

TO: All MUNFA Members

FROM: The MUNFA Executive Committee

DATE: November 19, 2009

**SUBJECT: CONSULTATION ON RESEARCH MISCONDUCT**

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The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) recently distributed a memorandum (attached) regarding a report entitled: *The State of Research Integrity and Misconduct Policies in Canada*. The report can be found online at: [http://www.caut.ca/uploads/Report\\_SRIPC.pdf](http://www.caut.ca/uploads/Report_SRIPC.pdf).



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

 [www.caut.ca](http://www.caut.ca)  
[acppu@caut.ca](mailto:acppu@caut.ca)

2705, promenade Queensview Drive  
Ottawa (Ontario) K2B 8K2

Tel\Tél. 613-820-2270  
Fax\Télé. 613-820-7244

October 23, 2009

Memo: 09:48

To: Presidents and Administrative Officers, Local and Federated Associations

From: James L. Turk, Executive Director

Re: Consultation on Research Misconduct

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The Canadian Research Integrity Committee (CRIC), of which CAUT is a founding member, has released a report this week entitled: *The State of Research Integrity and Misconduct Policies in Canada*. I have enclosed a copy and it is also available on the CAUT web site [[www.caut.ca](http://www.caut.ca)].

The Report provides a comprehensive discussion of the status of current policies and procedures on research integrity in Canada and in some other countries including, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and Germany. It also examines how research integrity is promoted and how allegations of misconduct are addressed and resolved. It is anticipated that the Report will help to inform future efforts to strengthen Canada's research integrity system.

Now the member organizations of CRIC will be using the report to consult with their own members with respect to how research integrity can be better dealt with in Canada. CAUT encourages your association to review the Report and share your thoughts with us.

Questions that could guide your review of the Report and your response include:

- What should be included in the definition of research integrity? For example, should it be limited to fraud, falsification and plagiarism or should it include a broader range of questionable research practices?
- What research should be covered under the Canadian research integrity framework – publicly funded, privately funded?
- How should research integrity be governed in Canada? Should there be national guidelines or standards? Should there be legislation/regulations? Should there be a central agency?
- How should accountability and reporting be handled? What new or existing organization should have responsibility for overseeing research integrity policy and practices in Canada? How would compliance by research institutions and researchers be monitored?

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The **deadline** for your response is **December 22, 2009**. Please send your response to Paul Jones, CAUT, 2705 Queensview Drive, Ottawa, ON K2B 8K2. Paul's email is [jones@caut.ca](mailto:jones@caut.ca) and our fax number is (613) 820-7244.

The CRIC will reconvene in early 2010, and any further action by CRIC will take into consideration the comments received and the evolving status of activities related to research integrity in Canada.

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Enclosure