

Minister of Science



Ministre des Sciences

Message from

The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, PC, MP

Minister of Science

Researchers Respond to the Science Review

UBC

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Dear distinguished colleagues and friends,

Please accept my best wishes as you gather together to discuss the findings of Canada's Fundamental Science Review.

I am grateful to the many researchers, scholars and scientists from British Columbia who contributed to the review. It also pleases me that research perspectives from the region were represented by Dr. Martha Piper, the former president of UBC and a distinguished member of the review panel, chaired by Dr. David Naylor.

As many of you know, over 40 years have passed since a comprehensive review of federal funding for fundamental science was done.

While the granting councils have generously supported researchers for decades it was time to ask whether NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR and the CFI were working optimally and whether they are meeting the needs of today's research community and Canadians.

It quickly became a priority for me to launch an independent review to assess the strengths and weaknesses and gaps and opportunities in the system.

We needed to ensure that our investments in research are strategic, effective and meet the needs of scientists, scholars and all Canadians.

I am profoundly grateful to the panel for the time, effort and expertise they brought to this challenge. Under Dr. Naylor's leadership, the panel – including Dr. Martha Crago - delivered a comprehensive and rigorous report. Their thorough analysis and advice make this report an authoritative contribution to science policy.

In addition, the response to the panel's public consultation was overwhelming; there were 1, 275 submissions and five roundtables held across the country.

I want to thank all of those who contributed to the review.

The high level of public engagement underscores the importance of this work and its relevance to research and scholarship in Canada.

The report was released in April through the Public Policy Forum because it was important to start a national conversation about how best to support Canada's researchers.

Our government also believes in being open and transparent with Canadians and in working in partnership with them to rebuild the nation's capacity for scientific and scholarly excellence.

I am carefully considering the review's 35 recommendations and am pleased the panel emphasized the challenges faced by early-career researchers along with the need for greater efforts to promote equity, diversity, multidisciplinary, multinational and risky research.

The panel also encouraged stronger partnerships with Indigenous leaders, scholars and communities whose valuable perspective can inform research initiatives.

In my role as Minister, I must balance the needs of the research community with the needs of Canadians. While research can lead to outcomes that improve the lives of Canadians, I, along with my cabinet

colleagues, must prioritize our support so that we deliver on our commitment to grow the middle class and those working hard to join it.

Though I regret that I cannot be with you today I encourage further conversation, respectful debate and a sharing of ideas that will help us continue to build a research ecosystem that is bold, inclusive and, above all, excellent.

Thank you.

The Honourable Kirsty Duncan

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