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Subject: Research Canada On the Move

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Politically Speaking...

Research Canada has been monitoring the federal political scene in preparation for its 2018 winter advocacy program. It does look like our national advocacy efforts and those of our National Partners have moved the needle and that Budget 2018 will have important investments in our enterprise. Both government relations and social media advocacy activities are having impact according to government officials with whom Research Canada has met.

Before the Holiday Season, Research Canada met with Members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health and government officials including the Chief Science Advisor. We will be meeting with the Minister of Science, the Minister of Health and the PMO in the first quarter of the New Year. At these meetings we will continue to make the case for the funding recommendations contained in the Naylor Report and we will raise concerns regarding the health of Canadian life sciences industries and the need for federal policies in support of these industries. These are all critical to building a robust health innovation system.

While the Federal Government is supportive of research and has taken very important steps in support of our enterprise, research continues to be underfunded and there is no plan that recognizes the interrelationships and inter-dependencies between and among the components of a functioning innovation system: research, development, market validation and delivery into the market. Research Canada is of the view that the federal government needs such a plan. Only a systemic and integrated approach will lead to more comprehensive research and innovation policies.

Research Canada is dedicated to working collaboratively with its National Partners to make the case for a more integrated and comprehensive approach to health research and health innovation policy. At the same time we are dedicated to addressing funding imperatives that are currently threatening our enterprise.

Coupled with our educational advocacy program delivered through our Parliamentary Health Research Caucus and social media activities, Research Canada's winter 2018 advocacy program promises to pull out all the stops in advance of Budget 2018.

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A Visit with the Chief Science Advisor

Research Canada met with Dr. Mona Nemer, Chief Science Advisor, in December 2017. Dr. Nemer was a Board Director of Research Canada's predecessor organization, the Council for Health Research in Canada. She has been extremely supportive of Research Canada and Research Canada's Parliamentary Health Research Caucus over the years.



Dr. Nemer informed us that the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Bill Morneau, requested an audience with Dr. Nemer shortly after she was appointed to talk about the economic impact of research investments, namely jobs. Dr. Nemer made the point that investments in research train the next generation of highly qualified people who go on to make discoveries and create companies that grow our economy, create jobs and give Canada a competitive edge. She told him that a grant of \$35,000 trains one person while a grant for \$50,000 trains two. Now that's a bang for the public buck that the Minister of Finance thought he could get behind!

Dr. Nemer will be weighing in on both science and innovation policy because she, too, connects the dots and understands that you cannot have one conversation about research. You have to have two: a conversation about research per se and a conversation about the relationship between research and innovation. She will be having these conversations in an effort to help the government better understand the nature as well as the social and economic benefits of research.

Research Canada looks forward to working with such an ardent champion of Canadian health research and health innovation.

2018 Parliamentary Health Research Caucus Events

Research Canada will host a Luncheon on **The Opioid Crisis: How Can Research Inform Solutions?** on February 14, 2018 on Parliament Hill. Guest Speakers include Dr. Edward Sellers from the University of Toronto, Dr. Hance Clarke from University Health Network and Dr. Bernard Le Foll from the Centre for Addition and Mental Health. This Luncheon will be the first in a series of luncheons focused on the opioid crisis. The next luncheon on this topic will take place early in 2019 and feature researchers from British Columbia and Alberta.



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In May we will host a Reception on **Reshaping Health Research and Innovation: Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning**. Canada is home to some of the brightest minds in the field of artificial intelligence and has been at the academic forefront of the broad field of AI for over 30 years. This event will showcase the work being done by Canadian researchers and innovators with respect to AI within the health research and innovation sector.



Other Upcoming Events:

- > Innovations in Healthy Aging Luncheon on June 13, 2018
- > Northern and Rural Health Research in Canada Reception in October
- > Celebrating the 2018 Gairdners Luncheon in October
- > The Case for *Made in Canada* Paediatric Medicine and Clinical Trials Luncheon in December

Save the Date for Research Canada's Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will take place in **Ottawa on June 13, 2018**. We will be sending out information and links to online registration in the next few months. Stay tuned!



Preparing for Federal Budget 2018

Research Canada developed the HRI Media Portal as a response to feedback from our Members. Many of them told us that the cost of sending media releases had become prohibitive. Some told us they were not getting their releases to science and health journalists. Some reported having stopped sending releases altogether. We created the HRI Portal to amplify the voices of our community.

In preparation for Budget 2018, you may wish to consider using the HRI Portal to distribute your release. The Portal uses the same platform as a standard newswire service for a fraction of the cost. We invite you to visit the Media Portal website for more information at: www.hriportal.ca.



Strategic Plan 2020

Research Canada is in the throes of developing a new strategic plan to guide its advocacy efforts over the next three years. We are grateful to our Membership for

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your insightful contributions to our Membership Survey, which has been part of the strategic planning process, and we are encouraged by the results of the Survey, namely that Members are satisfied with the benefits and value they derive from their Membership with Research Canada. These results, which have been shared with Members, have pivotally informed the work of Research Canada's Strategic Planning Task Force.

The Strategic Planning Task Force convened twice in the fall and is on track to propose a Plan for approval by our Members at Research Canada's AGM on June 13, 2018. Before then, the SPTF looks forward to engaging with Members to gather feedback on the commitments and goals that will guide Research Canada's advocacy leadership and impact over the next few years.

Please stay tuned for updates on the timing and format for this consultation.

Call for Nominations to RC's Board of Directors

Research Canada has put out a Call for Nominations for its 2018-19 Board of Directors, which will be presented for consideration to Members at the Annual General Meeting on June 13, 2018 in Ottawa. There are three vacancies which need to be filled. The Call for Nominations went out on December 18, 2017 and again on January 3, 2018. The next reminder will go out on January 17, 2018 and the deadline for responses is January 29, 2018.



News from the Portal
www.hriportal.ca

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre Ranks as a Top Research Hospital for Seventh Consecutive Year

Canadian Strength in Stem Cell Research Highlighted at Parliamentary Health Research Caucus Luncheon

Research Canada announces winners of 2017 Leadership in Advocacy Award

New report provides first-ever snapshot of cardiovascular care outcomes across Canada

Research Canada Welcomes Fall Economic Update Commitment to a More Skilled and Innovative Canada, but where's the Research Investment?

Gairdner Award Laureates Meet Parliamentarians to Share Their Award-Winning Research

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Parkinson Canada researchers passionate about improving lives today and aiming for a cure tomorrow

Canadian cardiovascular experts urge the federal government to help transform heart health in Budget 2018

Health Committee to Hear About Unmet Needs of Medical Cannabis Patients

New guidelines discourage use of brain imaging as a 'lie detector' for chronic pain

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