Evidence for Democracy

IMPACT REPORT 2024-2025

About Evidence For Democracy

Evidence for Democracy (E4D) is Canada's leading non-partisan, not-for-profit organization dedicated to integrating scientific evidence into government decision-making. Through research, skills training, and advocacy, we empower researchers to actively participate in democracy actively, fostering a national culture that values science and evidence. We envision a society where informed citizens and accountable governments collaborate, and where researchers play a critical role in shaping policies that address humanity's greatest challenges. By driving public demand for transparent, evidence-informed policies, we work to ensure that all Canadians benefit from decisions grounded in the best available science.



Message from the Executive Director

As I reflect on the past year at Evidence for Democracy, I'm struck by both the breadth of our work and the strength of the community that makes it possible. Since joining E4D in early June, I've been continually inspired by the commitment and passion our staff, partners, and supporters bring to our vision of building a society where public decisions are guided by the best available evidence.

This year, we held policymakers accountable by tracking progress on key science and research commitments from the Naylor and Bouchard reports. We launched the *Science Advocacy Hub*, equipping researchers across Canada with new tools to raise their voices. We released the *Eyes on Evidence Toolkit* to support greater transparency in policymaking. We trained 24 early-career researchers through our *Science to Policy Accelerator* program, and in an important election year, we mobilized thousands through our *Vote Science*, *Dear Future Premier*, and *Stand Up for Science* campaigns, demonstrating the power of collective action in defending science.

None of this would have been possible without you. Whether you joined an event, shared our work, or made a donation, I want to say: thank you. Your support drives our momentum and gives us the courage to keep going.

While challenges remain, this year reminded us that meaningful change is possible. With frequent attacks on science south of the border that directly impact researchers in Canada, we're reminded that E4D's mission is just as relevant today as it was when we were founded in 2012. And with new tools and campaigns ahead, we're ready to keep building together. I just can't wait to show you what we have in store for the future.



Félix Proulx-Giraldeau
Interim Executive Director
Evidence for Democracy

E4D in the Media

E4D regularly shares insights in the media on science, evidence, and policy issues.

This year, E4D was featured in:

41

media interviews and news mentions this year.



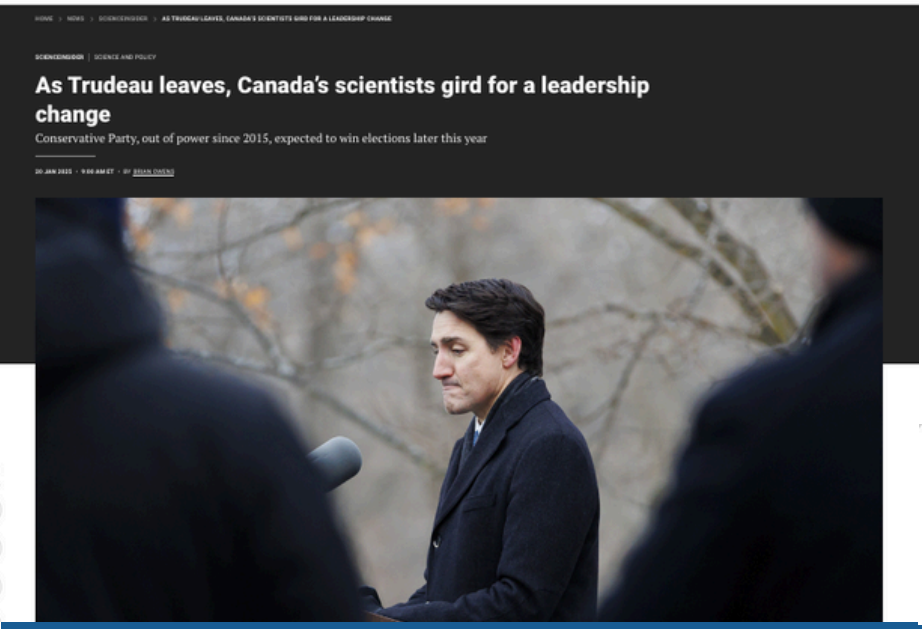
Increasing the place of science within government: Q&A with I Nemer, Canada's Chief Science Advisor

