



March 1, 2018

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable Kirsty Duncan
Minister of Science
C.D. Howe Building
235 Queen Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0H5

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau and Minister Duncan:

On behalf of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA), I am writing to thank the Liberal government for the record new investments for fundamental science, research infrastructure, students and researchers in the 2018 federal budget. This includes more than \$1.7 billion over five years to Canada's granting councils and research institutes, and represents the single largest investment in fundamental research in Canadian history. The budget also includes over \$1.3 billion over five years for investments in the laboratories, equipment and infrastructure researchers rely on.

As you know, the CPA is the national association for the science, practice and education of psychology in Canada. Psychological research has broad and significant application to the well-being of individual Canadians, businesses, and communities, creating an understanding of people, human problems, and the many environments in which we live.

CPA's pre-budget submission recommended that the Fundamental Science Review report be fully implemented. As such, we are pleased the budget included this new funding for basic scientific research, along with funding for: research that is fast-breaking and higher-risk; support and training opportunities for students and early career scholars; and surveys to collect data on researchers. These supports will address some of the concerns outlined last year in a national review of the state of fundamental science.

CPA is particularly pleased that the granting councils will be tasked with developing new plans, strategies and targets to ensure greater collaboration between NSERC, CIHR and SSHRC and support for interdisciplinary research, as well as to achieve greater diversity among research funding recipients, including improved support for women, underrepresented groups and early-career researchers. We also support a "re-imagined" National Research Council with ongoing permanent funding, as well as ongoing and permanent funding for the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

Once again thank you for investing in Canada's researchers. Budget 2018 will go a long way to help improve Canada's research ecosystem and restore our position as research leaders on the international stage.

Sincerely,

Lisa Votta-Bleeker, Ph.D.
Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Science Director
Canadian Psychological Association