March 31, 2026

Dear Agenda Committee of the UBC-Vancouver Senate:

Apartheid Free Communities UBC is a coalition of student groups working with representatives of the UBC Alma Mater Society (AMS) and UBC student and faculty Senators to present the draft Senate motion below. As you may be aware, between March 9-13, 2026, 13,476 UBC students voted in an historic AMS referendum posing the following question:

Do you support the AMS calling for the University of British Columbia to cut ties with all institutions upholding apartheid, including Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, and Tel Aviv University, by writing an open letter to UBC and the UBC Vancouver Academic Senate?

8,894 students (83.5%) voted yes in this referendum. The AMS is drafting the open letter of advocacy to support this Senate motion which will be released following the ratification of the AMS election results. We bring this motion with the unambiguous support of the student body.

Regarding the content of the draft motion presented here: In its advisory opinion of July 19, 2024 (186-20240719-ADV-01-00-EN), the International Court of Justice ruled that policies and practices of the State of Israel violate the international prohibition on racial segregation and apartheid. A 2025 UN Special Rapporteur investigation (A/HRC/59/23) reported that Israeli universities contribute to sustaining apartheid structures, including through the development of surveillance, weapons, and military technologies used against Palestinians.

The UBC Discrimination Policy (SC7) and the British Columbia Human Rights Code, RSBC 1996, c 210 prohibit discrimination on the basis of protected personal characteristics. However, UBC students and faculty who hold documents that indicate Palestinian or Arab identity are discriminated against from their entry into Israel, and are even disallowed from arriving via Tel Aviv airport. As documented by Amnesty International's 2022 report "Israel's apartheid against Palestinians: Cruel system of domination and crime against humanity," to simply arrive in Israel or to move through the Occupied Palestinian Territories for university programs, such UBC students and faculty would be subjected to discriminatory treatment including segregated checkpoints, restricted access to infrastructure, roadways, and services including healthcare, and exclusive subjection to a military legal system. On March 30, 2026, the Israeli Knesset adopted a law providing for execution by hanging of Palestinians convicted of certain offences. The law applies only to Palestinians in both Israel and the Occupied Territories, and could provide for the execution of Palestinian Canadian citizens following conviction by Israel.

These discriminatory conditions are in conflict with UBC's own policies.

We ask the Agenda Committee to add this motion to the agenda of the April 15th meeting of the UBC-Vancouver Senate.

Sincerely,

Apartheid Free Communities coalition, UBC

Motion Regarding Agreements and Partnerships with Certain Institutions in States Violating the Prohibition on Apartheid

WHEREAS, the Discrimination Policy of UBC (SC7) and the *British Columbia Human Rights Code* (RSBC 1996 c. 210) prohibit discrimination on the basis of protected personal characteristics, including (among others) ancestry, colour, place of origin, political belief, race, ethnicity, nationality, and religion;

AND WHEREAS, in its ruling of July 19, 2024, the International Court of Justice ruled that policies and practices of the State of Israel violate Article 3 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), which prohibits racial segregation and apartheid;

AND WHEREAS the Vancouver Senate has twice previously voted to cut or suspend institutional ties with universities in countries alleged or found to have violated human rights and international law (Russia and Thailand);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Vancouver Senate approve and recommend to the Council of Senates and Board of Governors, as appropriate, the complete termination of all existing institutional partnerships, MOUs, and research agreements between UBCV and:
    (a) Hebrew University of Jerusalem;
    (b) Technion; and,
    (c) Tel Aviv University.

2. The Vancouver Senate approve and recommend to the Council of Senates and Board of Governors, as appropriate, the development of protocols to eliminate cooperation with and assistance to postsecondary institutions:
    (a) Funded by a State; or,
    (b) Rendering direct technological, military, or research assistance to a State,

    that has been found by an international court of competent jurisdiction to be in breach of the international legal prohibition on racial segregation or apartheid as contained in ICERD.

3. Nothing in this Resolution should be construed as prejudicing or infringing the academic freedom of any individual.