



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

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CAUT Francophones' Conference

Francophones at colleges & universities confronting austerity measures

23-24 February 2018 – Sheraton Ottawa Hotel

Conference overview

CAUT's third *Francophones' Conference* is intended for Francophones and Francophiles who work in Francophone, bilingual or Anglophone post-secondary institutions. The challenges have been plentiful for these institutions—and above all, for faculty and students—since post-secondary administrators and governments began advocating for austerity measures. The conference aims to shed light on the austerity measures that many public education and research institutions are seeking in order to “trim the fat”, and it intends to determine how these measures specifically impact Francophone teachers, researchers and students, as well as French programs and courses in French.

Preliminary agenda

Friday, 23 February

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| 9 a.m. | Breakfast (included) |
| 9 a.m. | Registration |
| 10 a.m. | Acknowledgment of traditional territory, welcome remarks
David Robinson, CAUT Executive Director |
| 10:15 a.m. | Opening remarks and conference overview
Blanca Navarro Pardiñas, CAUT Francophones' Committee Chair |
| 10:30 a.m. | Keynote address: Austerity measures and the myth of austerity
Maxime Ouellet, Université du Québec à Montréal |

11:30 a.m. Demystifying university budgets

A budget is first and foremost a political document. Budgets for post-secondary institutions hinge on various political choices, which may often be justified by austerity. Financial statements are important documents for us all to be able to read and understand. In times of austerity, budget decisions impact Francophone teaching staff in minority communities.

Jean-Charles Cachon, Laurentian University

12:30 p.m. Lunch (included)**2 p.m. The impact of austerity measures on governance in post-secondary educational institutions**

University and college boards of governors are becoming increasingly dominated by private-sector representatives. How has this observation impacted Francophones? What are the experiences of Francophone students in these times of privatization?

- Robin Vose, St. Thomas University, New Brunswick, Past CAUT President
- Justine De Jaegher, Executive Director, Canadian Federation of Students
- Pascal Sergent, VP of External Relations, Association of Part-Time Professors of the University of Ottawa

3:30 p.m. Health break**3:45 p.m. Austerity measures for libraries in post-secondary educational institutions**

University and college libraries are a place for research, teaching and work, but they are suffering cutbacks that affect all faculty members, including librarians. What impact are these cuts having on Francophones, and what kinds of counter-measures can we envision?

Michaël Rouzier, Collège La Cité, Library

5 p.m. Reception (included)**Saturday, 24 February****8 a.m. Breakfast (included)****9 a.m. Session: Austerity measures and teaching**

How have hierarchical curricula, new technologies, distance learning and resource reallocation towards "profitable" courses affected teaching quality and working conditions for Francophone academic staff?

- 9:30 a.m. **Group discussion: Teaching**
- Participants break out into small groups to discuss the impacts of austerity measures on teaching.
- 10:15 a.m. **Health break**
- 10:30 a.m. **Plenary session**
- Participants gather to summarize their group discussions on teaching.
- 11 a.m. **Session: Austerity measures and research**
- What have been the impacts of austerity measures regarding access to grants and research funding for Francophones? What stance should we take with respect to quantifying performance and evaluating academic staff and curricula?
- Yves Gingras, Université du Québec à Montréal
- 12 p.m. **Lunch (included)**
- 1:30 p.m. **Group discussion: Research impacts**
- Participants break out into small groups to discuss the impacts of austerity measures on research.
- 2:15 p.m. **Plenary session**
- Participants gather to summarize their group discussions on research.
- 2:45 p.m. **Health break**
- 3 p.m. **Potential counter-austerity solutions**
- Austerity measures have been countered in a number of ways, such as through collective bargaining and community movements. What lessons can we learn from these strategies? How can we formulate a counter-argument against austerity in light of the challenges for Francophones in post-secondary education? What potential solutions can we bring to the table?
- Sylvain Marois, Fédération nationale des enseignantes et enseignants du Québec (FNEEQ-CSN)
 - Valérie Dufour, CAUT Director of Communications
- 4 p.m. **Wrap-up: Recap and conclusions**