



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

May 13, 2021

BY EMAIL: kirsty.duncan@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, M.P., P.C.
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

RE: Strong support for M-38 from academic staff

Dear Ms. Duncan,

On behalf of the 72,000 academic staff working at universities and colleges across this country, we write to express our support for your private member's motion M-38 to create a standing committee on science and research starting in the 44th Parliament.

As advocates for a robust and sustained Canadian research system, we recognize that science and research are critical to this country's ongoing fight against the pandemic, and for a just recovery. The lack of a dedicated mechanism and oversight for science and research stymies our nation's collective economic progress. As stakeholders in the academic and research community, the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) has lent its support behind M-38 by writing to all your fellow Parliamentarians urging them to vote favourably for its adoption and affirm the House's commitment to science, research, and evidence-informed decision-making.

You are a champion for research, and we welcomed your leadership as Minister of Science that led to historic investments in Budget 2018. As you know, there remains a shortfall of approximately 40 per cent to reach the levels recommended by the report of the Fundamental Science Review Panel. Additionally, support for early career researchers still falls significantly short, at only 22 per cent of the levels recommended by the same report.

We hope that fundamental science and research is one topic of important study for the new committee once M-38 is passed, and that this government begins closing the funding gap between what was recommended by the Panel and what was delivered.

Thank you again for showing collective commitment to the values of knowledge, education, and scientific inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brenda Austin-Smith'.

Brenda Austin-Smith
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'David Robinson'.

David Robinson
Executive Director

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