

"Climate change and inequality are perhaps the greatest science and technology problems facing Canada in 2017. At a time in our country and world, where facts are constantly manipulated, undermined and distorted, I am completely committed to scientific inquiry, discovery, and evidence-based policy-making.

Canada has a proud history of scientific discovery and innovation, including our many world-class research institutions. But as the Naylor report correctly points out, our research competitiveness has eroded in comparison to our peers. Urgent action is needed.

I recognize recent improvements to Canada's investments in innovation, and understand the need to continue to improve productivity, competitiveness, and be leaders in the new high tech and knowledge economy. But Canada also needs to invest much more in fundamental research that directly underwrites public good. We also need to ensure that the public, including workers and communities, share in the rewards of those public investments. Canada's innovation agenda must have a more explicit focus on building a sustainable and equitable economy for the future.

There are things we can do right now. I support Evidence for Democracy's call for the creation of a National Advisory Council on Research and Innovation to provide oversight of the research and innovation ecosystem along with increasing coordination and accountability of the funding councils. I also support the call for more support to be provided to early career researchers, who have been most harmed by cuts to funding."