

Philosophy Professor Suspended for Anti-Gay Facebook Post

By

[Justin Weinberg](#)

.February 15, 2018 at 10:53 am 3

<http://dailynous.com/2018/02/15/philosophy-professor-suspended-anti-gay-facebook-post/>

Jean Laberge, a professor of [philosophy at Cégep du Vieux-Montréal](#) since 1994, was suspended from his position at the end of January, reportedly for writing about his “disgust for homosexuals” on Facebook.

The [CBC reports](#):

In the Jan. 15 post entitled “Am I homophobic?” Jean Laberge describes homosexuality as a “primitive reaction” that degrades male sexuality. “The mechanistic genital conception of sexuality is perfectly debilitating and intolerable on the moral level,” the post read, referring to homosexuality. Laberge concludes that he is not homophobic, arguing that his opposition is not based on an irrational fear but a reasoned moral opposition. The post has been since removed from Laberge’s Facebook page... Laberge is a professed Catholic and attributed his opinions to his faith.

In an interview, Laberge said, “I’ve always had an unease about homosexuality. But I haven’t declared war against homosexuals... I have the right to not prefer homosexuality and invite people to not choose that way.”

According to the CBC, Laberge says he does not discuss his views of homosexuality in his classes.

A [more recent article](#) on the story reveals that unspecified “new elements” have prompted an “extended investigation,” and reports that a spokesperson from Cégep said that Laberge will not be returning to work “for an undetermined amount of time.”

Comments welcome from those more knowledgeable about the case or about academic freedom practices in Quebec.



CATEGORIES [ACADEMIC FREEDOM](#)

TAGS [ACADEMIC FREEDOM](#) [CANADA](#) [PHILOSOPHER](#)

0 likes

There are 3 comments



[Kenny Easwaran](#) · [February 15, 2018 at 1:48 pm](#)

It may or may not be relevant that Cégep is an educational level that is earlier than traditional American and Canadian undergraduate university, though more advanced than high school. I'm not sure if it corresponds to something familiar in the United States context like community college.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CEGEP>

1

- [Reply](#)



[Michel](#) · [February 15, 2018 at 1:56 pm](#)

If he's suspended, then it's with pay and went through the union's (FNEEQ) Labour Relations Committee. If it's a normal suspension, then it follows two similar complaints within the last

year, which he would have been given ample time to address. There would also have been 15 days' notice. If it's for reasons deemed prejudicial to the CEGEP, then it may all have happened quicker, but it would still have gone through the LRC.

The FNEEQ is a pretty powerful union, and CEGEPs are sticklers for proper procedure.

1

- [Reply](#)



[Christopher Hitchcock](#) · [February 15, 2018 at 1:59 pm](#)

A cégep in Quebec isn't equivalent to a college or a university. In Quebec, instead of doing 12 years of primary and secondary education, plus four years of college, one does 11 years of primary/secondary, two years of cégep, and three years of college/university. So a cégep is somewhere between a high school and a junior college, for students who plan to continue on with university studies. I don't know what the standards are for academic freedom at the cégep level, but they may be different from those for university professors.

0