercising your rights, and we will enthusiastically advocate on your behalf to the university and other decision makers. If you or someone you know have been impacted, there are resources available to help you navigate:



- For legal supports, please visit [SAMU's MyLegalPlan page](#) (for students who have not opted out of the fee)
- For mental health supports, [please see SAMU's resource page](#)
- Contact your elected representatives at SAMU via [the contact information on our website](#).

SAMU remains committed to advocating for the rights and safety of our students, and we encourage affected students to reach out for further support. Universities are institutions of learning, where assumptions are challenged critically and sometimes through peaceful protest. SAMU reaffirms students' right to protest peacefully, free from institutional violence, harassment, or retribution by the university or law enforcement.

*Sincerely,
Your SAMU Executive Committee*