



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

Memorandum 20:14

Date: March 16, 2020

To: Presidents and Administrative Officers
Local, Federated and Provincial Associations

From: David Robinson, Executive Director

Re: **COVID-19 Update from CAUT**

The CAUT officers met by teleconference today to discuss the impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on our operations and meeting plans. As you know, the situation is developing rapidly. Public health authorities are now advising Canadians to practice social distancing and to avoid large gatherings. In light of these developments, the officers have decided to postpone the April Council meeting. We regret the inconvenience this causes.

If you have already booked your flight with W.E. Travel, we will cancel your ticket. Accommodations made at the Westin Hotel will also be cancelled on your behalf. If you made alternative travel and accommodation arrangements, please cancel your plans as soon as possible. CAUT will reimburse delegates for any cancellation fees they incur.

Council would normally need to vote upon several essential items at the April meeting. These include the election of directors and officers, approval of the budget, appointment of auditors, appointment of members of standing committees, appointment of the Executive Director, and delegation of authority. We are consulting with legal counsel about which items Council delegates may be able to deal with either electronically or by mail ballots. We will provide further information about this shortly.

Please note that while the CAUT office remains open at this time, most staff are working from home. All upcoming CAUT events, including the Forum for Chief Negotiators, and staff travel has been cancelled or postponed. Staff will, however, remain available by email or telephone.

Thank you for your ongoing understanding and patience as we navigate these extraordinary times.