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“A Sordid Episode in Academic History”

Prof. Hall “exited in good standing and on his own terms the fetid toxic research environment” created by officialdom’s embrace of the Israel Lobby’s plan to extinguish free and open debate at universities.

An Open Letter from Owen Holmes

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Dear Jackie;

If the error was in any way a cause of that load of bovine excrement dumped on Tony Hall in the Sept. 28 edition of *Alberta Views*, my second dumbest mistake of the 21st century was my decision to send you and Kevin Taft the letter of December 18 last. You’ll recall that I started out my communication to you in late 2017 by indicating my uncertainty about where to send my SOS alarm that some really toxic developments were underway in Alberta’s system of higher education. Unfortunately I now have learned that *Alberta Views* was not the right place to take my concerns.

I sought your advice on how to bring public attention to the the tri-partite conspiracy involving a powerful extremist political lobby, the trustees abdicating their duty to support and protect a provincial institution, and the rogue Alberta Government prostituting itself to the lobby’s agenda. The Tony Hall Affair has played out over the last two years. It has become a textbook illustration of the corrupt workings of a captive province described by Kevin Taft in his book of the same name as *Oil’s Deep State*. I decided that the public should be made aware of the travesty in the province’s system of higher education. My goal was to find a reliable platform of journalism from which to disseminate the bad news.

Instead of properly investigating the substance of the matter, the editorial staff at *Alberta Views* chose to join the lobby, trustees, government and

mainstream media by adding yet another round of whacking away at the human piñata Tony Hall. Even the venerable Legislature of Alberta took its turn whacking at the targeted individual

In his essay, “Fear and Loathing in Lethbridge,” the *Alberta Views* editor and author, Tadzio Richards, made only one mention of the Israel Lobby whose activities drove the prosecutorial agenda aimed at Hall. That’s an amazing feat. It’s something like writing a history of World War II without mentioning Germany. Here’s the real story backed up (in the original submission) by many enclosures.

In June of 2016 Hall completed his 26th year as a professor in the Faculty of Arts and Science, one of the best historians ever to grace the University of Lethbridge campus. His career scholarship has explored the effects of imperial globalization upon conquered Indigenous peoples around the world. His subject matter extends from the invasion and colonization of the Americas by European empires beginning with Columbus in 1492 through to the modern-day American Empire invasion and colonization of peoples throughout the arc of Islam from Morocco to Pakistan and beyond.

Hall’s chronicle of atrocities fueling the rise of imperial globalization extends to the conquest, occupation, and colonization of the indigenous Palestinian people by the state of Israel. This lethal saga of Israeli expansion is currently being played out in the arena of international affairs. Along with academic colleagues around the world, Hall has researched and publicized his findings on Israel’s flagrant and chronic violations of international codes of military and humanitarian law as well as its engagement in widespread covert regional terrorism.

The Zionist Lobby (aka Israel Lobby) is a wealthy powerful network determined to suppress all criticism of the state of Israel by whatever means necessary. An important part of that mission is to stifle such criticisms in the universities of this country. The well-honed tactic is character assassination and career destruction of academics researching the past and current actions of the state of Israel. That’s accomplished by attacking researchers with a set of weaponized words that stir up public indignation and antagonism. The Zionist owned/dominated/influenced mainstream media, including CBC, CP, Postmedia, SunMedia etc are enthusiastic collaborators, no evidence needed. The enormously successful weapon phrases are: anti-Semitism; holocaust-denying; conspiracy theories.

During the summer of 2016 the Zionists decided the time had come to silence once and for all Tony Hall whose criticism of Israel's colonization and terrorism were getting too serious to ignore. The Lobby launched a national coast-to-coast attack on the disgraced anti-Semitic holocaust-denying conspiracy theorist monster running amok at the University of Lethbridge.

Simultaneously the colorful imaginary charge was sent to the University of Lethbridge Board Chair and President and to the Alberta Premier, Solicitor General and Advanced Education Minister. This instant infiltration of officialdom's communication networks was supported by an avalanche of emails from around the country and beyond demanding action. Terrified, threatened, bribed, and bullied into panic, the Board and Government entered into a secret tri-partite pact with the lobby to exterminate Hall as quickly as possible.

On October 4 the designated hitman, U of L President Michael J. Mahon, suspended Hall mid-semester, banishing him from campus. The University of Lethbridge Faculty Association, ULFA, registered a grievance of that illegal action by the Board, and the Canadian Association of University Teachers, CAUT, condemned the Board for breach of academic due process.

