



**To:**

The Honourable **Ya'ara Saks**, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions of Canada  
The Honourable **Mark Holland**, Minister of Health of Canada  
The Honourable **Chrystia Freeland**, Minister of Finances of Canada  
The Right Honourable **Justin Trudeau**, Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada  
K1A 0A6

**From:**

Dr. **Adriana Di Polo**, President of the Canadian Association for Neuroscience  
Dr. **Melanie Woodin**, Vice- President of the Canadian Association for Neuroscience  
On behalf of the membership of the **Canadian Association for Neuroscience**

**Subject: Urgent Appeal to Recapitalize the Canada Brain Research Fund**

Dear Prime Minister,  
Dear Ministers,

We are writing to express great concern over the impending loss of federal funding for the Canada Brain Research Fund after March 31, 2024. The Canada Brain Research Fund, administered by the Brain Canada Foundation, plays a key role in supporting innovative brain research in Canada.

Understanding how the brain works is key to addressing brain and mental health issues, which are among the most complex to understand, but also the most important we face as a Nation. The burden of brain disorders and diseases has substantially increased over the last 25 years with the aging of the population. Half of the world's population will be diagnosed with a brain disorder over the course of their lifetime, which places a tremendous burden on our economy, healthcare systems, and Canadian livelihood. Neurodegenerative diseases are the leading cause of disability and the second leading cause of death worldwide, and mental health disorders are the leading cause of days off work. Through their research, Canadian neuroscientists work tirelessly to identify cures and therapies for Canadians who live with these diseases and conditions. Now, their important work is at risk due to loss of federal funding.

**Brain Canada plays a key role in our research ecosystem.** Brain Canada is a national convenor and enabler of the Canadian brain research community, funding high-risk, high-reward brain research programs across the country. Brain Canada's unique partnership with the Government of Canada, through the Canada Brain Research Fund, has been a cornerstone in advancing brain



research for over a decade. Through this fund, Brain Canada has matched the federal contributions with those of partners and donors on a 1:1 basis, doubling the federal government's \$200 million investment to establish a total envelope of \$400 million for brain research in Canada.

**It is essential that the federal government renew funding for the Canada Brain Research Fund, under Health Canada, before April 1, 2024.**

A renewal will ensure Brain Canada can continue to bring its unique value to the research ecosystem and maintain the momentum it has built over the past decade. Without renewal of the Canada Brain Research Fund, Canada will lose the benefit of Brain Canada's funding partnership with over 100 partners including health charities. Researchers in Canada will lose a critical pipeline of support, and the Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN) will lose a valued collaborator and advocate.

We strongly believe a renewal of the Canada Brain Research Fund, administered by Health Canada, is the optimal vehicle for the federal government to support brain research in Canada.

Time is of the essence and your help in lending your support would be deeply appreciated by members of CAN, the team at Brain Canada, and all the researchers, partners and patients who have benefited from the over 500 vital and impactful projects funded from the Canada Brain Research Fund across Canada.

Funding brain research will bring hope to Canadians impacted by brain diseases and disorders, and their loved ones.

Yours sincerely,

Adriana Di Polo, PhD  
President  
Canadian Association for Neuroscience

Melanie Woodin, PhD  
Vice-President  
Canadian Association for Neuroscience

**About the Canadian Association for Neuroscience**

The Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN) is the largest association of neuroscientists in Canada. Our members are dedicated to advancing brain research. Our association is composed of over one thousand researchers, who work at academic institutions across the country. We share the common goal of ensuring neuroscience remains one of the greatest research and innovation strengths of Canada.