



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

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Memorandum 18:07

Date: February 20, 2018

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

From: David Robinson, CAUT Executive Director

Re: **Request for Information in Respect to U.S. Border Experiences**

I am asking CAUT member associations to circulate this Request for Information to their membership.

In the past year, CAUT has received reports that American border officers have become increasingly bold in the exercise of their claimed powers to search, detain, and seize property or information of Canadians entering the United States. CAUT is concerned about the frequency of such actions and the impact on the rights of academic staff to personal privacy and academic freedom, including research confidentiality.

As part of a continuing review of US border access, and before Parliament passes the new pre-clearance powers for US officers at Canadian airports, we wish to hear from academic staff across the country about their experiences when seeking to enter the United States.

In particular, we would like to hear from individuals who have been subject to any of the following privacy and research confidentiality breaches when trying to enter the United States (whether by air, land, or through pre-clearance at a Canadian airport):

- Physical searches of person or belongings;
- Physical searches of phone, computer, or other electronic devices;
- Electronic searches of phone, computer, or other electronic devices;
- Requests from border agents to know passwords for phones, computers, devices, online communications, or social media accounts;
- Coerced unlocking of phones, computers, devices, online communications, or social media accounts (whether by the agent, by the member, or through another method);
- Threats to detain for non-compliance with requests for any of the above;
- Detention for non-compliance, or in order to extract compliance for any of the above;
- Refusal of entry to the USA due to nationality, citizenship, refusal to comply, or based on what was found or suspected to be found.

If you have experienced any of the above or had similar experiences, we ask that you please provide details directly by emailing borderissues@caut.ca. Any identifying information will be kept confidential unless you otherwise consent.