

UWINDSOR NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 10, 2024 Contact: Dylan Kristy Strategic Communications Manager 519-819-9113

dkristy@uwindsor.ca

Agreements Reached, Encampment to End at University of Windsor

WINDSOR, Ont. — The University of Windsor, University of Windsor Student Alliance (UWSA) and students involved in the encampment have agreed on positive ways forward through a series of actions. This includes peacefully ending the encampment.

For the past several weeks, the University has been engaged in separate discussions both with the UWSA, which represents more than 10,000 students on campus, and students involved in the encampment.

The UWSA proposed a motion independently from the efforts of students involved in the encampment, so two separate <u>agreements</u> were reached.

The University of Windsor, guided by its strategic plan, *Aspire*, is dedicated to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and to ensuring student voices and aspirations are heard. Both agreements align with *Aspire* and the University's ongoing efforts for combatting identity-based violence and discrimination, especially against people affected by the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Key components of the agreements include:

- Students from the encampment will remove all tents and related components within 48 hours.
- Enhanced anti-racism initiatives: The University's anti-racism and anti-oppression
 policies and websites will address identity-based oppression, including offering
 comprehensive education and training for senior leaders, faculty, and staff.
- Support for students: An expanded Scholars at Risk program and possible new initiatives will provide enhanced support for students affected by the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

- Responsible investing: The University will continue to evolve in its investment review
 practices and strategies, aligned with its responsible investment policy and
 responsibilities as a signatory to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment, while
 ensuring financial sustainability to support mission-related goals.
- Disclosure: In keeping with practices of other Ontario universities, the University will annually disclose direct and indirect public fund investments.

The University of Windsor upholds freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly. We are steadfast in ensuring our campus is a space for safe, respectful expression of diverse viewpoints, even when challenging or contentious. Civil discourse, irrespective of political, religious, moral, or ethical perspectives, is fundamental to fostering understanding and collaboration.

The University appreciates the meaningful dialogue with students from both student groups. Recognizing that this is an emotional and challenging time for many, the University continues to emphasize the array of available resources, including the forthcoming addition of counsellors specifically to support Jewish and Palestinian students.

The University appreciates the patience and understanding shown by the entire campus community during the past several weeks. We continue to encourage ongoing respectful and empathetic engagement.