

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, PC, MP, Toronto St. Paul's
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Bennett:

As you know, the Fundamental Science Review Report provides a sensible, affordable and comprehensive roadmap for multi-year reinvestment in research. I support the Report and hope that I can count on your voice to support it too.

We are living longer today because we have cleaner air to breathe, healthier foods to eat, better exercise regimes to follow and of course better medicines to take. All of these, and many other innovations, have provided us with a better quality of life. Innovations stem from inventions – discoveries made in research laboratories across our great country.

We know that our future economy depends on the innovation economy, yet without investment in research, there will be little innovation on which to build this economy. An investment in research will result in the highly skilled workforce needed to achieve success in the innovation economy. An investment in research will lead to discoveries and inventions that form the basis of these innovations.

I am intimately aware of the opportunities afforded by an investment in research. I have started 3 spin-off companies from research in my lab, patented 20+ inventions, many of which have been licensed by industry, and graduated over 150 highly skilled researchers who are working in a diversity of jobs in industry, government and academia. Researchers from my lab are making a difference in the innovation economy, but it is not enough.

Shockingly, reinvestment in independent research has fallen by ~35% per researcher over the last decade. We must invest in fundamental science in order to drive innovation, create economic growth, ultimately ensuring the well-being of Canadians.

Investigator-led research not only fuels our capacity to innovate but also to understand, igniting the curiosity of future generations. Answering questions and solving problems are at the core of science. Our future depends on our capacity to create and innovate. There is a global war on talent. The future won't wait. We need to act now.

I ask you to support the Fundamental Science Review Report.

Sincerely,

Molly Shoichet

University Professor, University of Toronto
Resident, Toronto St. Paul's