



CAN-ACN

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR NEUROSCIENCE
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES NEUROSCIENCES

November 2018

Why are the CAN-ACN membership fees increasing?

One of the core mandates of the Canadian Association for Neuroscience is to represent the interests of Canadian neuroscientists at the national and international levels. With this goal in mind, CAN launched, in 2015, the CAN advocacy committee, and very significantly increased its advocacy efforts. Your membership fees go directly to supporting these efforts.

While our investments in advocacy have increased very significantly, membership fees have remained static, and in 2017-2018, they did not cover our expenses.

Why increase advocacy investments?

Funding competition success rates have been steadily declining in Canada for over ten years. Action is needed on the part of scientists to reverse this trend. The time to act is now, and sustained efforts are required to make scientific research a funding priority for the government.

The Canadian Association for Neuroscience, as the voice of Canadian neuroscientists, aims to engage with the government, stakeholders and funding agencies to raise the profile of scientific research in Canada, and make it a priority investment area for Canada.

To do so, CAN has developed a comprehensive advocacy program which includes direct engagement with elected officials, participation in government-initiated consultations, and promotion of the importance and relevance of neuroscience research to all Canadians.

CAN works for all Canadian neuroscientists. Your membership fees help support this work.

How much is CAN investing in advocacy?

Over the last two fiscal years, CAN has invested over 125k in advocacy efforts. More than half of this amount is provided to CAN through a Memorandum of Understanding we have signed with the Society for Neuroscience, which recognizes CAN's unique position as advocacy leader for neuroscience in Canada.

These investments have covered the salary of our advocacy officer, multiple visits to Ottawa, advocacy awards, advocacy sessions at the CAN meeting, participation of Members of Parliament to our meeting, membership in advocacy group, training sessions, communications efforts (website and social media), and more. Through these activities, we have developed connections to science advocates across the country, but also with Members of Parliament, stakeholders and decision makers around the country.

CAN has worked with partners in the #SupportTheReport campaign, which aimed to bring about the implementation of the recommendations of the report of Canada's Fundamental Science Review (sciencereview.ca), also known as the Naylor report. Through the launch of the supportthereport.ca website, involvement in many social media campaigns, visits to Parliament, sharing of information and highlighting our member's advocacy efforts, we have contributed to increase the visibility of the



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#supportthereport movement. Because of the coordinated efforts of all partners, budget 2018 included historic increases in funding for fundamental research.

You can learn more about all of CAN's advocacy efforts on our website: can-acn.org/advocacy

CAN's advocacy investments benefit our members directly by raising awareness to the importance of neuroscience research for all Canadians.

What are CAN's plans for the future?

While budget 2018 included historic investments in fundamental research, funding for scientific research in Canada remains insufficient. It is important to pursue our efforts to make science funding a permanent priority for the government, as we argue in our submission to the House of Commons standing committee on finances, available here: <https://can-acn.org/documents/2018/CAN-FINA-submission-final-20180803.pdf>.

Our two main recommendations to the government are:

1. Increase investments in health research funded by Canada's granting councils
2. Increase investment in the next generation of scientists through scholarships and fellowships

CAN's advocacy program is supported in large part by the Society for Neuroscience, which recognizes that CAN is uniquely positioned to understand and advocate for Neuroscience research to the Canadian government. We will be applying for increased support from SfN, in order to be able to hire the services of a professional lobbyist, who will be able to guide our efforts and increase their efficiency. Having insider information about the best way to approach the government will enable us to have an increased impact in the future.

CAN works for you. Our goal is to do our best to promote neuroscience research in Canada, and to represent the interest of all Canadian neuroscientists at the national and international levels. We need your support to reach this goal.