IMPACT REPORT

EVIDENCE FOR DEMOCRACY
FISCAL YEAR 2017-18

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.

This year, E4D, with the help of the science community, showed that science advocacy works. In an unprecedented unified effort, the science community in Canada has continued to step up and engage more than ever before resulting in concrete positive changes for science in Canada.

This report outlines the progress we've made thanks to generous donors and dedicated supporters like you who share our view that a strong democracy needs strong science.

Budget 2018

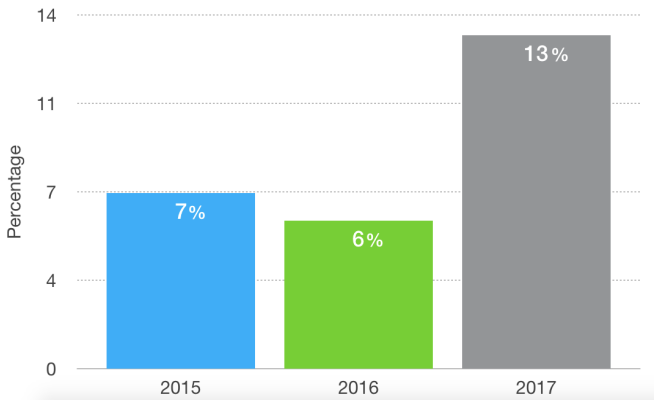
Historic investments for science

A huge focus this year was working to get the recommendations from the Fundamental Science Review Panel Report implemented. We joined many other organizations in a united campaign to #supportthereport to improve and strengthen the fundamental science ecosystem in Canada.

We trained researchers on how to meet with their MPs to talk about the importance of fundamental research and we supported researchers in submitting input to the federal government's budget consultation process.

To help raise awareness of the report, we hosted an event in October 2017 at iPolitics in partnership with the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) featuring distinguished speakers Dr. David C. Naylor, Dr. Brenda Austin-Smith, Dr. Jeremy Kerr, and journalist Paul Wells.





Percentage of budget submissions including science keywords showing an increase in science themed submissions in 2017

All this hard work paid off - budget 2018 saw historic investments in fundamental research with $925 million over five years of new funding for the granting councils and a number of other investments in science like a new multidisciplinary Tri Council Fund, stable funding for the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and funds for new federal science infrastructure.



Chief Scientist Dr. Mona Nemer

Since 2014, E4D and the science community in Canada has been pushing for the re-establishment of a Chief Science Advisor.

In September 2017, the Trudeau government announced that Dr. Mona Nemer would be the new Chief Science Advisor. Dr. Nemer and her staff are mandated to provide science advice to the Prime Minister and Cabinet, to ensure that government science is open to the public and to support science-based decision-making within government.

Getting a Chief Science Advisor in Federal government is a huge win for Canadian science, and a testament to what we can achieve when we work together for science.

Canadian Climate Science



In November 2017, we secured a huge win for climate science in Canada. Bridge funding of $1.6 million was granted to the Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Laboratory (PEARL), keeping it running until September 2019.

PEARL is a vitally important research station in Nunavut, one of only a handful of high arctic research stations in the world. Data collected at PEARL helps us understand important issues like air quality, ozone, and climate change.

Over **2600 CANADIANS** and **250 PROMINENT INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE SCIENTISTS** joined us in calling on the Ministers for Science and Environment and Climate Change to restore funding to PEARL and to maintain science and climate change as top priorities for Canada.



Bridge funding for PEARL was a big win, however the government did not replate the Climate Change and Atmospheric Research program, which funded seven research networks, and PEARL itself only has funding until September 2019. We are continuing to make sure that Canada's commitment to climate action includes funding climate science.

March for Science + Science in the Market

In solidarity with the science community in the US, E4D joined the global March for Science movement by organizing a march and the Science in the Market event in Ottawa and supporting events across the country.

Coordinated **8 CANADIAN** satellite March for Science events ranging from a panel on the local effects of climate change in Halifax to a movie screening in Regina and a march in Toronto (despite very wintery weather!)

