

# UCGSA Response to May 9<sup>th</sup> Police Action

May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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The University of Calgary Graduate Students' Association (UCGSA) roundly condemns the actions of the Calgary Police Service and are deeply concerned by the University of Calgary's decision to involve the police. The violence that took place on our campus on May 9<sup>th</sup>, perpetrated by heavily armoured riot police against unarmed protestors, is an embarrassment that has stained the reputation of this institution and post-secondary education more broadly.

Peaceful protest is the bedrock of a free and democratic society. A peaceful protest that creates no disruptions to the workflow of fellow students or university staff members is not a riot. That the police felt the need to escalate to the point of using riot shields and tear gas is unnecessary and unconscionable. Students deserve to know why steps were not taken to prevent such escalation from happening.

The UCGSA is exploring all available avenues to address important questions that have emerged and ensure accountability from the University of Calgary administration.