



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

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September 19, 2017

Niki Ashton, MP
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Ashton,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Association of University Teachers to ask you to support CAUT's Get Science Right campaign.

The government of Canada has failed to keep pace with other countries in supporting the pursuit of knowledge. Scholars, scientists and students wishing to pursue independent research have seen a decline of available resources of about 35 per cent. Canada is no longer in the top 30 nations worldwide when it comes to total research intensity.

Canada must and can do better. With increased federal funding, researchers will be able to ask bold questions and seek the knowledge we need to enhance the quality of life for all Canadians. The federal government must catch up to the rest of the world by boosting its investments to grow our knowledge and talent advantages.

Last year, the government commissioned the Advisory Panel on Federal Support for Fundamental Science to review the situation. The Panel issued a report that recommended a federal increase in investment in independent research of \$1.3 billion for basic research, with better balanced allocation across the three research granting agencies. CAUT supports this recommendation.

We hope that we can count on you to support a substantial increase in funding to Canada's research granting councils and to urge the federal government to strengthen Canada's capacity to undertake basic research. As an NDP leadership candidate, you are well positioned to help us achieve this goal.

This is why CAUT is asking you to pledge to invest in basic research and join the campaign to call on the government to restore science's important role in creating a prosperous and innovative country. You can do so at science.caut.ca.

With a strong federal partner, academic researchers can create the knowledge we need to improve the quality of life for all Canadians and help face local and global challenges. We hope you will agree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "P Foster", is displayed on a light green rectangular background.

Pam Foster
Director (Research and Political Action)