The imaginary Zionist hate charge against Hall was sent to the Calgary Police and the Lethbridge Police. Both threw it out as junk mail. There was no evidence. The Board with much publicity sent the Zionist complaint as a charge against Hall to the Alberta Human Rights Commission. The Commission rejected it at the first inspection as not even worth further investigation. There was no evidence.

Within the University of Lethbridge the Dean of Arts and science commissioned a History Professor to investigate the Zionist charge against Hall. He found in Hall's favour. There was no evidence. So the Dean commissioned a Physical Education professor to try again. She triumphantly announced support for the Zionist charge, though offered no evidence. The Dean immediately fired off a letter of reprimand to the banished Hall.

The Board refused to negotiate ULFA's original grievance along with several others about the series of illegal procedures. When it refused to recognize the jurisdiction of the government appointed arbitrator, ULFA

went to court. The Judge chastised the Board which then, to avoid the outcome of arbitration, agreed to settle the ULFA grievances by reinstating Hall and nullifying the whole mess of previous Keystone Kops investigations.

On November 23, after 13 months of illegal exile, Tony Hall was reinstated.

On November 23 the Dean charged Hall with anti-Semitism holocaust denying conspiracy theorizing, adding discriminatory behavior too. No evidence. Another investigation was launched.

On November 24 the Zionist Lobby shrieked public outrage at Hall's reinstatement.

On November 25 Premier Rachel Notley publicly dumped the same old load of stinking Zionist BS upon her, your, and my fellow citizen, Tony Hall, assuring the Zionists he would soon be fired. She offered no evidence.

On December 13, Hall was defamed by a Zionist MLA and the Advanced Minister of Education within the hallowed halls of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta against its own rules of order, with no discipline of the perpetrators. No evidence presented.

On April 20 2018 Calgary B'nai Brith honoured Rachel Notley as its Guest of Honour. She was thrilled to follow in the footsteps of previous guests of Honour and bedmates from the Deep State, Stephen Harper and Jason Kenney.

In the Spring of 2018 Hall published an article titled, "A National or International Crime? Canada's Indian Residential Schools and the Genocide Convention" in the academic journal, *Genocide Studies International*. He wrote this peer-reviewed essay during his exile from campus while the tag team of five administrators was so busy wasting its time and our money trying mightily to prosecute Hall for the evidence-free Zionist charge.

When originally announcing the suspension, Mahon had publicly explained, ***This action is not focused on Dr. Hall's published scholarship, driven by complaints of students, or the demands of advocacy groups.... We have a concern that he has created an environment that is discriminatory for***

students and his faculty colleagues whose personal backgrounds, research topics or beliefs are at odds with Dr. Hall's stated views.

Fact Check Time

Mahon's avalanche of allegations of anti-Semitism, holocaust denial, and discrimination supposedly committed by Tony Hall from his initial appointment in January 1990 to June 30, 2016 was

Students: **ZERO**

Not a single one from any source including 26 years 52 semesters of Instructor Evaluation by approximately 2000 students.

Faculty Members: **ZERO**

Note: Soon after the Zionist tsunami struck, Mahon summoned (Jewish) English Professor Goldie Morgentaler for private consultation. Although she has been on the U of L Faculty with Hall for many years without noticing it, after the Mahon consultation she experienced an epiphany through which she came to realize that Hall is an anti-Semitic holocaust denying discriminator who was terrorizing the campus. She wrote a letter of complaint to the Dean on September 30, four days before Hall's suspension. Now that's a remarkable coincidence! In response, another (Jewish) professor Viminitz publicly denounced Morgentaler as a bigot.

In his letter informing the Board of Tony's decision to retire, Tony's lawyer wrote: *There has been an unusual accelerated process that failed to provide procedural fairness together with ample opportunity for Professor Hall to make a defence. There is a serious lack of evidence of Professor Hall's alleged impropriety. Rather guilt by association and unsubstantiated claims seem to have prevailed. There has been no finding of a breach of the Human Rights Act. In fact two internal investigations held there was no breach. There have been public breaches of confidence and allegations that can only lead to further disparaging of the University's reputation.*

This is a fitting summation of this sordid episode in Canadian academic history.

However, the last word goes to the Zionist Lobby which publicly congratulated itself: ***“This is a monumental and precedent-setting victory for human rights in Canada. B’nai Brith commends our supporters for keeping pressure on the university, the Government of Alberta and ultimately on Hall himself.”***

Well, good news. Tony Hall is a survivor, alive and well. He exited in good standing and on his own terms the fetid toxic research environment that the trustees have managed to create at the benighted University of Lethbridge. He had fought the Alberta Deep State and the absolutely disgusting Zionist lobby for two years.