Mark Lowey

September 25, 2024

Mark Lowey





NATURE BRIEFING | 03 June 2025

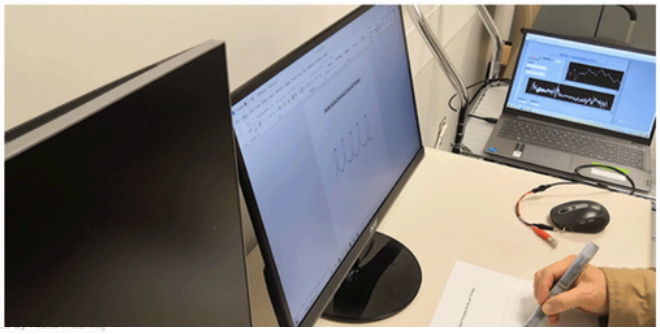
Daily briefing: NIH foreign-grant cuts could leave thousands without care worldwide

Cuts to US 'foreign subawards' will abruptly end hundreds of clinical trials abroad. Plus, an mpox outbreak is overwhelming Sierra Leone's health system and a rock with a painted dot that just might represent a nose.

By Flora Graham

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Hello *Nature* readers, would you like to get this Briefing in your inbox free every day? Sign up here.

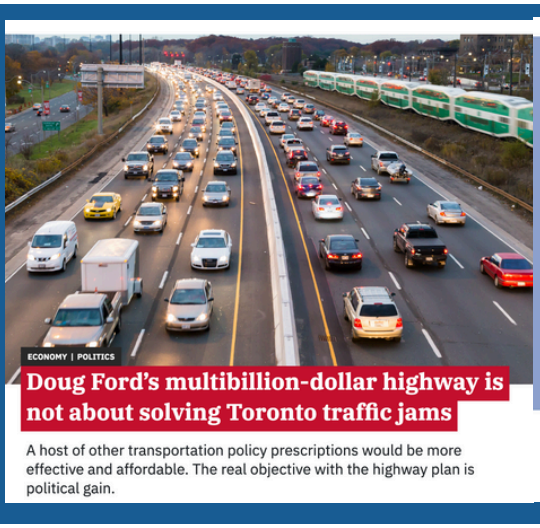


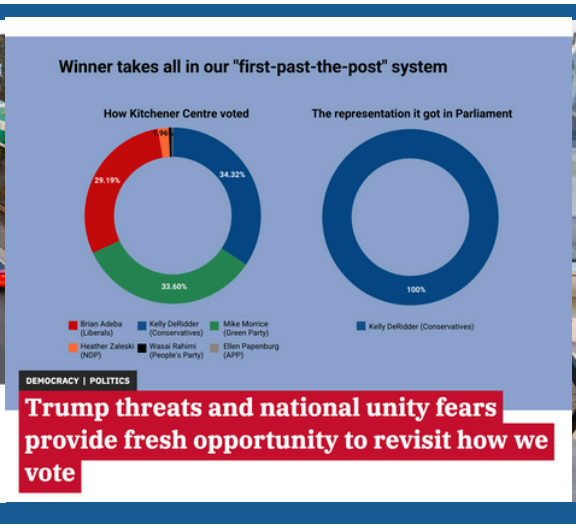
Politics

AI interference, misinformation raise concerns ahead of Ontario election

By Alexa MacKie , February 23, 2025 0 5 min read

Published **12** **Op-Eds**







and **18** **Blog Posts**













Research

Fundamental Science Review

In 2016, the Government of Canada launched the Advisory Panel on Federal Support for Fundamental Science, chaired by Dr. David Naylor. The panel's report, known as the *Fundamental Science Review* (FSR), was released in 2017 and included 35 recommendations to strengthen Canada's research ecosystem.

Since then, the FSR has served as a guiding document for improving research support in Canada and E4D has tracked the implementation of its recommendations through regular reviews. This year, we completed our third assessment of progress.
As of January 2025, we found that 11 recommendations are complete, 14 are in progress, and 10 remain unresolved.



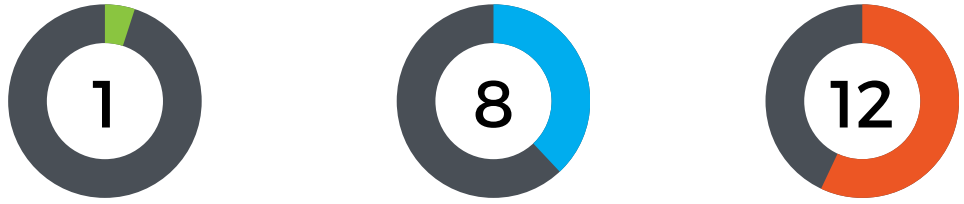
Our review identified meaningful progress in areas like digital research infrastructure and research governance. For example, the federal government finalized the consolidation of infrastructure leadership and began implementing changes to federal advisory structures. However, several key recommendations remain unaddressed. One recommendation, calling for a permanent Tri-Council mechanism to support rapid response research, has seen a decline in progress since 2021.

