

Discrimination found in Jewish holidays

by UPI

TORONTO -- Toronto's York University has 21 days to review allegations by the Ontario Human Rights Commission that canceling classes for Jewish holidays is discriminatory. Investigator Kim Hanson wrote a report seen by the Toronto Star that concludes the practice of canceling three days of classes for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur violates the provincial Human Rights Code's protection against discrimination based on a person's "creed." A report prepared by York professor Thomas Klassen shows Jews represent 5.8 percent of the school's 51,000 students. Christians make up more than 64 percent of the student population, followed by 4.8 percent Muslims, the newspaper said. York spokeswoman Alex Bilyk told the Star the university has continuously had a policy of allowing students of any religion to be excused from classes for a religious holiday. The school's commissioners have 21 days to respond to the rights commission with their plan, the report said.

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