

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



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October 21, 1998

Mr. Russel Ogden
504 Amess Street
New Westminster, BC V3L 4A9

Dear Mr. Ogden,

I am writing this letter of apology on behalf of the University in response to the recommendation of Professors Blomley and Davis that you receive an apology for the decision made in 1994 concerning moral and financial support during your involvement with the Coroner and for the consequences of this decision for you.

I am now persuaded that the University was wrong to deny you its support during your efforts to protect the integrity of your undertakings to those who provided confidential information for your M.A. thesis. Your actions were in the tradition of defending freedom for academic inquiry while the University's were motivated by narrower legal and procedural concerns.

This has been a difficult period for you and I am very sorry that the University's decision led us into conflict with someone whose courage and initiative we would better have supported. It is my hope that my acceptance of the recommendation in the Blomley-Davis Report regarding your financial situation will at least deal with this aspect of your difficulties, and I hope that by formally recognizing that you were in the right will help with the intangible effects of this dispute.

Please accept the University's sincere apologies for our earlier decision and its effects on you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Blaney".

Jack P. Blaney
President

JPB:vr

c: Prof. N. Blomley
Prof. S. Davis

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