



April 30th, 2018

To Members of the Scarborough Campus Students Union,

Almost 2 years ago, on August 9th, 2016, Colten Boushie, a 22-year old-man from the Red Pheasant Cree Nation was shot and killed by Gerald Stanley, a Saskatchewan farmer. Boushie was murdered by Stanley when he and his friends had stopped on the farmer's yard to check on a flat tire. What happened next transpired in Stanley's death. Following Boushie's death, Stanley was charged with second-degree murder and eventually, after a two-week jury trial, was found not guilty in Battleford, Saskatchewan.

Stanley's acquittal is one of several ways that the justice system continues to fail Indigenous communities. Racialized and Indigenous people are dying because they are living. In 2014, for example, fifteen-year-old Tina Fontaine was found lifeless in a duvet cover in Winnipeg's Red River. Her name joins the hundreds of other missing and murdered Indigenous women in North America. Sadly, the murders of both Colten Boushie and Tina Fontaine are yet another reminder that if true reconciliation is our goal, admitting to the ways that Indigenous people are unjustly targeted and profiled needs to be part of that conversation.

Our deepest sympathies to the families of Colten Boushie, Tina Fontaine, and the thousands of names we will never know. In honouring them, we would also like to acknowledge that just last week, we bore witness to the deaths of ten individuals that were hit by a white Ryder van at Yonge and Finch. The victims names are: Renuka Amarasingha, Geraldine Brady, Andrea Bradden, Sohe Chung, Anne Marie D'Amico, Betty Forsyth, Chul Min "Eddie" Kang, Ji-Hun Kim, Munir Najjar, and Dorothy Sewell. Our thoughts and prayers are with their loved ones.

Sincerely,

The 2017-2018 Scarborough Campus Students' Union Executive

Sitharsana Srithas, President

Christina Arayata, Vice President University and Academic Affairs

Nana Frimpong, Vice President Equity

Nafisa Mohamed, Vice President Campus Life

Deena Hassan, Vice President Operations