

## **A Sound of Horns**

*A speech delivered Saturday, February 12, 2021, on the Freedom Convoy Stage in front of the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, by 4<sup>th</sup> year university student, Cameron Van Donkersgoed.*

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Cameron Van Donkersgoed. I'm a university student and I'll tell you a little about my personal story soon. But first, I have to make a quick observation.

I arrived in Ottawa last night and I was listening for the *horns*. A few days ago, the air was alive with honking. But there's a court injunction against them now. Some people hate those horns.

Who hates the horns? Those same people who have turned their backs on freedom and turned their backs on their fellow Canadians who were fired or had their businesses destroyed. To those people, the horns are a nuisance.

Actually, if you listen to the government or mainstream media, you're told that honking a horn is terrorism. For them, ripping down statues, burning churches, that's just peaceful protest. But honking horns? You better bring in the SWAT team! Bring in the military!

But, when I was home watching videos of this Freedom Convoy protest, I heard those horns and here's what I thought. I thought, "That sound is like the foghorn that blasts from a lighthouse."

Those Horns are drawing Canadians out of the fog, away from the rocks of tyranny and into the open waters of freedom.

There's an image for you, "The rocks of tyranny." I can tell you, I never thought we'd arrive at this terrible spot as a country. But then I found myself thrown on those rocks.

Up until the end of last year I was an Engineering student at the university of Guelph. I was in the final year of my program. I was planning for graduation, employment, and a future.

But those plans were smashed on the rocks because my university kicked me out.

My marks were good, I hadn't cheated on an assignment, I hadn't vandalized the campus. But I did do something wrong, at least wrong in the eyes of my university: I chose to think for myself!

I chose to say "Yes" to my medical privacy and informed consent. I chose to say "Yes" to my right to freedom of conscience. And I chose to say "No" to a vaccine mandate that is ethically and scientifically invalid.

It used to be the case that universities rewarded students for independent thought. But now at the University of Guelph, and every other post-secondary institution in our country, students who are smart enough to do their own research and come to their own informed conclusions are literally banned from campus and de-registered from their programs.

We didn't go quietly. We tried to reason with our university administrators. Early on, we pointed out that under the Public Health regulations, colleges and universities could choose to let the unvaccinated stay in their programs. The regulations gave the option for the unvaxxed to take part in regular testing, instead of expulsion. But in a move that was openly punitive, the administrators chose expulsion.

So, we asked for accommodations. For example, some asked for religious exemptions to the mandate. The vast majority were told "Your religious beliefs aren't valid."

I wonder, what has become of Canada when nameless, mid-level bureaucrats have the power to deny a believer of their Charter rights?

When other appeals had failed, some of us begged our universities to follow the scientific method; the method that they told us was the gold standard for academic debate.

We brought them high quality studies and research from world experts. The research showed that for university-age people, especially men, getting the Covid vaccine is a greater risk to health than catching the disease. We brought research showing that the vaccinated catch and spread Covid just as much as the unvaccinated; so, banning the unvaxxed makes no sense.

We begged them to follow their own motto and “listen to science.”

But we discovered that their motto is false advertising. We found out that what they really mean is: “listen to the science that we like”; “follow the science that we approve, the science that supports our narrative.”

Well, I may only be an undergraduate in Engineering, but I can tell you with authority, that’s not how science is supposed to work!

In real science, when conflicting evidence arises, the process demands that each side be respected. It’s only if each side is respected that free inquiry can continue and the best evidence can rise to the top. But at universities across Canada suppression of evidence and discrimination against opponents has replaced the scientific method.

And this open discrimination is the height of irony. Or, I guess I should say, it’s the height of hypocrisy. You see, universities across Canada are the loudest voices for diversity, equity, and inclusion. But when it came to protecting equity and inclusion for the unvaccinated there wasn’t just silence but hostility and condemnation.

All those professors who, day in and day out, trumpet their support for social justice, their support for the marginalized, where were they when these mandates came down? Thousands of students were marginalized for their moral convictions and religious beliefs and they did nothing.

But we’re here today because there is a group of courageous Canadians who are doing something. And what they’re doing is done out of love of others, love of country, and love of freedom!

What they’re doing is keeping us from the rocks! And giving us all hope.

Truckers: The politicians will continue to misrepresent your goals. Corporate media will continue to lie about your actions. But in the unfiltered coverage of social media and in the glowing stories of those who have come to Ottawa to show their support, people will know the truth.

And the truth is this: Freedom smells a lot like diesel fuel and freedom sounds like a thousand truck horns!