March 18, 2022

Alma Mater Society Council
University of British Columbia

Re: A.M.S. Advocacy Committee motion urging the UBC Alma Mater Society to direct the UBC Endowment Fund to divest from nine companies

Dear Council Members,

On Monday, March 14, members of Independent Jewish Voices Canada's Vancouver chapter and its Youth Bloc participated in a meeting of the A.M.S. Policy Advisory Committee at which members of the UBC Divestment Coalition made a respectful, informative presentation, arguing for the University to divest its holdings in nine companies that participate in ongoing violations of Palestinians' human rights in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

This is an important initiative, as it calls upon the University to align the investments in its Endowment Equity Holdings with the stipulations of its own Responsible Investment Program. We urge you to endorse it.

You will undoubtedly receive submissions from individuals and organizations contending that the adoption of this motion discriminates against Jews and Israelis and that it is anti-Semitic. As members of a national Jewish organization that advocates for human rights in Israel-Palestine, we categorically reject such charges. Furthermore, we believe that this resolution is completely congruent with other University initiatives aimed at tackling racism and discrimination.

The sponsors of this initiative took enormous care to focus on the behaviour of these particular companies in abetting human rights violations against Palestinians. It is important that you not allow yourselves to be distracted by those who raise bogus arguments in order to have you ignore your responsibility to ensure that UBC's investments are congruent with its investment policies.

Yours truly,
Corey Balsam  
National Coordinator  
Independent Jewish Voices Canada

Neil Naiman, Chair  
Independent Jewish Voices Canada  
Vancouver chapter  
Daniel Sax, Member  
Independent Jewish Voices Canada Youth Bloc  
Graduate student, UBC

LJ Slovin, Member  
Independent Jewish Voices Canada  
Instructor, UBC Faculty