The next step would have been an arbitration projected to take at least another two years involving a mob of lawyers with the unpredictable outcome of a legal crapshoot totally unrelated to the interests and needs of U of L faculty and students. Tony’s remaining financial resources would have been matched against the Alberta public purse. His amazing psychological strength in the face of all that persecution had already been sorely stressed. David was running out of stones in the battle against Goliath. As well, ULFA had fought the good fight and was running out of energy. His lawyer and I both urged Tony’s decision to retire.

The victims are the people of Alberta whose institutions have been despoiled by the very people entrusted to sustain them.

So far I have not used the term academic freedom. I want to say a few words about that. For forty years I have been a foot soldier and/or officer in the never ending fight for academic freedom. But I won’t bore you with all that.

It would be impossible to explain the obligations of universities better than John Ralston Saul on Page 20 of the *Alberta Views* Sept. 2018 edition. Academic freedom is simply the protection professors (and students) must have to be as annoying as possible. That’s the theoretical side of the philosopher.

From the practitioner side, I enclose below a dumbed down version of my account I wrote for the *Lethbridge Herald* of U of L debacle. I used language that I thought might be meaningful to blue collar readers. The *Lethbridge Herald* didn’t print my contribution but some concerned soul entered it on the Internet. Because academic freedom is so abstract, like war

for example, it can only really be understood in actual cases, which I described. Even dumbed down, it will be too advanced for *Alberta Views* Associate Editor, Tazio Richards.

Now you would think that any fool would realize that a non-controversial researcher doesn't need any special protection, for example one looking for a cure for cancer; but one annoying and controversial enough to pronounce that Encana consists of a gang of robber barons might just need a bodyguard or two.

Determining the distinctions between those that probably do and those that most likely don't require the protections academic freedom should be fairly straightforward. But not for U of L President Mike Mahon, Advanced Education Minister Schmidt, former Justice of the Supreme Court Iacobucci, and other intellectually handicapped individuals mentioned by Richards in his *AV* essay. The Mahon/Schmidt/Iacobucci triumvirate all confirm in one way or another the principle that, **"I am all for academic freedom except in controversial cases."** So help me Allah. A guy who would say such a thing is like the guy who would say, **"I am all against beating your wife, except when the bitch deserves it."**

Here is a great example of an academic freedom controversy, with obvious relationships to the Tony Hall case. In the spring of 2009 the Israel Lobby (aka Zionist Lobby) attacked four academics from York and Queen's in Ontario. It placed a full-page ad in the Toronto newspapers declaring York a hotbed of anti-Semitism etc. etc. along with the threat of withdrawal of financial support from offended private donors. PM Harper waded in to support the Lobby and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney denounced York as a "pogrom." Queen's told the Israel Lobby to shove it up you know where. Shocked and terrified, York wavered for a while but eventually it too stood strong.

Enclosed are three highly informative items about the Ontario case. One is a full-scale investigation by CAUT published under the title, *No Debate": The Israel Lobby and Free Speech at Canadian Universities* (334 pages). Another is a personal account by one of the four academics, York Law Professor Susan Drummond. Her book is entitled *Unthinkable Thoughts: Academic Freedom and the One-State Model for Israel and Palestine* (348 pages).

Unthinkable Thoughts offers a truly excellent detailed description of the origin, history, meaning and nature of academic freedom in Canada and elsewhere, and the crucial importance of academic freedom without which universities cannot operate. As well, Drummond exposes the Israel Lobby as the agent of a foreign power in our midst that has successfully distorted the foreign policies of both Canada and the USA too. The suppression of discussion and debate about Israel/Palestine in North American universities is just one component of a bigger and more dangerous agenda advanced by the many-faceted agencies that together compose the Israel Lobby.

My dumbest mistake of the 21st Century was to campaign for the election of Rachel Notley. In retrospect, I can hardly believe that I went to my local constituency office with a cheque in hand and the offer of my lawn for a campaign sign. Rachel Notley has destroyed the Alberta NDP for at least a couple of generations, and along with it any semblance of progressive opposition to the neocon dynasty about to begin next year atop deep state Alberta.

I think I'll go have a shower to wash off the dirt.

Owen Holmes

Cc Kevin Taft

Owen Holmes has a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley. He is the most prominent and inspirational surviving founder of the University of Lethbridge. He has held many posts as a faculty member, academic administrator and faculty association officer.