

Defence Fund Report

Date: March 3, 2020
To: CAUT Council
From: Ted Binnema, CAUT Defence Fund President
Re: Update on the CAUT Defence Fund

Since my full report of November 2019 there have been two strikes among the members of the CAUT Defence Fund. The University of Northern British Columbia Faculty Association (UNBCFA) took job action from 7 November to 16 December (although the pickets came down on 29 November) and the Mount Allison Faculty Association (MAFA) did so from 3 to 8 February 2020. All members of the CAUT Defence Fund benefit when our member unions are willing to take job action to protect the rights of their members, so it is appropriate that we again thank UNBCFA and MAFA for allowing us the privilege of supporting their strikes. At the time of writing, there does not appear to be a likelihood of any more strikes occurring amongst our members during this academic year.

Because of the significant growth in the membership of the CAUT Defence Fund in recent years, and the fact that the two strikes that occurred in the past year were at relatively small institutions, the balance of the Defence Fund has grown since May 31, 2018 from about \$29.7 million to about \$32.3 million as of December 31, 2019.

While the growth in membership of the CAUT Defence Fund over the past few years is very welcome, growth also presents the Defence Fund with challenges. I explained some of these challenges in my full report to the November CAUT Council. Between then and the next annual meeting of the Fund, the various committees of the Defence Fund are preparing recommendations for the directors of the Fund, but there is nothing new to report at the time of this update. This year's annual meeting will be held in Montreal on 17 October 2020.

In solidarity,

Ted Binnema
President, CAUT Defence Fund