

October 30, 2017

Minister of Science
Hon. Kirsty Duncan (kirsty.duncan@parl.gc.ca)

Subject: Rebuilding Research for All Canadians - Implementation of the Naylor Report

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the University of Toronto Faculty Association, I am writing to encourage you to implement fully the recommendations of the Advisory Panel on Federal Support for Fundamental Science—also known as the Naylor report—to rebuild fundamental research in Canada. We stand with a broad range of voices on this front, and for good reason.

Fundamental research is important for all Canadians. It has led to many discoveries that improve the daily lives of Canadians, such as broadband internet and wireless communications, treatments for life-threatening diseases, and improvements to automobile safety. The University of Toronto is at the forefront of such research. Just in the last year, for instance, researchers at the University of Toronto have:

- used nanoparticles to develop less expensive and brighter lasers;
- identified 18 new genes that increase the risk of autism;
- discovered how a common virus evades the body's natural defences; and,
- designed a method of fighting pathogens by using a protein found in every cell.

Research is also a key economic driver for Canada nationally and locally: not only does it provide jobs for highly qualified staff and students, it also trains the next generation of innovators and grows our economy.

Yet the Naylor report shows that Canada is falling behind. Government funding for research has steadily declined over the past 15 years and Canada is no longer in the top 30 nations for research spending (relative to GDP). In constant dollars, granting council funding per researcher has been in steady decline since 2008–09, which means that Canada is stalling relative to peers.

Right now, this Parliament has the historic opportunity to make its mark and restore Canada to its rightful place among the global leaders in research and development.

I hope that you will work to rebuild research for all Canadians by fully implementing the recommendations from the Naylor report. You can find the full report and recommendations here: sciencereview.ca.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Messenger', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cynthia Messenger
President
University of Toronto Faculty Association

Cc:

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister (justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance (Bill.Morneau@parl.gc.ca)

Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development
(Navdeep.Bains@parl.gc.ca)