

IMPACT REPORT

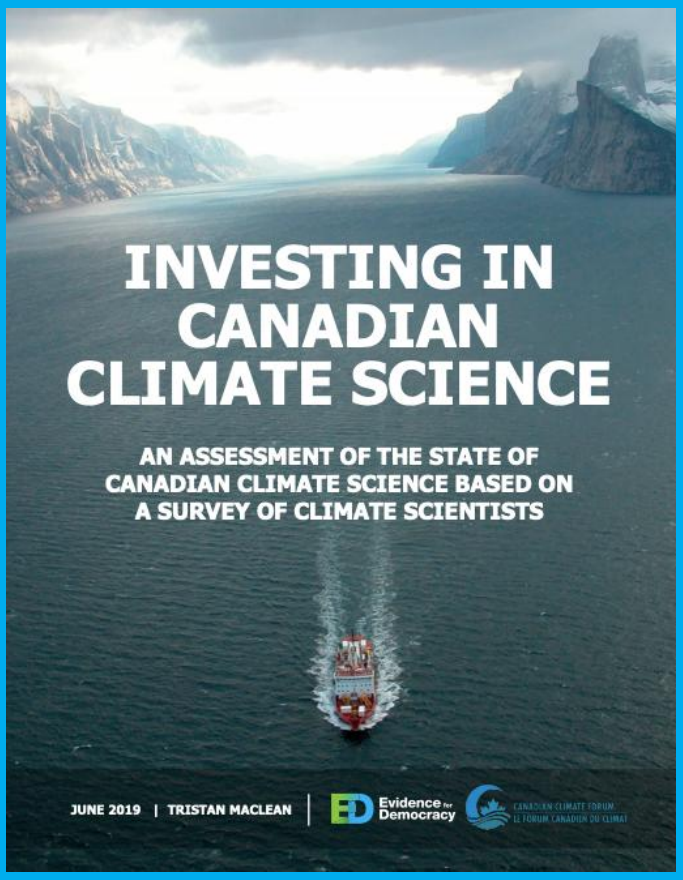
EVIDENCE FOR DEMOCRACY
FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

We all benefit when governments make smart policy decisions, informed by the best available evidence.

Evidence for Democracy works to engage and empower the science community while cultivating public and political demand for evidence-based decision-making.

Thanks to you, we've had a big year! This year we ramped up our work on climate, began a deep dive into how Members of Parliament access evidence to make decisions, started looking internationally at the field of evidence-based decision-making, and worked hard to defend truth and facts in the face of changing political climates in Canada and internationally.

CLIMATE SCIENCE REPORT



This year, Evidence for Democracy and the Canadian Climate Forum conducted a study examining the funding landscape for climate science in Canada. The study included interviews and a survey of 84 climate scientists along with extensive analysis of grant funding. Seven recommendations in three key areas were included in the resulting report including improved support for climate scientists, improved planning and coordination of funding in the field, and the improved use of data to strengthen the field overall.

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Canadian climate scientists need more funding, especially long-term, mid-sized grants for climate and atmospheric research.

"We need continuity in climate science-specific funding in order to maintain vital long-term monitoring programs..." - survey respondent

94% of respondents recommended more funding for government-academic collaborations.

77% of surveyed climate scientists say that highly qualified personnel have left the field.

6% of climate scientists surveyed do not rely on foreign resources for their research.

CANADIAN SCIENTISTS STAND WITH YOUTH STRIKING FOR CLIMATE



In August 2018, Swedish student Greta Thunberg walked out of school to hand out information on the climate crisis on the steps of Swedish parliament. She sparked an international, youth-led movement calling on world leaders to take bold action in the face of this emergency. One year later, they're still going strong. Students around the globe continue to strike from school on Fridays to demand that leaders safeguard the futures of their generation and those to come after.

In an effort to make sure that Canadian students know the Canadian science community is behind them,

+600 CANADIAN SCIENTISTS

signed an open letter of support, joining the voices of tens of thousands of scientists around the world. The demands of the students are backed by robust scientific evidence and action cannot wait. If you'd like to add your name to the open letter, visit our website.