E4D continues to monitor federal action on the FSR and to advocate for a stronger, more coordinated research ecosystem in Canada.

Report of the Advisory Panel on the Federal Research Support Systems

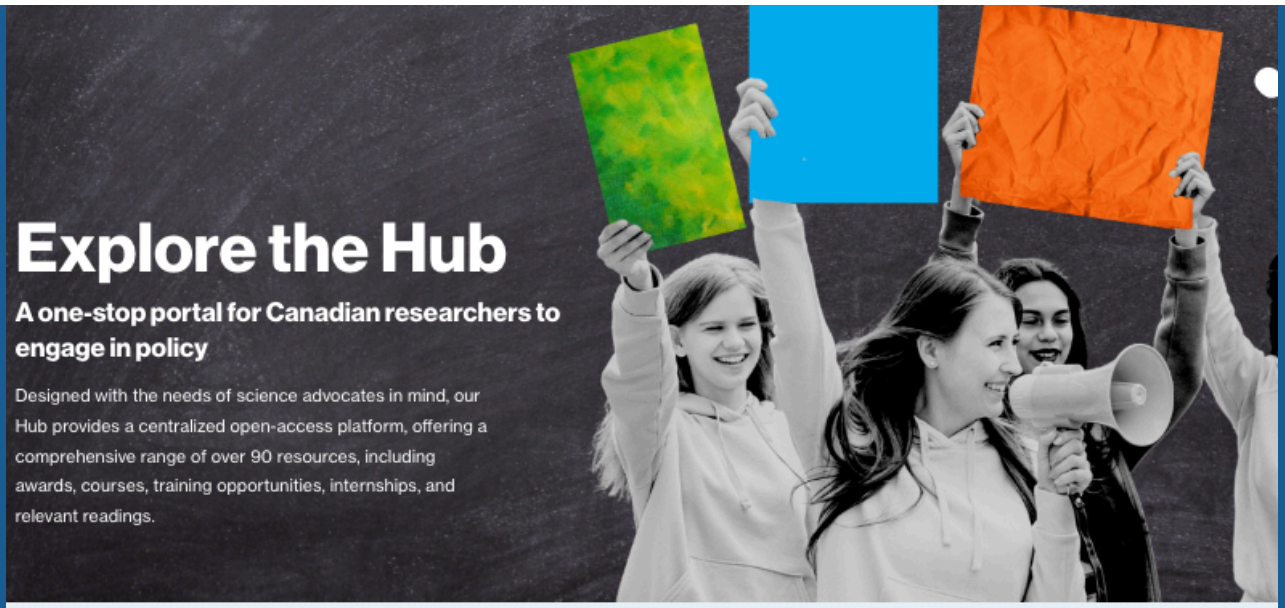
The Bouchard Report, released in 2023, presented a bold vision for modernizing Canada's federal research support system. With 21 detailed recommendations, it offered a path forward to better support researchers and ensure that Canada remains competitive on the global stage. The report has since become a reference point for science advocates and policymakers across the country.

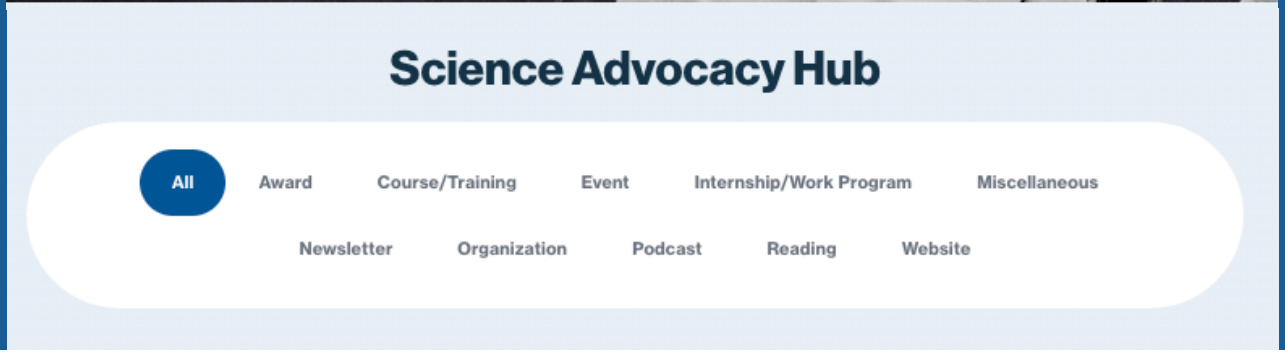
Since its release, E4D has played a key role in tracking the report's progress. In the lead-up to its second anniversary, we published our first review of the government's response to each recommendation. Our analysis found that while some action has been taken, most recommendations remain incomplete. Out of the 21, only 1 has been fully implemented, 8 are underway, and 12 have yet to be addressed.