Over **800 CANADIANS** attended satellite marches across the country.



























Pushing for science in government policy

*E4D worked with a coalition in British Columbia (consisting of the Professional Employees Association, the British Columbia Government Employees Union, the Northwest Institute, Ecojustice, Organizing for Change, the BC Wildlife Federation, and the Fraser Watershed Initiative) to strengthen environmental decision-making and rebuild their provincial science capacity. The "Who decides for BC?" campaign engaged **500 SUPPORTERS** to call on their MPs to bring environmental decision-making back to the public interest.*

In October, we testified to the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics for Bill C-58, the Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act. We highlighted concerns surrounding new authority in the bill for departments to deny requests and to suggest improvements to the bill.

E4D contributed to 2 federal consultations on proposed legislation or policies. One on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, the National Energy Board Act, and the Fisheries Act; and another on the pre-budget consultation process for Budget 2018.

E4D contributed to consultations on updating Canada's environmental assessment legislation by participating in a collaborative initiative that brought together **25 SCHOLARS** and practitioners of environmental science, law, and policy from Canadian academic, government, non-government, and private sectors.

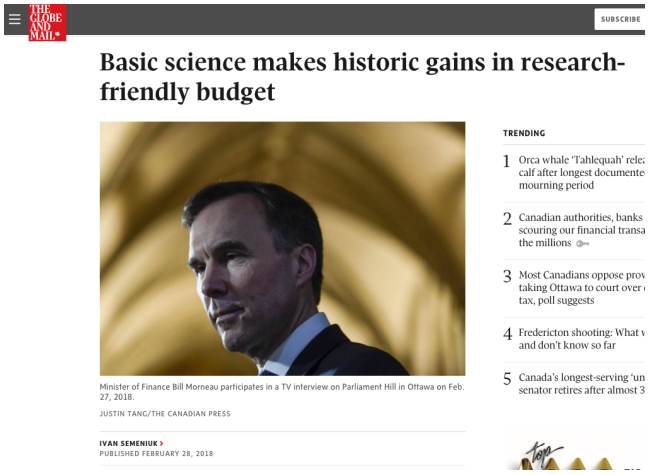
The resulting report, Strong Foundations, identifies 8 priorities and 7 gaps that the government must address to ensure that environmental assessment has a solid foundation of science.

Keeping science in the public eye

E4D staff and board members contributed to

54 MEDIA

articles and radio interviews over the year


THE GLOBE AND MAIL

SUBSCRIBE

Basic science makes historic gains in research-friendly budget

Minister of Finance Bill Morneau participates in a TV interview on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Feb. 27, 2018.

JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 28, 2018

TRENDING

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OPINIONS

Reversing Canada's decade of darkness in science policy

By Katie Gibbs and Kathleen Walsh. Published on Sep 11, 2017 2:22pm

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Scientists are not renowned for their advocacy skills — but they know how to take action when it's needed.

Recently, the global science community has been flexing its muscles. Back in the spring, the global March for Science movement pulled off the largest pro-science demonstration in history. What started as a response to the blatant anti-science policies of the Trump administration quickly morphed into a broader movement about strengthening the role of science in society and policy-making.

E4D staff and NOE contributed to and published

10 OPINION ARTICLES

in major media outlets and

19 BLOGS

on E4D's website

E4D, along with international collaborators, contributed to a scientific paper on science integrity issues titled "Defending the scientific integrity of conservation-policy processes," which was published in the journal Conservation Biology.



Creating a community to support and advocate for science

Hosted **37 EVENTS** across the country to bring together researchers, students and science aficionados, engaging over **2500 PEOPLE!**



Offered one-on-one support to 10 E4D supporters by assisting with writing op-eds, preparing to meet with MPs and supporting with other government relations.



Hosted

9 #CDNSCICHAT

Twitter chats with 11 SCIENTISTS *and science communicators answering questions about their research and engaging with the online science community.*

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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