IMPACT REPORT

EVIDENCE FOR DEMOCRACY
FISCAL YEAR 2016-17

Evidence for Democracy



Evidence for Democracy believes that we all benefit when governments make smart policy decisions, informed by the best available evidence.

Through research, education and issue campaigns, we engage and empower the science community while cultivating public and political demand for evidence-based decision-making. Our work is only made possible thanks to generous donors and dedicated supporters like you who share our view that a strong democracy needs strong science.

Here’s an overview of impact made possible by your support.



Oversight at Risk

In April we launched our first provincial report looking science integrity issues in British Columbia. We surveyed 1159 government scientists across 10 ministries in BC. We found :

71% of scientists had witnessed a decrease in research capacity

Half of government scientists felt that political interference is compromising their ministry's ability to develop laws, policies and programs based on scientific evidence



March for Science

In response to anti-science policies in the US, E4D joined the global March for Science movement by organizing a large rally in Ottawa and supporting events across the country.

Coordinated

17 MARCHES

in Canadian cities

8,000 CANADIANS

joined marches in their communities





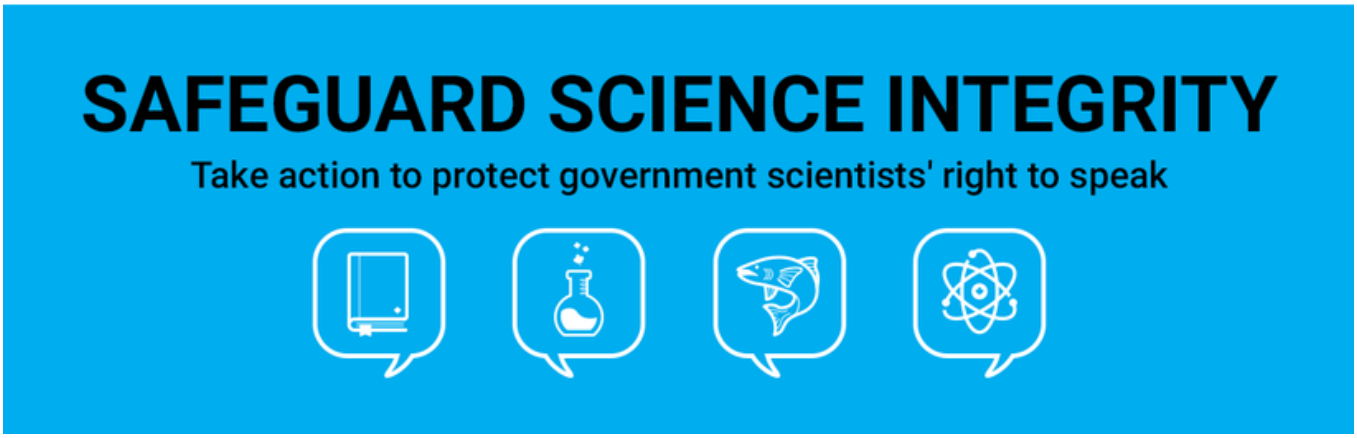
Making sure government scientists are never muzzled again

Thousands of Canadians joined our open letter to the government calling on them to keep their promise to unmuzzle government scientists

Gathered
5500 SIGNATURES
to unmuzzle scientists

SUCCESS:

Science integrity enshrined in collective agreements!



This helped secure a huge win: in May 2017 government scientists signed a new collective agreement that enshrined their right to speak to the media and public about their work and called for the creation of Science Integrity Policies

Keeping science in the public eye

E4D staff and Board of Directors contributed to

67 MEDIA ARTICLES

including radio and TV interviews



The New York Times

When Canadian Scientists Were Muzzled by Their Government

By WENDY PALEN | FEB. 14, 2017

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Less than a month into the Trump presidency, and the forecast for science seems ominous.

Scientists at federal agencies have been hit with gag orders preventing them from communicating their findings, or in some cases, attending scientific conferences. Social media accounts and websites have been censored, and at least one agency was asked to identify personnel who worked on climate policies. Now there are proposals for slashing research budgets and gutting funding that could affect the training of the next generation of scientists. To top it all off, President Trump's cabinet nominees and senior advisers include many who are climate deniers or doubters.

Canadians experienced a similar assault on science a decade ago under Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Just as the American science community is now struggling with whether to speak out and march

E4D Staff and Network of Experts members published 6 opinion articles in major news outlets, and 9 blogs on E4D's website.



