



Newsline	Research Security		
Week	Oct. 27-Nov. 7, 2025		
Editor	Alaa Dabboor	Position	Research Security Manager
Resource Package			
	1	Research Security Centre	
	2	Team Canada	
	3	University of Regina Health and Safety Advisory	

Executive Summary: Developments over the past two weeks highlight a rapidly evolving research security environment in Canada and abroad. This period was marked by substantial federal investments in strategic sectors like artificial intelligence and quantum technologies, growing scrutiny of foreign interference, and increasing ideological hostility toward researchers. In response, grassroots and institutional initiatives are expanding. Communities such as Team Canada continue to build national coordination and share best practices, while universities are strengthening their cybersecurity and data governance frameworks. Meanwhile, high profile espionage trials and global reports of academic intimidation underline the persistent and complex threats facing the research ecosystem.

Key Points:

- **Federal Budget 2025 Boosts Strategic Research:** The 2025 federal budget commits \$925.6 million (over five years) to develop sovereign AI compute capacity and \$334.3 million (over five years) to advance Canada’s quantum technology ecosystem. It also proposes a \$1.7 billion International Talent Attraction Strategy to recruit over 1,000 researchers worldwide. These efforts coincide with the federal plan to cap new international study permits by roughly 35% in 2024–26.
- **Controversial Data Request Sparks Academic Backlash:** Over 5,000 Canadian researchers signed an open letter opposing a parliamentary order to release 25 years of disaggregated federal grant data. They argue the request is invasive and risks exposing personal information, particularly marginalized scholars, threatening both privacy and academic freedom.
- **Espionage and Foreign Interference Cases Multiply:** The trial of former Hydro Quebec researcher Yuesheng Wang, charged with economic espionage for China, underscores insider risk challenges. Separately, several UK academics critical of Beijing have faced harassment and death threats, and one university briefly paused a human rights research project following diplomatic pressure before later reversing its decision.
- **Grassroots Security Community Formalizes Operations:** Team Canada, a national community of practice for research security professionals, has formalized its operations

by releasing a Terms of Reference document. The group now includes 72 Canadian academic institutions. To foster open dialogue, the community operates under Chatham House Rules, meaning participants can share information freely but cannot attribute specific comments to individuals or their institutions. Its mandate is to coordinate information sharing and build a collective capacity to address research security threats across the higher education sector.

- **Heightened Threat Environment for Researchers:** in Nov. 2025, the University of Regina Health and Safety advisory detailed escalating threats ranging from ideologically motivated harassment and death threats to cyber-attacks and nation state espionage. The advisor also provided step by step reporting and documentation protocols for affected researchers.
- **Cybersecurity and Data Sovereignty Initiatives:** Polytechnique Montreal launched a pilot to help nonprofits strengthen cybersecurity, acknowledging that many remain below the “cybersecurity poverty line.” According to the Research Security Centre weekly brief, Manitoba announced in November 2025 that it will explore a provincial data sovereignty framework aimed at reducing reliance on foreign cloud providers and strengthening local infrastructure.

Conclusion: The two-week period illustrates how research security now spans technical, political, and social dimensions. Federal investment in AI, quantum, and international talent programs coincides with intensifying ideological, cyber, and foreign interference pressures. Institutional advisories, federal guidance from the Research Security Centre, and grassroots coordination through Team Canada all contribute to a national defense in depth posture. Protecting Canada’s research ecosystem requires maintaining this balance: safeguarding national interests and researcher safety while preserving academic freedom, openness, equity, diversity, and inclusion. A coordinated, evidence-based approach across government, academia, and community networks will be essential as Canada enters 2026.