

# WLU students rally behind Lindsay Shepherd

[Joe Warmington](#) More from Joe Warmington

**Published:** November 24, 2017

**Updated:** November 24, 2017 7:40 PM EST

<http://torontosun.com/news/provincial/warmington-wlu-students-rally-behind-lindsay-shepherd>



**Lindsay Shepherd speaks during a rally in support of freedom of expression at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo on Friday November 24, 2017. Dave Abel/Toronto Sun**

WATERLOO — Excitedly, students lined up to get a selfie with her.

They asked her to sign their books, their posters and placards.

The media all wanted to talk to the 22-year-old graduate student at Wilfrid Laurier University. There is a new star on campus.

But Lindsay Shepherd made it very clear her only goal is simply defending the concept of freedom of speech on university campuses.



**Lindsay Shepherd speaks during a rally in support of freedom of expression at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo on Friday November 24, 2017. (Dave Abel/Toronto Sun)**

She was doing just that at a demonstration in a park across from the campus where there is a monument to Canada's fallen in military conflict to ensure freedom of speech.

In front of a couple of hundred students, faculties and supporters, Shepherd reiterated why she was there: "Authoritarian agendas have gone too far."



[Lindsay Shepherd](#)@NewWorldHominin

Demonstration for Freedom of Speech on Campus. 1pm @ University & Hazel. #Laurier I cordially invite @wlu\_rainbow to attend. I will be speaking near 1:45pm <https://twitter.com/AlexanderWEyre/status/933916536653471744> ...  
[1:00 PM - Nov 24, 2017](#)

When you can't show two sides of a discussion to students, the concept of having a discussion at all is over.

Earlier this month, she went through this herself when the teaching assistant played a TVO video clip of Professor Jordan Peterson making his gender pronoun, and political correctness gone astray, argument for the class to open up discussion. Instead, she ended up in front of three faculty members who ludicrously claimed she had broken federal law.

Luckily, she surreptitiously taped the meeting.

“Do you see how this is something that is not intellectually neutral, that is kind of up for debate, I mean this is the Charter of Rights and Freedoms,” said Professor Dr. Nathan Rambukkana, who is also heard on the recording saying, “you’re perfectly welcome to your own opinion, but when you’re bringing it into the context of the classroom, that can become problematic, and that can become something...that creates an unsafe learning environment for students.”

Rambukkana also made the point “very young adults” who “don’t have the critical toolkit to be able to pick it apart yet...This is one of the things we’re teaching them, so this is why it becomes something that has to be done with a bit more care.”

Well , those students spoke out loudly Friday — holding up signs saying they are with Lindsay and they are old enough to decide for themselves, their views.

Meanwhile, across the street were two dozen people in counter-protest. Wearing signs around their neck that read, “Trans people deserve justice” they were representing the campus’s Rainbow Centre who peacefully and silently protested. There were no police and all sides were respectful.

“Peaceful, respectful protests or rallies are precisely the type of freedom of expression that universities should encourage,” the university said in a statement. “At Wilfrid Laurier University, we welcome and support that and fully understand the background to today’s events. We are pleased the participants made their points in a peaceful way and we look forward to opportunities to include all perspectives in our task force work on freedom of expression and academic freedom in a safe learning environment.”

The irony is this rally demonstrated Canada at its free speech best.



**Supporters listen as Lindsay Shepherd speaks during a rally in support of freedom of expression at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo on Friday November 24, 2017. (Dave Abel/Toronto Sun)**

In addition to all of this, the professor and the university's president have apologized to Shepherd for this sorry chapter. The problem, the

demonstrators say, is what happened in this meeting with Shepherd was not an isolated incident and they want to make sure any move to censor people's views stops right here and now.

Shepherd said while she does "appreciate" the apology — whether or not she was subjected to a "three-on-one bullying session or a nice, one-on-one conversation," her professor was "still trying to tell me he views some opinions unacceptable and for me to bring them up is against the law" and that the over message was "no student should be exposed to someone like Jordan Peterson."

Her point is people can make up their own minds. And judging by the vocal crowd at this rally Friday, it seems many agree with her.

[jwarmington@postmedia.com](mailto:jwarmington@postmedia.com)