

April 25, 2018

University of Alberta  
Office of the President  
2-24 South Academic Building (SAB)  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2G7



Dear Dr. Turpin,

As the official voice of business in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region, with 2,225 member companies representing over 100,000 employees, the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce is one of the largest chambers in Canada and among the most influential business organizations in the country.

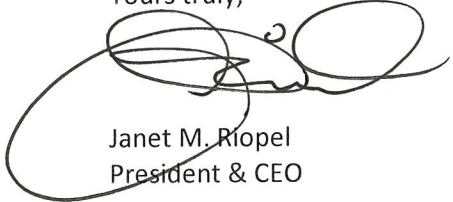
I am writing today regarding the University of Alberta's decision to honour David Suzuki with an honorary degree. Many in the business community are University of Alberta alumni, supporters, and donors. They are united in their concern, frustration, and anger with the decision to honour an individual who has voiced significant criticism and opposition to Alberta's energy and resource sectors.

The Edmonton Chamber of Commerce is proud of the enormous contributions these sectors have made to the growth and development of this province and our nation. We are long-time advocates for the industry and for pipeline access to new markets via the safest and most efficient methods possible. We have been vocal in our support for the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion project. Most recently, we organized a coalition of 24 Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade across B.C. and Alberta to call on the B.C. provincial government and the federal government to take whatever actions are necessary to clear all barriers to getting the Trans Mountain pipeline built.

We appreciate that academic freedom must be taken seriously and protected, however this decision to honour Mr. Suzuki sends a very discouraging and disappointing message to the business community at a time when Alberta's energy and resource sectors are under significant stress and pressure, and the Trans Mountain Pipeline faces strong opposition.

The Edmonton Chamber and the University of Alberta have benefitted from a long relationship and many valuable partnerships, which I know will continue despite our differences. As a strong partner and supporter, and on behalf of the Edmonton Region business community, we urge the University of Alberta to reconsider its position and withdraw the appointment of an honorary degree to Mr. Suzuki.

Yours truly,



Janet M. Riopel  
President & CEO

JMR:lr

cc: Douglas Stollery, Chancellor, University of Alberta  
Michael Phair, Board Chair, University of Alberta