By providing this step-by-step progress check, E4D is helping to maintain momentum and accountability. We also continue to communicate these findings to government decision-makers and the broader public, ensuring that the report does not fade from view.

This year, we were thrilled to launch the *Science Advocacy Hub*, a new one-stop portal created to equip researchers and scientists across Canada with the tools they need to make their voices heard. The Hub offers a growing library of practical resources, including how-to guides for engaging with policymakers and tips for building compelling advocacy campaigns. Whether you are new to advocacy or already experienced, the Hub is designed to support your efforts to strengthen the role of science in public decision-making.





Training

Science to Policy Accelerator - 2025 Edition

In May 2025, we hosted 24 early-career researchers as part of the second cohort of our Science to Policy Accelerator (S2PA), where participants gained foundational knowledge of Canadian policymaking, developed practical skills in briefing note writing, policy engagement, and science communication, and connected with experts and peers shaping the science–policy landscape. They applied these skills through activities like writing briefing notes and contributing to pre-budget consultations, with every respondent saying they would recommend the program to a colleague.

> **S2PA was a supportive environment that was able to pack a ton of information into a short period of time and made me feel empowered to help make positive change in my community and country**

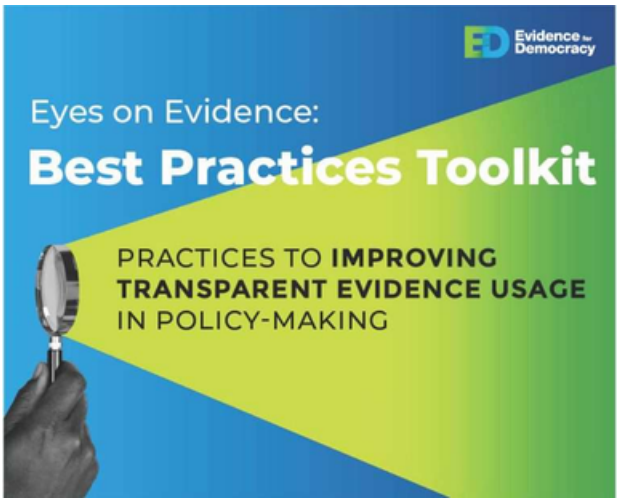
- 2025 S2PA Cohort Participant

> **The program was exceptionally well-organized, with each session thoughtfully focused on a specific topic from science policy fundamentals to navigating careers in the field. I had the opportunity to connect with a group of like-minded researchers from diverse disciplines. We laughed, learned, and supported one another throughout the program, which also made it a valuable networking experience.**

- 2025 S2PA Cohort Participant

Eyes on Evidence: Best Practices Toolkit

In 2024, E4D released our *Eyes on Evidence: Best Practices Toolkit* to support better use of evidence in government decision-making. The resource offers clear guidance, practical tools, and real-world examples to help policymakers improve transparency throughout the policy process.



View The Toolkit

Developed as part of our Eyes on Evidence project, this Toolkit builds on three years of research into how evidence is used across Canada. It draws from leading international practices, includes solutions for strengthening government systems, and features insights from E4D's own reports and annotated bibliography on transparency in policymaking.

While the Toolkit is designed with Canadian policymakers in mind, it has also proven valuable to researchers, advocates, and public servants in other countries. By showcasing global examples and offering adaptable strategies, the Toolkit supports more open and accountable governance.

To complement the Toolkit, we also released three companion guides designed to provide targeted, real-time support. These include *From Data to Decisions: Unraveling the Transparency Puzzle, Communicating Technical Evidence Checklist*, and *Checklist: Turning Evidence-Based Policy into Action*.

This project reflects E4D's continued commitment to improving how evidence is used in policy. Through this resource, we are helping decision-makers across sectors create policies that are not only informed by the best available evidence but also transparent to the public they serve.

