

251. Preference regimes

Letter to the Editor, *Globe and Mail*, 9 May 2017

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/may-9-notwithstanding-the-charter-plus-other-letters-to-the-editor/article34926560/>

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Re: "Ottawa to universities: Improve diversity or lose research chair funds," 4 May 2017 (<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-to-pull-research-chair-funding-unless-diversity-issue-addressed-at-universities/article34905004/>).

By requiring universities to use non-academic criteria in selecting professors, the directors of the Canadian Research Chairs are encouraging universities to treat researchers unfairly and are threatening the quality of research in Canada. Both fairness and the best research can be attained only through seeking to identify the best researchers available and awarding chairs exclusively on grounds of academic merit.

Since there is no credible evidence that women or minorities are discriminated against in hiring, tenure, or promotion, this new initiative cannot be aimed at combating such discrimination. Universities already have in place policies giving preference to women and minority scholars.

What academic goal can be served by pressuring them to take even less regard of academic merit than they do under current preference regimes?