



CAN-ACN

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR NEUROSCIENCE
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES NEUROSCIENCES

Getting ready for Budget 2019!

Do you want to see sustained and predictable funding of fundamental research by the federal government? If you do, you can help us achieve this goal by getting involved in the budget consultations process. The more the government hears about science, the more likely they are to invest to support it.

How can a scientist influence the budget?

There are multiple ways to have your say in the federal budget (dates are approximate):

At all times:

Meet with your MP to show how supporting research is relevant to you, and their constituency. Please view our guide to meeting your MP. MPs submit letters to the Department of Finance with budgetary requests for their ridings. You can ask him or her to include science funding in this request.

June-August: Official submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance (FINA) FINA accepts short pre-budget briefs that identify the priorities of Canadians for the next federal budget. Individuals and Organizations can submit these. Hundreds are received each year – this is a small number considering the size of the Canadian population. If the committee receives multiple briefs highlighting the importance of science funding, this will be recorded.

From the FINA News release – June 4th, 2018

*The Standing Committee on Finance has launched its Pre-Budget Consultations in advance of the 2019 budget. **Written submissions of no more than 2,000 words**, based on the following [template](#), can be submitted to the Committee until Friday, August 3, 2018 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. All text contained in the submission, including, but not limited to graphs, quotes, images and footnotes, counts towards the submission's 2,000 word limit. More information is available in the [news release](#).*

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/FINA/news-release/9928791>

Here is a general guide for brief submission to the House of Commons:

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/About/Guides/Brief-e.html>

FINA published the following written brief template:

<http://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/FINA/related-document/9929177>

Submit your brief here:

<http://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/FINA/StudyActivity?studyActivityId=10153612>



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Late Summer – Fall: FINA pre-budget hearings.

FINA tours Canada and invites experts, many who have submitted briefs, to testify at pre-budget hearings. These are public events, and there is usually an open-mic opportunity at the beginning of each hearing. This is another opportunity to promote the importance of science funding.

From FINA:

In September, on behalf of the FINA Committee, the Clerk of the Committee will extend invitations to selected groups and individuals to appear as witnesses during the pre-budget hearings. All those who make a submission will be considered as having made a request to appear. Priority will be given to individuals and groups that address ensuring Canada's competitiveness, and have not yet – or have not recently – appeared before the Committee.

Late Fall: Department of Finance pre-budget briefs

These consultations can be official brief submissions, but can also include opportunities to engage with the Minister of Finance through Social media and online surveys.

Winter – February:

Budget being written (it's in the oven)

February:

Budget presentation.

Resources

Evidence for Democracy has published a federal budget toolkit:

https://evidencefordemocracy.ca/sites/default/files/federal_budget_toolkit_-_e4d.pdf