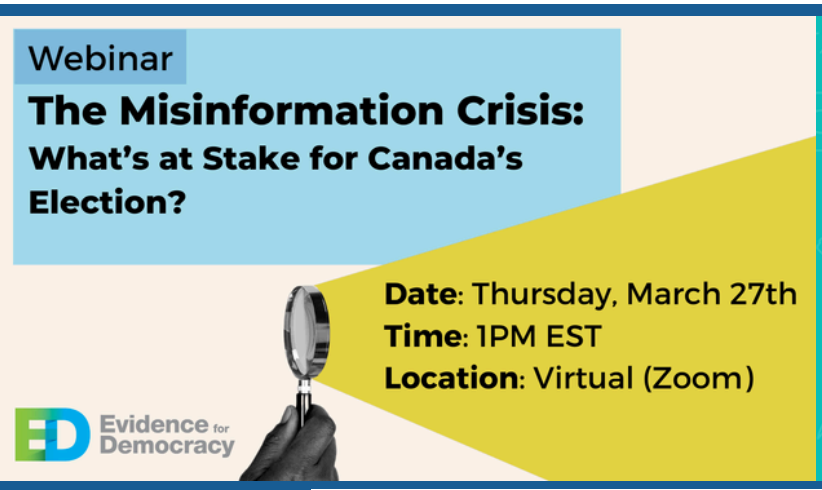
Outreach, Webinars and Events

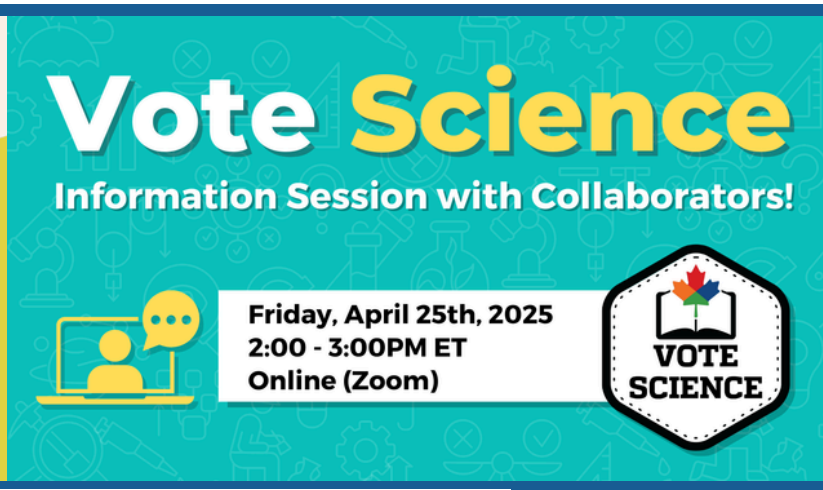
This past year was filled with **talks, panels, webinars**, and **more!**

26
Events

1200+
Participants

E4D hosted/cohosted **5** of these events!






Workshop Recap: Advocacy Tools for a Critical Election Year

Posted on 2025-04-17

Making Brain Research Matter with Evidence for Democracy

We launched our new event series on **Safeguarding Science & Research in an Election Year** in which we discussed the spread of misinformation, growing polarization of politics, and rise in political interference in scientific research. We hosted two events from this series in the past year.

