



Office of the Vice President, International

November 3, 2017

Ms. Pam Foster
Director, Research and Political Action - CAUT
2705 Queensview Drive
Ottawa, ON K2B 8K2

Dear Pam,

Thank you again for meeting with me during my last visit to Ottawa on October 3rd. I appreciated the opportunity to explain the work we are doing in Saudi Arabia.

Further to our discussion and your follow up email on October 16th, I am writing to provide assurance that should a concern arise that potentially threatens the civil liberties of Niagara College KSA employees, we would act quickly and decisively to support them and attempt to resolve the issue.

Although we have never experienced such an incident in our decade of delivering training in Saudi Arabia, we have developed action plans in support of employee safety and well-being. Those plans begin with assigning one of our bilingual government relations officers to resolve the issue expeditiously by meeting with our instructor and relevant local authorities, including senior government officials.

We have established strong and dynamic working relationships with local authorities such as the Ministry of the Interior and the Governor's office, as well as with local community leaders, which we would access to support our employees should such a situation arise. Our relationships and position in the community enable us to respond in real time and serve as a direct channel with local authorities.

In addition, we would seek the advice and support of the Canadian Embassy along with the Embassy representing the affected employee and as required, engage our legal counsel in Saudi Arabia to provide advice, assistance and advocacy.

In closing and consistent with the Scholars at Risk information presented in CAUT's January Bulletin that showed no incidents of concern in Saudi Arabia, we have not experienced any teaching or civil liberties-related issues for any of our employees.

Our employees form the bedrock of what we do and why we have succeeded in Canada and abroad. As we discussed and as outlined above, ensuring their safety and providing support to them when required remains our priority.

Sincerely,



Sean Kennedy
Vice President, International
Niagara College Canada

cc: Martin Devitt, President, Niagara College Faculty Association
David Robinson, Executive Director, Canadian Association of University Teachers