



The journey toward Indigenizing the academy, beginning with the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action, has been underway for close to 10 years. While much progress has been made, it is clear more work lies ahead to transform the Commission's call to Indigenize universities and colleges into practice.

The 2024 CAUT Aboriginal Academic Staff Conference will be an important opportunity for Indigenous scholars and their non-Indigenous allies to join with one another in the spirit of reconciliation, build networks and peer support, take stock of what has been accomplished, and identify what more needs to be done. Topics of discussion will include the experiences of Indigenous teachers and researchers, how institutions can best navigate claims of Indigenous identity, and how academic staff associations have worked, through bargaining and advocacy, to improve Indigenous representation and recognition of Indigenous knowledge in post-secondary education.

Agenda

Friday, October 4

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| 07:30 – 09:00 | Registration / Breakfast <i>(provided)</i> |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | Territorial acknowledgement and welcoming ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Peter McInnis, CAUT President■ David Newhouse, CAUT Representative-at-large (Aboriginal) |
| 09:30 – 10:30 | Plenary Session 1 — Keynote Address <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Dr. Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair, University of Manitoba |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Break |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | Plenary Session 2 — Experiences of Indigenization at Canadian universities and colleges <p>This session will review the various initiatives universities and colleges have taken to promote Indigenization, identify best practices, and discuss remaining gaps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ David Newhouse, CAUT Representative-at-large (Aboriginal) |

- 12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch** (*provided*)
- 13:30 – 15:00 **Break-Out Discussion Session 1 — Sharing experiences and identifying supports**
 Participants will break into groups to discuss their experiences with Indigenization and identify ways that universities and colleges can better support Aboriginal academic staff and students.
- 15:00 – 15:30 **Break**
- 15:30 – 17:00 **Plenary Session 3 — Navigating Indigenous identity claims**
 Several high-profile cases of academics and administrators falsely claiming Indigenous heritage have prompted universities and colleges to consider additional verification requirements. Panelists will consider what principles should guide identity verification and what best practices are emerging.
- 17:30 – 19:00 **Reception** (*First Nations University of Canada*)

Saturday, October 5

- 07:30 – 09:00 **Breakfast** (*provided*)
- 09:00 – 10:30 **Plenary Session 4 — Tri-Council support for Indigenous research**
 This session will explore what funding programs and opportunities exist for Indigenous faculty and how successful or effective they have been. Panelists will discuss whether bias and equity training have resulted in any changes in the Tri-Council granting process, and how research ethics reviews are helping or hindering Indigenous researchers.
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Break**
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Break-Out Discussion Session 2 — Indigenous research experiences and issues**
 Participants will meet in small discussion groups to share their experiences and challenges in conducting research and identify ways to overcome obstacles.
- 12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch** (*provided*)
- 13:30 – 15:00 **Plenary Session 5 — Building pathways for Indigenous scholars through collective bargaining**
 Many academic staff associations have negotiated collective bargaining contract language that seeks to improve Indigenous representation and recognition of Indigenous knowledge and practices in universities and colleges to support career pathways. This session focuses on what gains have been made, and what more can be done.
- 15:00 – 15:30 **Break**

- 15:30 – 16:00 **Plenary Session 6 — Report from break-out sessions**
Facilitators from the discussion groups will report on the key issues and recommendations identified by participants.
- 16:00 – 17:00 **Plenary Session 7 — Challenges and opportunities ahead**
Panelists representing early-, mid-, and late-career Aboriginal staff from a variety of disciplines will reflect on the diversity of experiences with Indigenization, identify progress made, and discuss ways of overcoming remaining challenges and points of resistance.
- 17:00 – 17:15 **Closing remarks and conclusions**
- David Newhouse, CAUT Representative-at-large (Aboriginal)
 - Peter McInnis, CAUT President