E4D staff and supporters also attended strikes to show solidarity with the students.

THE FUNDAMENTAL SCIENCE REVIEW: WHERE ARE WE AT?

In the years since the Fundamental Science Review called upon the government to take action to improve fundamental research in Canada, the federal government has demonstrated that they are using the recommendations as a road map. Both Budget 2018 and 2019 made meaningful investments to this end, making significant progress on the recommendations.

BUDGET 2019

Budget 2019 boosted support for science and research through investments in graduate student scholarships, new initiatives for making science more inclusive and accessible, support of the Arctic and Northern Communities including significant investments in Arctic Science, and support for programming to combat misinformation.

EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING

When decisions are based on robust scientific evidence, all Canadians benefit. E4D began new work this year to promote the transparent use of evidence in government decision-making, both in Canada and internationally.

STRENGTHENING THE GLOBAL FIELD OF EVIDENCE-INFORMED POLICYMAKING

In August 2018, our Executive Director joined a group of 17 leaders from more than six countries and various backgrounds and disciplines to come together to think about actions and activities to advance the field of evidence-informed policymaking.



The discussion paper that resulted from that meeting inspired a workshop on evidence-informed policymaking that E4D co-hosted with the Institute on Governance in December to bring a Canadian perspective to the conversation of strengthening the field of evidence-informed policymaking. This meeting brought together individuals from the federal government, academia, and non-government sectors. The result was an in-depth discussion to spark a conversation about strengthening this field in Canada.

INVESTIGATING CANADA'S CAPACITY FOR EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING

We are in the final stages of a project examining how decision-makers gather information to support their decision-making. We embarked on this project earlier this year, interviewing 16 Members of Parliament and their staff about where they get information, how they weigh evidence from various sources, and what they take into account and why.










Now, we are putting all this information together into a report we are excited to share with you this fall with the goal of deepening the practice and efficiency of evidence-based policy in Canada, and to provide scientists, and experts with a better understanding of how they can get their work into the hands of decisions-makers.





*We wish to recognize the unexpected passing of MP Deepak Obhrai during the course of the study. We are thankful to have had the chance to connect with him as part of this work.

INQUIRING INTO ONTARIO SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

We have been monitoring the state of science and research in Ontario following the early indication from the new provincial government that science was at risk. Premier Ford's move to dismiss the Chief Scientist just days into his mandate prompted us to write a letter encouraging him to fill the position with a qualified candidate, to publish an op-ed highlighting the need for a Chief Scientist in the face of some decisions that were not based on evidence, and to set in motion an access to information request.

Based on what we got back, there is no indication that the Ontario government has made any efforts to fill the Chief Scientist position.

Also in Ontario, following the elimination of the position of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, we supported scientists in writing an open letter to the Premier calling on him to reconsider. The letter was signed by over 200 scientists.



Unfortunately, as of April 2019, the Environmental Commissioner office was absorbed into the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario.

KEEPING SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC EYE

E4D staff and board members contributed to

35 MEDIA ARTICLES

and radio interviews over the year.

E4D staff and NoE contributed to and published

5 OPINION ARTICLES in major media outlets and

29 BLOG POSTS on E4D's website


Ottawa unveils integrity i
interference

IVAN SEMENIUK > SCIENCE REPORTER
PUBLISHED JULY 29, 2018

24 COMMENTS

Releasing scientific information to the public in a timely man
discussion around different interpretations of research result
government labs from political interference – all are bedrock
integrity that have now been enshrined in a new set of guidel
departments.

The model policy, released on Monday, is intended to help de
scientific integrity provisions that were included last year in
with the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canad
represents most of the scientists working in government labs


The Narwhal

NEWS

In the age of misinformation, advocates call for Canadians to vote for science

As U.S. President Donald Trump attempts to slash science budgets south of the border, a coalition of Canadian organizations is campaigning for Canadians to put science on the agenda of this fall's federal election

Cue the lab coat-clad politicians with their bubbling beakers: the #VoteScience campaign launches today with a goal of putting science front and centre in federal candidates' minds as they go about campaigning this fall.

