

Carley petition

Michael J. Carley, vecteur de propagande pro-Poutine à l'UdeM

Michael J. Carley, purveyor of pro-Putin propaganda at UdeM

[https://www.change.org/p/michael-j-carley-vecteur-de-propagande-pro-poutine-%C3%A0-l-udem?recruiter=373537676&recruited\\_by\\_id=4f6d65e0-51dd-11e5-8202-c396c0ce3f5d&utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_medium=copylink&utm\\_campaign=petition\\_dashboard](https://www.change.org/p/michael-j-carley-vecteur-de-propagande-pro-poutine-%C3%A0-l-udem?recruiter=373537676&recruited_by_id=4f6d65e0-51dd-11e5-8202-c396c0ce3f5d&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=petition_dashboard)

Katerina Sviderskaya has launched this petition

M. Daniel Jutras, M. Frédéric Bouchard, M. Jacques Y. Perreault, Mme Christine Rothmayr, M. Frédéric Mérand,

In the article by Romain Schué, published on March 23, 2022 at 12:37 p.m. by Radio-Canada, titled "Unrest at UdeM, a pro-Putin professor defends the Russian invasion," it is about Mr. Michael Jabara Carley, working in the History Department of the University of Montreal as a full professor. He was, in the past, director of this same department and specializes in the study of relations between Russia and Western countries. Although he is not teaching in the winter 2022 semester, Mr. Carley has been responsible for leading the following courses, among others:

HST2296 – The Second World War

HST2297 – History of the Cold War

HST3259 – International Relations: URSS and Russia

HST6701 - URSS/Russia and the West, from 1917 to today

In the first lines of his text, the journalist goes over some particularly striking propagandist messages published by Mr. Carley on Twitter since the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

"Russian troops fight 'fascists' in Ukraine. "The evacuation of civilians" is blocked by "the troops from Azov, the fascists." "The horror of fascism in Ukraine is becoming more and more evident." "Ukrainian Nazis are being cleaned out of Donbass and Mariupol." – Romain Schué, quoting Mr. Carley's tweets

In all of these Twitter posts since February 24, 2022, and even before, Mr. Carley has adopted a distinctly pro-Putin stance, based on anti-Ukrainian propaganda rhetoric. By carrying out clear and distinct historical revisionism, the history teacher is taking advantage of the freedom of social networks to demonstrate his personal point of view concerning a war. Mr. Carley embraces and pushes the Russian position forward, firmly anchoring himself in a history reviewed, remade and rewritten for political purposes. In particular, he uses terms characteristic of the Kremlin's disinformation discourse, such as "fascists," "neo-Nazis," shares pro-Russian media publications (Sputnik, RT), official Russian institutions (Russian Embassy in

Canada, Russian Ministry of Defence), all while promoting hate speech and war. Attached to this open letter, you will find screenshots, showing only the surface of a much deeper problem.

Indeed, as Mr. Schué argues in his article, the most amazing thing was the reaction of the University of Montreal. Spokeswoman, Mrs. Geneviève O'Meara, specified that "[Mr. Carley] can express his opinion on social networks, even though it might clash with the views being expressed by other experts on the subject."

However, according to Article 5 of the Disciplinary Regulations concerning members of the teaching staff in the Collective Agreement entered into between the University of Montreal and the General Union of Professors of the University of Montreal (SGPUM), "No one may, in the context of research or teaching activities, [...] contravene its obligations in terms of intellectual probity, in particular by deliberately misleading members of the scientific community or any other person, [...]." Article 7 of the same document states that "Anyone who violates this regulation is liable to reprimand, suspension or dismissal from the University."

Therefore, considering that Mr. Michael Jabara Carley has deliberately misled hundreds, if not thousands, of students and members of the scientific community with regard to the war that Russia has been waging against Ukraine since 2014, and which was greatly expanded on February 24, 2022, he is liable to reprimand, suspension or dismissal from the University of Montreal.

Mr. Jutras, as rector of the University of Montreal and first representative of our institution in Quebec, in Canada and abroad, it is your responsibility to uphold the truth within the University. After numerous scandals concerning academic freedom in recent years, we ask you to consider carefully review his notion, since it should not be allowed to condone the dissemination of false information that contravenes the intellectual rigour that is advocated at the University of Montreal.

Mr. Bouchard, as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of the University of Montreal, we ask you to consider this situation urgently, since it has a direct impact on the reputation of our faculty, which is currently being associated with a faculty member spreading scientifically unfounded propaganda.

Mr. Perreault, as director of the Department of History at the University of Montreal, we ask you to take the necessary steps within the department itself, in particular by consulting with the members of the Departmental Assembly so that the comments made by Mr. Carley, and the professor himself, be sanctioned. Among other things, it should be a question of limiting his possibility of supervising papers and theses, since the position of research director has a strong influence on graduate students.

Mrs. Rothmayr, as director of the Department of Political Science at the University of Montreal, we ask that you also consider this situation. Although it does not concern our department on an institutional level, many students follow and have taken Mr. Carley's courses, and therefore

have been directly under his influence. It is necessary to review the place of his courses in the curriculum offered by the Department.

Mr. Mérand, as scientific director of the Centre for International Studies and Research at the University of Montreal (CÉRIUM), we thank you for your clear position expressed in Mr. Schué's article, and ask you to exclude Mr. Carley from CÉRIUM. The research centre advocates critical thinking, the scientific method and rigorous analysis of current events, all of which Mr. Carley totally contravenes.

To summarize, we are not asking the University of Montreal to take a political position. Rather, it is a question of values particularly dear to members of the student community, faculty and staff: scientific and intellectual rigour, truth, academic freedom, critical thinking.

Cordially,