OTTAWA CITIZEN

Taylor and Gibbs: A big step forward for Canada's federal scientists

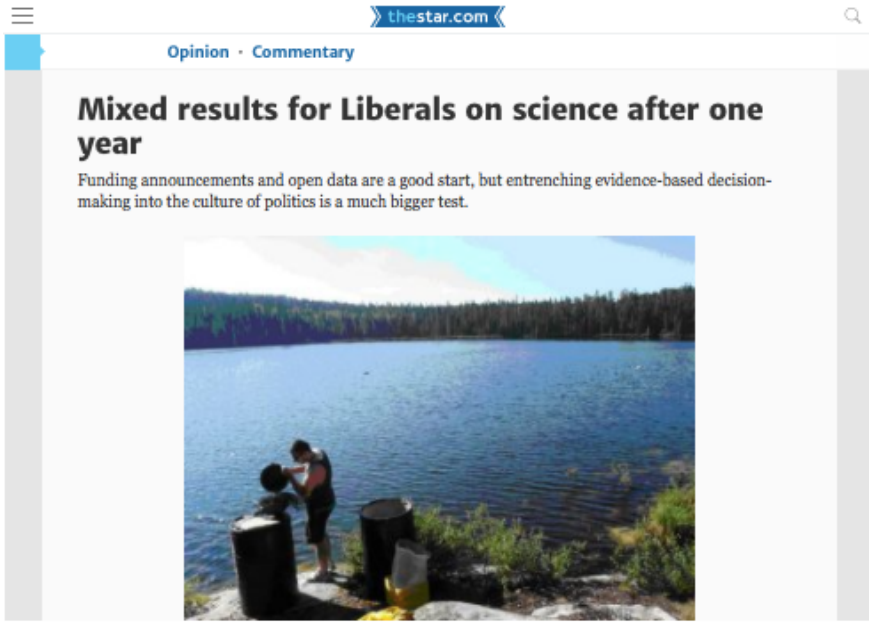
BY KATIE GIBBS AND STEPHANNE TAYLOR | JUNE 14, 2017

Since the election of Donald Trump, Canada has been distancing itself from U.S. policies on everything from immigration to human rights to science.

Things sure have improved since this day in 2013, when scientists held countrywide protests about federal public service scientists being muzzled. A new collective agreement enshrines protections, say Katie Gibbs and Stephanne Taylor.

Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland gave a hard-hitting speech last Tuesday asserting that Canada will step up to lead on the world's stage, and a part of that leadership needs to be progress on science.

Under the Trump administration, U.S. federal scientists have been silenced, restricted from speaking publicly and face a dizzying array of funding cuts and closures. The breathtakingly senseless cuts proposed in the recent U.S. budget will, if even partially



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Opinion · Commentary

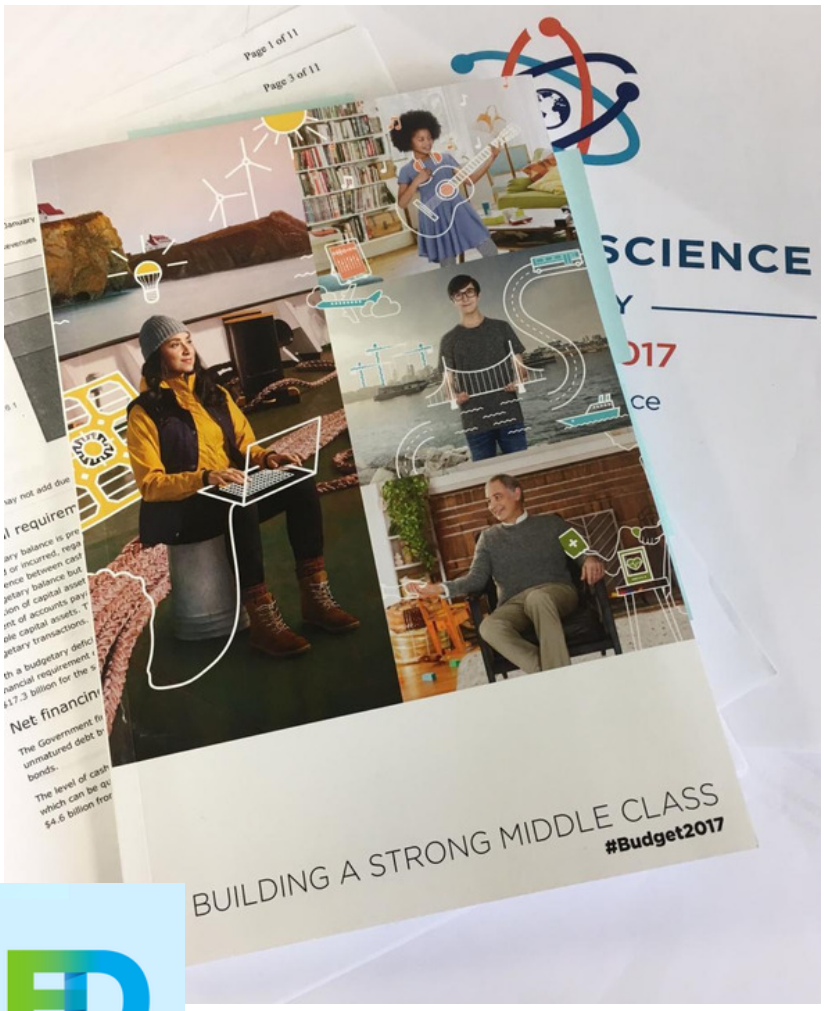
Mixed results for Liberals on science after one year

Funding announcements and open data are a good start, but entrenching evidence-based decision-making into the culture of politics is a much bigger test.

Pushing for science in government policy

We contributed to 6 federal and 1 provincial consultation on proposed legislation or policies including the Fundamental Science Review, Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, drug trial transparency and the mandate of the Ontario Chief Science Advisor







Creating a community to support and advocate for science

Hosted

29 events across the country



Engaged

1500 PEOPLE

directly, in-person on science issues in Canada



Launched

5 TRAINING PROGRAMS

for our Network of Experts



Evidence for Democracy (E4D) is the leading fact-driven, non-partisan, not-for-profit organization promoting the transparent use of evidence in government decision-making in Canada.

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