



Canadian Association of University Teachers  
Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université

# CAUT New Activists Workshop

Thursday, November 28, 2019 – Westin Ottawa Hotel

## Agenda

- 08:00 – 08:30      **Registration & breakfast** *(30 minutes)*
- 08:30 – 08:45      **Session One — Opening remarks** *(15 minutes)*  
CAUT President Brenda Austin-Smith and CAUT Executive Director David Robinson welcome participants to the workshop, facilitate a round of introductions, and review the day's agenda.
- 08:45 – 09:15      **Session Two — Identifying challenges** *(30 minutes)*  
The workshop begins with a plenary discussion of the challenges facing academic staff. Key issues are identified, four of which are selected for closer examination.
- 09:15 – 09:45      **Session Three — The Challenges — group work** *(30 minutes)*  
Participants assemble in four small groups and work together to further discuss, define and confront one of the challenges.
- 09:45 – 10:30      **Session Four — Challenges report back** *(45 minutes)*  
Groups reassemble in plenary and present their findings.
- 10:30 – 10:45      **Break — Refreshments** *(15 minutes)*
- 10:45 – 11:15      **Session Five — Confronting the challenges** *(30 minutes)*  
Where did academic staff associations come from and where are they going? This session will look at the current structure of academic staff associations and what needs to change if we are going to successfully address the challenges facing academic staff today.
- 11:15 – 12:00      **Session Six — Ten minute expert: PSE issues** *(45 minutes)*  
Four ten minute presentations on pressing issues in the post-secondary education workplace and the strategies academic staff associations have used to address them:
- equity;
  - casualization;
  - governance;
  - academic freedom; and
  - history of trade unionism in post-secondary sector.

- 12:00 – 13:00      **Lunch — Provided** (60 minutes)  
A delicious selection of soups, salads, sandwiches, and sweets.
- 13:00 – 14:00      **Session Seven — Ten minute expert: Activist skills** (60 minutes)  
Five ten minute presentations on:
- collective bargaining;
  - filing grievances;
  - creating attractive visual material;
  - making effective smart phone movies; and
  - communicating through the media.
- 14:00 – 14:15      **Session Eight — The Projects: Logistics** (15 minutes)  
The hands-on portion of the workshop commences with participants recombining into their four groups. Presented with a scenario designed to highlight a challenge to academic staff, the groups are each assigned a different project that will assist in confronting and solving the problem.
- Group One — Write a grievance and formulate a grievance strategy to address the issue.
  - Group Two — Prepare material (poster, flyer, button, etc.) to educate members and the public on the issue.
  - Group Three — Produce a video on the issue and the association's response to it.
  - Group Four — Prepare a press release and hold a press conference to publicize the issue.
- 14:15 – 14:45      **Session Nine — The Projects: Building a winning strategy** (30 minutes)  
Prior to breaking off into groups, participants will work together to develop the key messages and overarching campaign strategy to confront the problem. This strategy will then be used to inform the projects done by each group.
- 14:45 – 16:00      **Session Ten — The Projects: group work** (75 minutes)  
Groups work on their assigned task with the assistance of facilitators, subject experts and the necessary resources to get the job done.
- 16:00 – 16:15      **Break — Refreshments** (15 minutes)
- 16:15 – 17:15      **Session Eleven — The Projects: Presentations** (60 minutes)  
Each group presents its work. All participants review, discuss and learn from each other's completed plans.
- 17:15 – 17:30      **Conclusion & adjournment** (15 minutes)  
Participants review the workshop, summarizing key issues, experiences and future directions.