



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

## Memorandum 24:14

**Date:** March 22, 2024

**To:** Presidents and Administrative Officers  
Local and Federated Associations

**From:** David Robinson, Executive Director

**Re:** **Research Security Restrictions**

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CAUT remains concerned about the impact of the new research security restrictions announced by the government of Canada this January on academic freedom and international scientific collaboration. The adoption of two new sets of regulations, [Sensitive Technology Research Areas](#) and [Named Research Organizations](#), threaten to increase the chill on specific academic research and partnerships, and add to a growing climate of fear on university and college campuses.

I am aware of several reports of an increased presence of agents from the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) on campus. Many administrations are actively collaborating and sharing information with CSIS. Academic staff of Chinese descent, and those conducting research related to China, Russia, or Iran are particularly vulnerable to surveillance and suspicion.

Please inform your members that if their research is being questioned, if they are notified that they are being investigated for allegations related to international research collaboration, or if they are approached by CSIS agents that they should contact their academic staff association and CAUT.

CAUT has established a national reference group to assist with the collection of information on the impact of the research security measures. Members wishing to report any difficulties or incidents related to research security are encouraged to contact me in confidence.