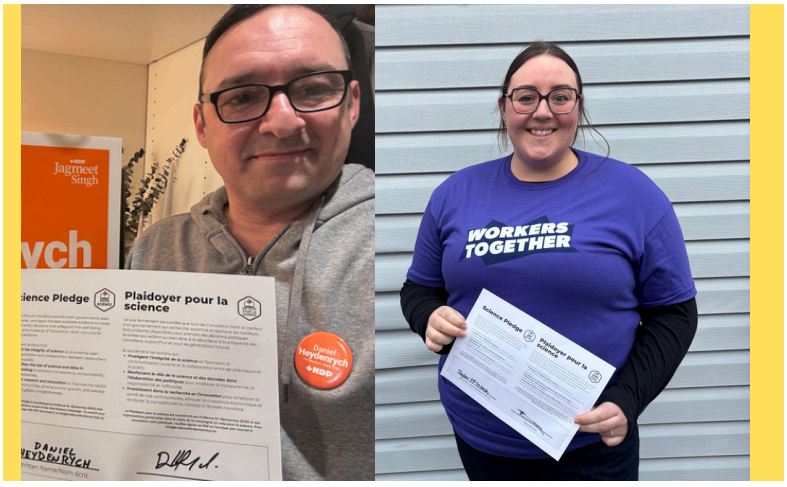




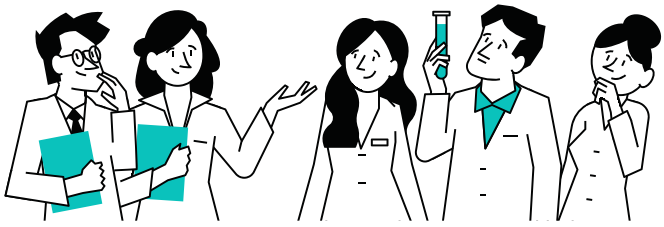
Vote Science Campaign 2025

In the lead-up to the federal election, we launched our bilingual *Vote Science* (see French) campaign to make science and evidence key priorities for candidates and voters. The campaign provided clear, accessible tools to help Canadians engage with local candidates, including email templates, key questions, and shareable graphics.





Two of the 47 candidates who signed onto the science pledge



The success of the *Vote Science* campaign would not have been possible without the incredible support of our collaborators. Their partnership helped us reach wider audiences, strengthen our message, and advocate for evidence-informed decision-making throughout the election.

Dear Future Premier Campaign

In five provinces across the country, we brought science to the forefront of provincial elections through our *Dear Future Premier* campaign. This non-partisan initiative called on voters to engage with local candidates and demand that science and evidence be central to provincial policy decisions.



Running in Ontario, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, the campaign provided easy-to-use tools for citizens to send messages directly to electoral candidates. Hundreds of messages were sent by constituents, calling on future premiers to strengthen scientific integrity, invest in research, and make evidence-informed decisions.



Canadians in Solidarity with Stand up for Science

In response to growing threats to science and international research collaboration, E4D supported the *Stand up for Science* campaign, which rallied over 800 individuals and 23 organizations to defend scientific integrity. Through our open letter, we sent a clear message to decision-makers: science in Canada must remain independent, well-funded, and free from political interference. This campaign also introduced our new resource, *Trump's War on Science: How His Policies Affect Canadian Research*, which tracks U.S. policy changes and their impact on Canadian research. As global shifts continue to threaten evidence-informed decision-making, this work helps ensure Canada stays alert, responsive, and committed to protecting science bibliography on transparency in policymaking.

> **The recent impacts of the Trump administration on science and research in the U.S. threaten the very foundation of evidence-informed policymaking. These actions have far-reaching consequences, affecting research funding and scientific integrity on both sides of the border. Canada must stand strong in defence of science.**

- Senator Dr. Stanley Kutcher

> **Science is critical in providing evidence to ensure a sustainable economy and environment. In order to thrive, we must ensure that facts inform opinions and not allow opinions to inform facts.**

- Dr. John P. Smol, Distinguished University Professor

Partner Hosted Campaigns





CAGS Canadian Association for Graduate Studies | the COLLABORATIVE

E4D sent out **4000+ Letters** through partner hosted campaigns!

Roots of Change Blog Series

In 2024, we launched the *Roots of Change* blog series as part of our new Advocacy Hub. This series highlights stories of science advocacy and grassroots change from across Canada, showcasing how individuals and communities are driving impact at the intersection of science, society, and policy. Through the first three blog posts, we've amplified diverse voices and inspired others to take action for evidence-informed change.



The Year Ahead

As we reflect on the past year, one of the biggest highlights was our work around the elections, where we mobilized our community to speak up for evidence-informed policy. This work demonstrated the power of collective action and the importance of ensuring science has a voice in the decisions that shape our communities.

Looking ahead, we're excited to launch two new resources: a *Misinformation Toolkit* and a *Municipal Advocacy Toolkit*. These will help individuals push back against false information and engage effectively with their local governments. We're also planning to continue expanding our Network of Experts and engaging with our Policy Engagement Committee. We can't wait to see the impact these tools will have in the year ahead.



Partnerships

Impact is strengthened through collaboration. We're proud to work alongside numerous outstanding initiatives and organizations, amplifying our shared efforts and supporting a stronger democracy. Here are some of the remarkable partners and collaborators we've worked with over the past year.

Funding & Contributions

300+

Donors

- **The Wilburforce Foundation**
- **The Trottier Family Foundation**
- **PIPSC**



Visit www.evidencefordemocracy.ca