



# CAN-ACN

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR NEUROSCIENCE  
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES NEUROSCIENCES

Quebec City, March 2, 2018

Dear CAN members and colleagues,

Budget 2018 has just been tabled, and it includes large investments in science funding. I wish to thank all of you who helped make this happen. The government heard our #supportthereport message loud and clear, through associations and universities, but mostly thanks to individuals like you, who took the time to write letters, meet with your Members of Parliament, record videos explaining why you #supportthereport, be vocal on social media, talk about this issue in public forums, help mobilize your colleagues, put out the arguments to convince the government that supporting fundamental research is in the best interest of all Canadians, show how many jobs you create, thank the government for funding you received, and show the real impact of funding fundamental research. Each of you made a unique contribution to this large movement that had a very positive result.

This incredible grassroots mobilisation occurred following years of neglect of fundamental science that resulted in a funding situation that led to many projects being abandoned, and laboratories downsizing dramatically, or even closing. The good news is that when we all rally together, we can make a change. And we must continue our efforts.

Some of you rightfully noted that this budget is not a full implementation of the recommendations of the Fundamental Science Review (Naylor report). It is, however, a very positive first step in the right direction. It is important to thank the government, and to keep the communication channels open and the relationship positive. We need to work with the government to ensure support for fundamental science remains a priority and continues to increase in upcoming years (and budgets).

Scientists must more and more come out of their laboratories and take the time to engage the public and elected officials and have a real dialogue about our country's priorities and investments for the future. It is a sometimes uncomfortable and difficult endeavour for some, but the payoff is more recognition and understanding, and results in much needed support. Again, thank you for sticking your neck out for science!

Working together with the government, scientists drive Canada's economic and social growth, and make essential contribution to the health and well-being of all Canadians. We must ensure that this reality is recognized by the public and elected officials.

The ball is now rolling in the right direction, with a government who is open to a continued dialogue with scientists. Let's keep it rolling and continue to push together to bring even more positive change.

Katalin Toth

Chair of the Advocacy Committee - Canadian Association for Neuroscience