



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

CAUT Forum for Presidents

Friday, January 13 and Saturday, January 14, 2023

10:30 am – 5:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Ottawa Marriott Hotel and Online

Forum Overview

This annual event is an important opportunity for the leadership of academic staff associations to meet peers from across Canada, share high-level discussion on key political and organizational challenges, and build networks of contact and support — all with the goal of strengthening our ability to advance the interests of our members.

Agenda

Friday, January 13

- 09:00 – 10:30 **Registration and breakfast** *(provided)*
- 10:30 – 10:45 **Welcome, introductions, and overview**
- Peter McInnis, CAUT President
 - David Robinson, CAUT Executive Director
- 10:45 – 12:00 **Plenary One – Updates from the bargaining table**
Panellists from academic staff associations will discuss trends, themes, and strategies emerging from recent negotiations.
- 12:00 – 13:30 **Lunch** *(provided)*
- 13:30 – 15:00 **Plenary Two – The legal review**
This session will provide an overview of the latest arbitral and court decisions focussing on the implications for academic staff associations and their members' rights.
- Sarah Godwin, CAUT General Counsel
- 15:00 – 15:30 **Refreshment Break**
- 15:30 – 17:00 **Plenary Three – Navigating Indigenous identity**
Several high-profile cases of academics falsely claiming Indigenous heritage have prompted universities and colleges to consider additional verification requirements. What practices should be adopted and what role is there for academic staff associations?
- Akosua Matthews, Kastner Lam LLP
- 18:00 – 19:00 **Dinner** *(provided)*

Saturday, January 14

09:00 – 10:30 **Breakfast** (*provided*)

10:30 – 12:00 **Plenary Four – Lessons from Laurentian**
The decision of the administration of Laurentian University to seek insolvency protection from the courts was unprecedented and led to the loss of nearly 200 jobs and the elimination of dozens of programs. The Auditor General of Ontario recently found that this course of action was unnecessary, costly, and damaging to the university and the entire community of Sudbury. What lessons can we learn from the Laurentian crisis and what can CAUT and its academic staff associations do to prevent a repeat?

- Virginia Torrie, University of Manitoba

12:00 – 13:30 **Lunch** (*provided*)

13:30 – 15:00 **Plenary Five – Academic freedom in conflict**
Central to the case for academic freedom is that scholars must be able to pursue knowledge and to voice their views within and outside the academy free of censorship or reprisal. What are the key threats to academic freedom today, what are its legitimate limits, and how can CAUT and its member associations best ensure that members can freely exercise their academic freedom?

- Alison Hearn, Chair, CAUT Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee

15:00 – 15:30 **Refreshment break**

15:30 – 17:00 **Plenary Six – Roundtable discussion: Association governance**
This session will allow participants to discuss and share best practices concerning the governance structures, staffing, and practices of their associations.

- Facilitator: Peter McInnis, CAUT President

17:00 – 17:30 **Conclusions and closing remarks**
This open session will provide participants with an opportunity to raise and discuss issues not covered in the agenda.

- Peter McInnis, CAUT President
- David Robinson, CAUT Executive Director