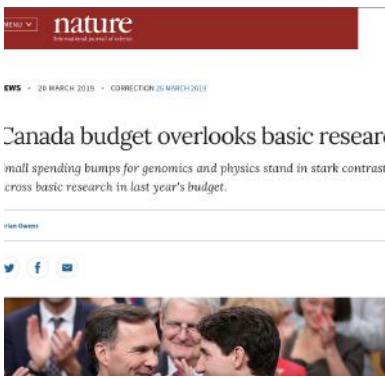
Organizers say the campaign is filling a void in the conversations we expect as the election


Ottawa must increase funding for climate science or risk falling behind, scientists say

Survey of climate scientists raises concerns over inadequate gov't investment

Ryan Patrick Jones · CBC News · Posted: Jun 27, 2019 6:00 AM CT | Last Updated: June 27

A new report that surveyed nearly 100 climate scientists is sounding the alarm on the state of federal funding


nature

NEWS · 20 MARCH 2019 · CORRECTION 26 MARCH 2019

Canada budget overlooks basic researc

mall spending bumps for genomics and physics stand in stark contrast cross basic research in last year's budget.

CREATING A COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT AND ADVOCATE FOR SCIENCE

HOSTED 30 EVENTS

across the country to bring together researchers, students, and science aficionados,

ENGAGING >1400 PEOPLE!









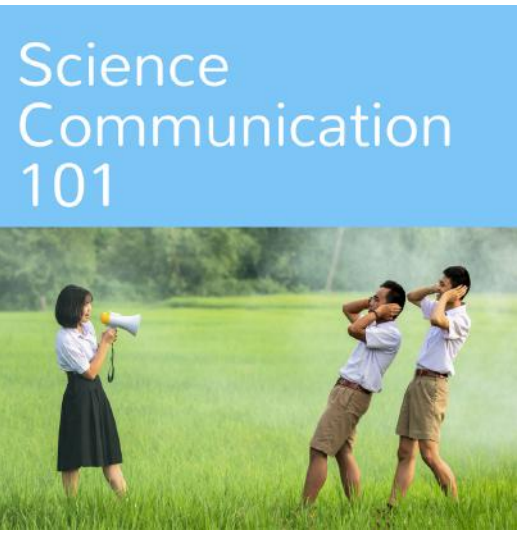
Delivered

6 WEBINARS

training nearly

300 SUPPORTERS

on government relations, science policy, science communication, and misinformation.







Hosted

9 #CDNSCICHAT

Twitter chats with

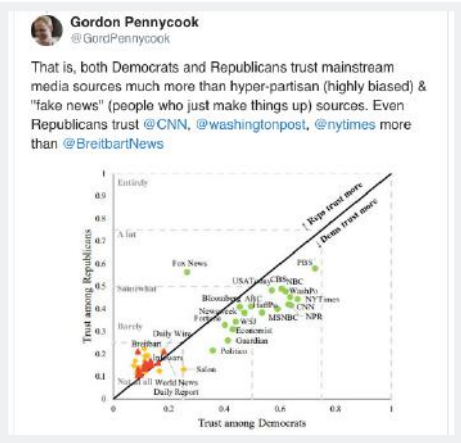
11 SCIENTISTS + SCIENCE COMMUNICATORS

answering questions about their research and engaging with the online science community.

The chats received over 280 000 impressions and 2700 engagements on Twitter!







E4D works alongside so many other great initiatives and organizations to support science and strengthen our democracy. By aligning our efforts and uplifting each others' work, we have a greater impact and reach more Canadians. Below are just a few of the programs we were lucky to participate in this year:

- DemocracyXChange
- Canada 2067
- March for Science Summit Chicago
- Kroeger Policy Connect
- American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting

BREAKDOWN OF E4D'S FUNDING SOURCES

The work of Evidence for Democracy is made possible thanks to more than

1700 INDIVIDUAL DONORS

+ 270 MONTHLY DONORS

and the support of the following foundations:

Wilburforce Foundation
Trottier Foundation
Ivey Foundation
Hewlett Foundation

THANK YOU!





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evidencefordemocracy.ca