



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

CAUT Forum for Presidents

Friday, January 19 and Saturday, January 20, 2024
Homewood Suites By Hilton Ottawa Downtown

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 and the profession.

Agenda

Friday, January 19

- 07:00 – 09:00 **Breakfast** (*provided*)
Tulip Restaurant (Hotel Lobby)
- 08:00 – 09:00 **Registration**
Monsella A-B-C
- 09:00 – 09:15 **Welcome, introductions, and overview**
- Peter McInnis, CAUT President
 - Brenda Austin-Smith, CAUT Past President
- 09:15 – 10:30 **Session One – Updates from the bargaining table**
Panellists will discuss trends, themes, strategies, and outcomes emerging from recent contract negotiations.
- Evan Fox-Decent, Association of McGill Professors of Law
 - Terezia Zorić, University of Toronto Faculty Association
 - Ciprian Alecsandru, Concordia University Faculty Association
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Break**
- 11:00 – 12:00 **Session 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 Director of Legal Services and Labour Relations, General Counsel
- 12:00 – 13:30 **Lunch** (*provided*)
Tulip Restaurant (Hotel Lobby)

- 13:30 – 15:00 **Session Three – Artificial Intelligence: What’s at stake for academic labour?**
In recent contract negotiations, manufacturing, health care, and creative industry unions have negotiated a voice in how new robotic, AI, and “generative” technologies are used in the workplace. In the post-secondary sector, by contrast, most contracts are silent on technology. How might these new technologies shape academic work and how should academic staff associations respond?
- Dan Montgomery, Vice-President, American Federation of Teachers and President, Illinois Federation of Teachers
 - Eric Rader, President, Henry Ford Community College Federation of Teachers
- 15:00 – 15:30 **Break**
- 15:30 – 17:00 **Session Four – Academic Freedom and Equity**
Increasingly, university and college campuses are the site of highly polarized debates that seem to pit academic freedom and freedom of expression against the pursuit of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Is academic freedom a barrier to addressing the needs and demands of previously underrepresented groups and individuals? How can academic staff associations help their members navigate this fraught terrain?
- Momin Rahman, Trent University
 - Faisal Bhabha, Osgoode Hall Law School
- 18:00 – 19:30 **Dinner** (*provided*)
Les 3 Brasseurs – 240 Sparks Street, Ottawa

Saturday, January 20

- 08:00 – 09:00 **Breakfast** (*provided*)
Tulip Restaurant (Hotel Lobby)
- 09:00 – 10:30 **Session Five – Understanding University and College Finances**
Following Laurentian University’s decision to seek insolvency protection in 2021, renewed attention is being paid to the financial health of universities and colleges. This session will look at the state of institutional finances and cover the basics of how to read your institution’s financial statements.
- Janet Morrill, University of Manitoba
 - Cameron Morrill, University of Manitoba
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Break**
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Session Six – Indigenizing Collective Agreements**
Indigenizing the academy requires academic staff associations to negotiate changes to their collective agreements to establish equitable policies and practices that involve Aboriginal Peoples and Indigenous Knowledge in all aspects of campus life. What has been achieved to date and what more needs to be done?
- David Newhouse, Trent University Faculty Association

- 12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch** (*provided*)
Tulip Restaurant (Hotel Lobby)
- 13:30 – 15:00 **Session Seven – Canada’s Universities and Colleges Go Global**
Canada’s universities and colleges are expected to be increasingly international. Federal and provincial governments are actively encouraging the aggressive and often unethical recruitment of foreign students who pay exorbitantly high fees. What are the implications for institutions and academic staff?
- Kumari Beck, Simon Fraser University Faculty Association
- 15:00 – 15:30 **Break**
- 15:30 – 16:45 **Session Eight – Roundtable Discussion**
This session will allow participants to discuss and raise issues not covered in the agenda.
- Peter McInnis, CAUT President
 - Brenda Austin-Smith, CAUT Past President
- 16:45 – 17:00 **Closing Remarks**
- Peter McInnis, CAUT President
 - Brenda Austin-Smith, CAUT Past President