

## Updated statement on CWTP's closure

*August 29, 2023*

We apologize again for the haste with which our previous statement was released, and for the inadequacy of our discussion of the CWTP Board's use of security. We have since met at length to discuss this issue; the following is the unanimous statement of the current (*as of August 29th, 2023*) Collective and Internal Team on that point.

On Friday, August 25th, the CWTP Board responded to our inquiry about the use of security as follows: (1) They believed a third party had to be present for safety reasons; (2) They approached multiple non-security resources to request such a person; and (3) They were refused by all of them. This leaves us with two questions.

### **One: Should the Board have proceeded without a third party after all?**

While we at TBLGAY have successfully navigated dangerous situations alone in the past, sometimes even taking on personal risk to avoid exposing anyone to security, we cannot insist on our fellow students doing this in every imaginable case. However, the kinds of threat which would justify or necessitate the involvement of a historically unpredictable, needlessly militarized, and fundamentally oppressive security force would have to be extreme in the utmost, *especially* given the marginalized identities of the terminated staff members. We stand firm that this incident was a definite overuse of force in the number of personnel dispatched to attend to the situation.

As such, we must and will remain vocally skeptical of this course of action unless and until evidence justifying the use of this force is released for public review. The CWTP Board claims that their reasons are legally confidential, so we do not anticipate such evidence emerging.

### **Two: Should other resources have been made available?**

To this, the answer is easy: YES. The Board, rightly or wrongly, believed that they needed a third party present. When security turned out to be the only available option, they rightly or wrongly decided to involve them. But it

should never have come to this. Similarly, we at TBLGAY should never have had to choose between only the two options of (i) involving security and inviting danger, or (ii) embracing the danger amongst ourselves. That marginalized communities must either risk themselves or ask for intervention from a historically and presently oppressive security force is a shameful state of affairs.

We urge the University and the authorities operating within it to urgently address this problem. We will be immediately approaching the York Federation of Students to campaign for new, non-militarized, non-security crisis intervention supports to be made available to the community.

Thank you for your patience as we worked on the procedural issues that led to the release of our previous statement — which failed to address several key issues — without proper review and approval. TBLGAY promises to keep our community informed as this rally for change presses forward.