



- 1. Financial support from the Canadian government is essential to ensure Canadian researchers continue to innovate and make important independent discoveries. Over the last years, many research teams have seen their budgets cut because of increasing demand and therefore decreasing success rates in open funding programs. How would your government work to reverse this trend?***

We often ascribe the most revolutionary scientific discoveries to pure chance - or accident - but this is an oversimplification of how science works. The discoveries that fundamentally shape our understanding of the world we inhabit, and change lives in the process, are the product of years of hard work by dedicated scientists. Investigating the fundamental building blocks of natural systems and the curiosity-driven pursuit of ever expanding scientific frontiers are the true drivers of long-term innovation.

We must support this work through federal funding and defend and promote discovery science and basic research. Funding for curiosity-driven and basic research is scarce in Canada. Instead of funding scientific inquiry, we are subsidizing the profit-driven research & development of large corporations. Too often the first subject of austerity cuts, Greens recognize and promote the importance of long-term, sustainable funding of innovative research. The health of basic research in Canada must be restored.

- 2. How do you see the role of government in research? Should government agencies take an active role in identifying and targeting specific research priorities or should they benefit from the wealth of knowledge and information within our scientific communities by emphasizing the value of peer-review in determining the most exciting and important scientific research questions?***

Governments are both uniquely placed and democratically mandated to make full use of available scientific evidence in service of the public good. But to access the best available evidence, we need to invest in the best available science. Scientists - not government agencies - are best placed to identify research priorities. The Green Party believes government must work more closely with peer-review scientific communities to establish research priorities and ensure proper funding for the best available research.

We must also restore the role of research as the backbone of governance. We will start by bolstering the science-based decision-making capacity of the executive and legislative branches. The foolish cuts made by the Harper Conservatives must be reversed and the position of the National Science Advisor to the Prime Minister restored. As many experts have

called for, we must establish an independent Parliamentary Science Officer to provide Parliamentarians and the public with independent scientific analysis on the issues of the day. The Green Party will also build a mandatory evaluation of the evidentiary foundations of any proposed legislation into the federal legislative process. The Green Party commits to unmuzzling our federal scientists. Public science belongs to the people. In June, 2015, Elizabeth May introduced the [Public Access to Science Act](#) to make all publicly funded scientific research publicly accessible by law.

**3. *Many recent government policies favour research with immediate applied value and potential industrial partnership. However, most great discoveries in science come from basic, curiosity-driven research, and supporting basic research is therefore an investment in the future. Canadian scientists are worried the balance is currently shifted too strongly towards applied research, at the detriment of basic research. How would your government work to balance the need for both applied and curiosity-driven basic research?***

The value of publicly funded science is that it constitutes a collective investment in our future. By starving the source of creativity and discovery, we are rapidly losing our capacity for long-term innovation. Funding that was previously destined for basic and curiosity-driven research in many labs across Canada has been shifted into partnerships with industry, with a concentration in large research-intensive universities. This is bad policy, both for enhancing scientific research and for the education of highly qualified scientists across the country. Graduate students can find themselves spending more time filling out grant applications than working in their own labs. Green MPs will fight to rectify this imbalance and restore funding to basic and curiosity-driven research.

